

# CONNECTION

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Supervisor Rodney Lusk circulates among tables to listen as residents discuss options and amenities at the public meeting about the reuse of the Franconia Government Center on April 13, which drew about 200 participants.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION  
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# Inova Schar Cancer Institute Reaches 5th Anniversary

## Interview with John Deeken, MD, institute president.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

As the Inova Schar Cancer Institute approaches its 5th anniversary, John Deeken, MD, president of Inova Schar discussed its journey to date with *The Connection*. Comments are lightly edited for space and clarity.



PHOTO BY INOVA  
**John Deeken, MD, is president of Inova Schar and medical director for the Inova Schar Head and Neck Cancer Program**



PHOTO BY INOVA VIDEO  
**Inova Schar Cancer Institute**

Nine years after philanthropist Dwight Schar and his wife Martha donated \$50 million to develop a medical campus for cancer research, genomics, and personalized medicine, Fairfax Hospital's Inova Schar Cancer Institute celebrates its fifth anniversary. Launched on May 13, 2019, Inova Schar offers patient-centered care and treatment modalities under one roof of its state-of-the-art facility. *Newsweek* and *Becker's Hospital Review* recognizes Inova Schar as a top oncology program.

Inova Schar's president and head and neck cancer program director is John Deeken, MD. "We've grown tremendously and provided care to thousands and thousands

of Northern Virginians who received the worst news of their lives: cancer," Deeken says. "But there are no big events this time; we must treat patients."

While passing on the fanfare and cake, Deeken reflected on Inova Schar's journey and how its original promise continues. That promise is to provide patient-centered expert care to help Northern Virginia patients with their treatment.

The Department of Advanced Radiation Oncology and Proton Therapy at Inova Schar Cancer Institute treated its 1000th pa-

tient last month, four years after beginning to offer the service. Reaching the milestone is a significant achievement for the Inova Mather Proton Therapy Center, as it witnesses the transformative potential of proton therapy in improving outcomes and enhancing the quality of life for cancer patients.

According to Deeken, over the past five years, Inova Schar has grown patient volumes by more than fifty percent, gained confidence, and offered cutting-edge cancer treatments that are changing cancer treatment.

By studying tumor genomic mutations,

Inova Schar is entering a new cancer treatment era. Understanding genetic mutations and changes improves treatment response and reduces targeted therapy side effects. Inova Schar was one of six sites in the country to pioneer matching patient therapy in an accelerated larotrectinib clinical study, which was successful for cancer.

"That's just one example of a home run with a new drug that targeted a specific mutation in cancer across different solid tumors

SEE INOVA SCHAR CANCER, PAGE 11

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# Residents Discuss Franconia Center Reuse

## Will Franconia Government Center move support affordable housing?

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

In just about one year's time, the Franconia Government Center will move into a new facility at a new location after many years of waiting for a new modern center, police station, library, and other services. Residents of Franconia, and the county, must consider how best to reuse the nearly three-acre property on which the government center now sits. The formal public participation process to collect input on options and design features, began on April 13. The meeting was hosted by Supervisor Rodney Lusk, at John R. Lewis High School, assisted by staff from Neighborhood and Community Services, and Housing and Community Development, and others.

The big question for many attendees: Should the site be used for low cost housing, as the County had proposed several years ago, or some other purpose?

In the first of two scheduled public input meetings, the nearly 200 attending encountered an input process very different than the typical town hall meeting. With the assistance of professional facilitators and scribes, six-to-ten people at each of nearly two dozen round tables were asked to engage with each other, to answer questions and share their thoughts on needed community amenities, possible uses of the property, mobility, and area recreation.

Normally soft spoken, Supervisor Lusk was loudly emphatic in acknowledging attention paid to community input, saying, "Some have said this is a done deal [low cost housing]. This is not a done deal. It's not a done deal, because all of these steps have to be completed. All these many planning and zoning processes still have to be addressed. There will be many points of engagement with the community to talk about anything that is proposed. This is not something to be rushed." Lusk went on to describe the process which involves a county staff review, report and recommendation presented to the public; followed by similar activities by the land use committee and rezoning departments. Lusk added, "I just want to make sure that people leave this room understanding that nothing has been decided at this point. This is the very first point [in the process]."

Housing and community development director, Tom Fleetwood, indicated that the County had not entered into an any agreement with the proposed development partnership identified in the exploratory February 2021 RFP process. Fleetwood indicated if the decision ultimately is to pursue the low cost housing option, the qualified RFP developer would be given an opportunity to determine continued interest in the project. If an alternate use is selected, a new RFP likely would be advertised.

The next meeting for citizen input is scheduled for April 22, 6-8 p.m. at the John Lewis High School cafeteria. At a meeting



On April 13, Supervisor Rodney Lusk explains the resident input process concerning the reuse of the Franconia Government Center.



The public meeting about the reuse of the Franconia Government Center on April 13 drew about 200 participants



Those attending were asked to share their thoughts and interests in the Franconia Government Center reuse project



Supervisor Lusk circulates among tables to listen as residents discuss options and amenities

**"This is not a done deal. ... This is not something to be rushed."**

— Supervisor Rodney Lusk

on May 6, 6-8 p.m., at the same location, the county will report out what options have been suggested in the April meetings. At the conclusion of the process, the County Board of Supervisors will determine what option will be pursued.

### Project History

This is the third year of the county's implementation of the Consolidated Plan for FY 2022 - FY 2026, with a goal to produce 10,000 new units affordable to households earning up to 60 percent of AMI by 2034. The Franconia property is one of nine projects in the pipeline relied upon to assist in reaching the low cost housing goal.

Currently located at 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, the "Proposed One-Year Action Plan for Country FY-2024" lists the Franconia Government Center project. The



Facilitators and scribes record points of discussion on a series of questions related to the land reuse and community needs

plan indicates, "The Board of Supervisors transferred ownership of the Franconia Governmental Center site to the FCRHA [in March 2021] for redevelopment of affordable housing."

The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) announced plans to hold a public hearing on the pro-

posed agreement on Jan. 25, 2024. Residents raised concerns at a Board of Supervisors public hearing on the land transfer on Jan. 23. At the Feb. 20 Supervisors meeting, Lusk formally deferred a decision to convey the property to "ensure that our entire community has an opportunity to voice their opinions on the property transfer."

## Providing Support for Everyone in Fairfax County

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

I recently watched a powerful video for World Down Syndrome Day 2024 titled, “Assume That I Can,” a campaign by CoorDown. The video focuses on stereotypes our community puts on those with developmental or intellectual disabilities and calls for a shift in mindset. We need to assume that anyone with a developmental or intellectual disability Can learn, Can work, Can play, Can live on their own and Can do everything they set their mind to. To foster a more inclusive community, Fairfax County provides many services for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

In support of our One Fairfax goals, the county recognized March 2024 as Developmental Disabilities Inclusion Month, bringing awareness that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are valued, contributing members of the community. Many residents use county services every day to support themselves and for some it has changed their lives forever.

Sam Proctor grew up here in the Mount Vernon District and attended Walt Whitman Middle School and Mount Vernon High School. Sam has ADHD, Asperger’s Syndrome and is currently in remission for stage 3 cancer. Despite facing such challenges, Sam



Sam Proctor with U.S. Senator Tim Kaine while working at his job at Jersey Mike’s Subs.

takes everything with a smile and an “I-can-do-this” attitude. When Sam was diagnosed with cancer, County Services - Adult Protective Services and Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) were able to help him maintain his independent living, but also ensure he received needed care. CSB connected Sam with Neighborhood Health for medical care

and check-in appointments. Adult Protective Services provided him with access to the Housing Choice Voucher Program and connected him with MetroAccess allowing him to continue living on his own and get to appointments and work. Sam is just one out of hundreds of residents who use county resources for support.

The CSB provides many resources

related to aiding those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. On April 8, 2024, Governor Youngkin approved state Senate and House funding for 3,400 additional Priority 1 Medicaid Waiver slots for individuals with developmental disabilities. With 1,200 individuals currently seeking Priority 1 status in the Fairfax-Falls Church CSB service area, this will provide a great deal of new support for individuals in our community.

The Fairfax-Falls Church CSB is considered the “point of entry” for residents to apply for services. If you or a family member are in need of assistance, learn more about the application process and schedule an appointment by calling 703-324-4400 (TTY 711).

The county also partners with many local organizations to provide care for all residents. Our longstanding partner, the Arc of Northern Virginia, supports adults with disabilities who are entering the workforce by helping them find appropriate and fulfilling employment. ServiceSource is another great partner with the county and provides vital support to individuals with disabilities, seniors and their families to assist with job placements, assistive technology screenings, transportation and more. To learn more about these services and more, visit: [fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/).

## Groups Urge the General Assembly To Reject Youngkin’s Metro Budget Amendment

Gov. Glenn Youngkin slashed the General Assembly’s additional funding for Metro by 76%, allocating no money in FY25 and just \$35 million in FY26 (Amendment 179 of Item 433).

The General Assembly had committed \$65 million in FY25 to match \$65 million from Northern Virginia localities, and \$84.5 million from the state in FY26, which would also be matched by Northern Virginia. These additional funds were the minimum additional funding needed to help close WMATA’s operating funding gap and were necessary to match formula commitments by DC and Maryland.

Failure to provide additional state funding will have dire consequences for the workforce and economy of Northern Virginia and the DC region. It would mean massive service cuts and fare hikes at

Metro, higher transportation costs for workers, and more congestion on the roads, and discourage next generation companies and workers from locating in the DC region.

The groups signing onto this press statement urge the General Assembly to reject Youngkin’s budget amendment and restore the funding the General Assembly agreed to. They should also reject the Governor’s budget language requiring a redundant set of studies of WMATA. The General Assembly has already passed SJ28, which establishes a comprehensive study of transit in Northern Virginia including WMATA.

The General Assembly recognized the critical value of Metro to the economy, workforce, and transportation system of Northern Virginia and the over \$1 billion per year in tax revenue that Metro-generated economic activity provides to the state (NVTC

analysis). We thank the legislators for their support for Metro and urge them to reject the Governor’s amendments regarding Metro.

Coalition for Smarter Growth; Sustainable Mobility for Arlington County; Washington Area Bicyclist Association; Greater Greater Washington; Sierra Club - Virginia Chapter; Active Prince William; Grassroots Alexandria; CASA; Clean Fairfax; Piedmont Environmental Council; Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke; Southern Environmental Law Center; RVA Rapid Transit; Nature Forward; Virginia League of Conservation Voters; Friends of Dyke Marsh; Virginia Bicycling Federation; Chesapeake Climate Action Network Fund; Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets; Fairfax Families for Safe Streets; Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Calls for Cutting School Funds by \$100 Million

My wife and I have been homeowners in Fairfax County since 1968. I am a Board Member of the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance (FCTA). I have been protesting both the budget and taxes for over 50 years! I am here to protest the outrageous salaries of executives of the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). I understand that the Chief Experience and Engagement Officer is paid \$244,255 and the Chief Equity Officer is paid \$248,693. This is more than the U.S. Secretary of

SEE CALL FOR, PAGE 14

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# NEWS

## Spring Ballet is a Final Show and New Beginning

Some Metropolitan dancers' final show opens doors to careers in dance and entertainment careers.

By MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

The spring play at Metropolitan Dance Studios in Kingstowne is a comedy ballet called Coppelia!, and a final performance before the real world for some. Some see it as an end of high school and the beginning of a professional dance and ballet career.

Like Molly Scannell who plays the starring role of Swanilda in Coppelia! but will be going on to more ballet when she graduates.

"Everything is going according to plan," she said, and is following in her mother's footsteps as a professional ballet dancer. Scannell has been dancing at Metropolitan since she was nine years old and now has a full scholarship to Tulsa Ballet in Oklahoma this fall.

Landing the lead role of Swanilda, she'll be performing alongside Jacob Anderson who has the male lead role of Franz in Coppelia!.

**Show Dates:**

April 27 & 28, 2024

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Ticket Sales begin March 18th  
<https://metropolitanarts.org/ticket-sales/>

He's also going on to dance professionally after graduation.

Even though Scannell missed some typical high school experiences like the Friday night football games, she was happy to go through school with like-minded dancers and performing artists. Her experience at Metropolitan was just as valuable, as other high school experiences, she said. "I got to be surrounded by people with the same goal," she added.

Through the years, many from Metropolitan have gone on to mov-



Molly Scannell, a 12th grader at Metropolitan, rehearsing with MSA instructor Charlie Abel.

SEE SPRING BALLET, PAGE 9

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## ARTS

# Singers, Dancers, Musicians, Actors, Artists and More

## Fairfax City's Spotlight on the Arts is April 25-28.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**M**usic, dance, theater and art will all be featured during Fairfax City's 39th annual Spotlight on the Arts festival. It runs for four days, April 25-28, at various venues throughout the City and has a spectacular lineup of entertainment for all tastes and ages.

While some of the events require tickets, many are free, and people may choose which ones they'd like to attend. And with more than 40 live performances slated during this extravaganza, the only hard part will be selecting from among them all.

"This year's festival promises to have something for everyone," said Steve Stombres, Spotlight board member and development chair. "The opening reception will be Friday, April 26, at 7 p.m. at Old Town Hall, and Spotlight on the Arts is very proud to announce this year's honoree, Sharon Petersen. Join us as we thank Sharon for her years of service to our community and for her lifelong support of the arts."

Also honored then will be former Fairfax Mayor John Mason, who died in February. A fervent supporter of the arts, he was a founding member and past president of Spotlight. On tap is a full evening of entertainment and refreshments, including cocktails, appetizers and desserts. Tickets are \$50/person.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to see the work of the talented local artists who participated in Spotlight's first annual Art Contest. They'll view the artwork of the top 20 finalists and will then vote for their favorite. The entry receiving the most votes will be awarded a \$1,000 prize. Second place will receive \$500, and third place, \$250. In addition, people may bid on the artwork during a silent auction.

The scheduled entertainment during that reception will be:

- ❖ Petersen and the City of Fairfax Theatre Co. performing highlights from their upcoming Cabaret slated for Saturday, April 27;

- ❖ A classical-guitar performance by Conley Fleming;



Saxophonist Ricky Parrell entertains at a previous Spotlight on the Arts opening reception.



Bass guitarist Victor Holmes also performs during a past Spotlight opening reception.

- ❖ A piano recital featuring two Spotlight piano-scholarship recipients from the George Mason University Piano Studio; and

- ❖ Performances by Fairfax Academy student(s) and a Mason Jazz duo.

With Fairfax boasting artists in every genre, those attending Spotlight on the Arts will be able to enjoy everything from hula dancing at Old Town Square to New York Times bestselling author Chris Bohjalian at the Sherwood Center, music from

the Main Street Community Band, a student-playwright festival, the fife-and-drum music of The Fairfax Muster, and Next Reflex Dance Collective's immersive, dance-and-music performance called "Soft Landing."

Other highlights over the four days will include GMU's concert production of "Once Upon a Mattress," music by Marsha of "Marsha and the Positrons," pianists from the Fairfax Conservatory of Music and performances by the Mason Dance Co., Route 236 Trombone Quartet, as well as children's en-

tertainers, barbershop singers, Irish dancers, cloggers and the Green & Gold Soul – a funk, R&B and soul group powered by the GMU's renowned Doc Nix and The Green Machine.

Spotlight's entertainment actually begins on April 25, the day before the official opening reception. Here's what's on tap:

- ❖ Earp's Ordinary, 10420 Main St., will hold an Open Jam Night on Thursday, April 25, with signups starting at 6:30 p.m. and the show running from 7-10 p.m. Come for dinner and drinks and stay to enjoy upcoming local artists.

- ❖ Fairfax Sax Quartet will perform "Music of Greece," Thursday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. This free event is at the Sherwood Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd.

- ❖ Fairfax High's upcoming Cappies show, "Anastasia the Musical," will be presented Thursday-Friday, April 25-26, at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, April 27, at 2 and 7 p.m., in the school theater, 3501 Lion Run. Tickets are \$10, students; \$12, adults, online; and \$15 at the door. Online tickets are at [www.fxplayers.org](http://www.fxplayers.org).

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

- ❖ Mason Wind Symphony: On Thursday, April 25, at 8 p.m., in collaboration with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Mason Wind Symphony presents "In Our Hands." This concert, in GMU's concert hall at 4373 Mason Pond Drive, will bring awareness to humanity's collective responsibility for earth conservation. Tickets are \$12, general admission; \$8, senior citizens; \$5, students.

And that's just the lineup for the first evening. A sampling of other offerings during the festival includes:

- ❖ Family-friendly performers on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday, April 28, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Old Town Square.

- ❖ The Fairfax Academy's MCT Fest (Music, Computer, Technology), on April 27.

- ❖ City of Fairfax Theatre Co.'s "Once Upon a Dream: 100 Years of Magic" cabaret, on April 27.

SEE SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS, PAGE 7

# Fairfax Hosts Shoestring Theatre's Newest Production

## See 'Dispatches from Appalachia – an Evening of One Acts.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**A**mong the highlights of this year's Spotlight on the Arts will be the Northern Virginia premiere of Shoestring Theatre Co.'s newest production, "Dispatches from Appalachia – an Evening of One Acts." When Glenn Gannaway, the retired editor of the Big Stone Gap Post, pulled stories from the newspaper's 125-year ar-

chives, he found two that people in that Southwestern Virginia community still talk about today.

Gannaway, also an actor and playwright, turned them into one-act plays, and "Dispatches from Appalachia – an Evening of One Acts" will be presented Saturday, April 27, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, April 28, at 3 p.m. in the Sherwood Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd. in Fairfax.

The show is comprised of two, short plays, "Finding Wentz" and

"Tomorrow Might Be Sunday." Tickets are \$20 at the door or in advance via <https://ticketsandyc.com/e/dispatches-from-appalachia-true-stories-from-the-headlines-4206>.

In "Finding Wentz," the young heir of a mining and land empire rode out across a familiar path in the Appalachian Mountains surrounding Big Stone Gap. But E.L. "Ted" Wentz never made it to his meeting. A massive search ensued,

and newspapers worldwide followed the story. To this day, people in Big Stone Gap remember and debate the rumors that have only grown since then.

In "Tomorrow Might Be Sunday," seven people searching for higher ground find themselves in the beautiful Appalachian Hotel as the 1977 Great Appalachian Flood rips apart the mountains and valleys in Southwest Virginia, eastern Kentucky and Tennessee. Over three days in April, the flood destroyed 1,500 homes, left 30,000 homeless

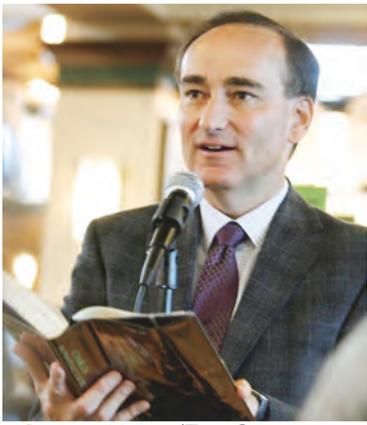
and killed more than 100 people. And while the guests of the posh Appalachian Hotel are safe, each one has a different – and sometimes hilarious – reason to want to get on with life.

"We all have these stories that stay alive within us, and we examine, debate and try to solve their seemingly conflicting details," explained Director Amelia Townsend. "Shoestring Theatre is delighted to bring Gannaway's one-acts to life. We see what happened through the characters he created – many based on real people."

# ARTS

## Fairfax City's Spotlight on the Arts

FROM PAGE 6



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Author Chris Bohjalian will discuss his latest novel, "The Princess of Las Vegas," at the Sherwood Center.

- ❖ Shoestring Theatre Co.'s production of "Dispatches from Appalachia – an Evening of One Acts," on April 27-28 (see "Dispatches" sidebar).

- ❖ The 3rd Annual Fairfax Muster at Veterans Amphitheatre, on April 28.

For the full lineup of all the live Spotlight performances, including the dates, times and addresses, go to <https://www.fairfaxspotlight.org/events/>. Scroll down to see all six pages of information about the performers and what they'll do.

The City of Fairfax has become synonymous with a vibrant, dynamic art scene due in part to the success of Spotlight on the Arts. With award-winning public art installations, its own theater company and an acclaimed arts academy for high-school students, Fairfax illustrates how important a thriving arts community is to both residents and visitors alike. Spotlight is sponsored by the City, in cooperation with its business and arts community, and GMU.

"Spotlight on the Arts supports local artists in the Central Fairfax region, enhances awareness of the visual arts and encourages emerging artists in the community," said Stombres. "We at Spotlight are constantly inspired by the ways that art brings people together, creates a community and shines a light on issues that matter to all of us. We especially value our role in raising funds for scholarships that enable local arts students to attend George Mason University and realize their dreams in the arts."

## March Home Sales Down from Prior Year, According to NVAR

Prices continue to rise as supply remains tight.

In a reversal from February when sales had grown over the prior year, March home sales in Northern Virginia dropped 13.8% from the previous March. However, a recurring theme was that tight supply contributed to increases in home prices, according to the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR).

"We had a reprieve in February as sales grew year over year for the first time since 2021, but March was a return to what we have been experiencing: lower sales from the previous year. That said, I think February's positive news represents a change that is going to slowly transform the housing market, getting us back to more normal market dynamics," said NVAR Board Member Christina Rice, Pearson Smith Realty. "As the year progresses, I expect to see more people start selling their homes, which will help bring more parity between supply and demand."

Overall, home sales were down in March, but they were still up compared to February — nearly 14.4%. Supply remained tight at a 0.90 month's supply — the same as last year and similar to this past February. A reflection of high demand and low supply was that homes stayed on the market only 16 days in March 2024, down 27.3% compared to March 2023 when the average days on market was 22 days. This was also a theme that was repeated from February.

These market forces continued to make houses more expensive. The median sold price for a home in March 2024 was \$730,000, up 9.8% compared to March 2023.

This was also an increase from February 2024 when home prices reached \$687,250.

NVAR's 2024 economic housing forecast, produced in conjunction with George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis in late 2023, revealed that the residential and commercial real estate market has not yet reached a post-pandemic normal. The forecast reported a possible downturn despite the economy attracting regional workers and creating jobs. As such, overall sales activity is expected to decline in 2024.

### BACKGROUND

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on home sales activity for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Herndon, and Clifton. Below is March 2024 regional home sales compared to March 2023 for Northern Virginia with data derived from Bright MLS as of April 9, 2024 (total sales and listings may not include garage/parking spaces):

- ❖ The number of closed sales in March 2024 was 1,191 units, down 13.8% compared to March 2023.

- ❖ The volume sold in March 2024 was \$973,604,474, an 8.5% decrease from March 2023.

- ❖ The average sold price was \$835,575 in March 2024, an increase of 7.4% compared to March 2023.

- ❖ The number of new pending sales in March 2024 was 1,606 units, up 0.4% compared to March 2023.

- ❖ Active listings in March 2024 totaled 1,210 units, down 14.6% compared to March 2023, when active listings were 1,417.

- ❖ New listings in March 2024 were 1,504 units, a drop from March 2023's 1,744 new listings.

Read more about the NVAR region housing market at [NVAR.com/public](http://NVAR.com/public).




## Public Hearings



### Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2025-2030 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2025-2030 SYIP. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available <https://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings2024/default.asp>.

**Public meetings begin at 4 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:**  
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

<b>Thursday, April 18</b> Richmond District Hawthorne Room 2430 Pine Forest Drive Colonial Heights, VA 23834	<b>Wednesday, April 24</b> Staunton District Laurel Ridge Community College 173 Skimisher Lane Middletown, VA 22645	<b>Thursday, April 25, 5 p.m.</b> Northern Virginia District Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., 1st Floor, Leesburg, VA 20175
<b>Wednesday, May 1</b> Lynchburg District Lynchburg District Ramey Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	<b>Thursday, May 2, 5 p.m.</b> Hampton Roads District James River Auditorium 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	<b>Monday, May 6</b> Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210
<b>Tuesday, May 7</b> Salem District Salem Civic Center Community Room 1001 Roanoke Boulevard Salem, VA 24153	<b>Wednesday, May 8</b> Culpeper District Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission Water Street Center 401 East Water Street Charlottesville, VA 22902	<b>Thursday, May 9</b> Fredericksburg District Fredericksburg District Auditorium 86 Deacon Road Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Additionally, DRPT will host its own public meeting on Thursday, May 16 at 4 p.m. Individuals may participate and provide comment either virtually (register here: <https://bit.ly/3Q7UqM7>) or at the following locations: 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219 or 1725 Duke Street, Suite 675, Alexandria, VA 22314.

You can submit comments online at <https://bit.ly/SYIP2024>, or by email or mail by May 20, 2024.

For roads and highways: [Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov), or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: [DRPTPR@dprpt.virginia.gov](mailto:DRPTPR@dprpt.virginia.gov), Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

*The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).*

# Springfield Woman's Club Recognized

Club marks 70 years of community service.

By SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of all Fairfax County residents, expressed sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Springfield Woman's Club (SWC) with an official Resolution. Celebrating their 70th anniversary this year, the Springfield Women received the Resolution while marking their milestone anniversary with a luncheon on April 13.

Franconia District Supervisor Rodney Lusk, wearing pink in honor of the Club's symbol, the pink rose, and group's work, attended, presenting the framed resolution signed by Board Chairman Jeff McKay, Springfield Supervisor Pat Herryty, and Lusk. Speaking to the group, Lusk recalled the importance of his grandmother in his early life, crediting her teachings with his commitment to public service and to helping the poorest to get opportunities for training and better lives. Saying, "When I see the work you are doing with the Byrd Library and Echo, I appreciate all you do for residents here."

The Springfield Club was chartered in 1954 by the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs to serve the Springfield area, especially those in need of a helping hand. Since that time, the members have exhibited constancy, ingenuity, and enterprise in their charitable endeavors.

The county resolution noted their early support of the Richard Byrd Library in 1955 "with continuous and substantial financial and volunteer support to the library since that time."

The women created the Pink Elephant Thrift Shop in 1964; a business which they owned and operated with an all volunteer staff, using the proceeds to support community programs. That includes an annual \$3,000 scholarship award to a student at Edison, Lewis, or West Springfield High School. Unfortunately, their thrift shop lease will end in June without renewal, forcing the Club to close the Pink Elephant doors. The resolution recognized the many years the shop provided income to consignors and low-cost items to community members.

The Club holds an Annual Spring Faire, recognized by the Resolution for its charitable benefit. The craft and vendor show proceeds benefit the Bethany House of Northern



Supervisor Rodney Lusk reads the Fairfax County Resolution with Club President Shirley Coling before joining the ladies in their luncheon celebration



Longest serving Club member Ruth Pispeky, has volunteered for 40 years



Springfield Woman's Club President Shirley Coling accepts Fairfax County Resolution from Franconia District Supervisor Rodney Lusk as Club marks its 70th anniversary

PHOTOS BY  
SUSAN LAUME/  
THE CONNECTION

Virginia, which provides short-term housing for women and children escaping domestic violence. The event,

this year on May 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with free admission and door prizes, will be held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, in Springfield.

The women's goal to promote good fellowship amongst their members was on full display at their April gathering. Each lady spoken to had another member to praise. Lydia Leone was noted for her arts and crafts skills and willingness to host events, even events which resulted in finding remnant craft glitter for months. Leone spoke warmly of the efforts of other members in making lanyards for Operation Gratitude, which supports military and first responders.

Member Diane Hooper called it "a wonderful group of dynamic and dedicated women."

Beverly Wauven, who called herself, "not really a social person," a member for ten years, moved from table to table greeting other members.

The longest serving member attending was Ruth Pispeky, who has served with the Club for 40 years. Pispeky knows something of constancy. Along with celebrating the Club's 70th anniversary this month, she and her husband will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary in May.

You can learn more about the Springfield Woman's Club, their charitable work and upcoming events at <https://womansclubof-springfield.org>

## BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNews-papers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNews-papers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

### MCLEAN NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS

The club was founded in 1969 to create new friendships, provide opportunities for socializing and

acquaint residents with the community. It sponsors many group activities including: Anything with food, Armchair Traveler, Book Club, Bunco, Canasta, Crafty Ladies, Genealogy, Golf, Let Us Lunch, Mah Jongg, Mah Jongg NY Style, Movie Lovers, Museums/House and Garden Tours, Nature Walks, Restaurant Critics, Sing for Fun and Tech Forums. Application forms may be mailed to: Membership McLean Newcomers and Neighbors, P.O. Box 6166, McLean,

VA 22106. Visit the website: [www.mcleannewcomers.org](http://www.mcleannewcomers.org).

### SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and

are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html). The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more

information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net) or 703-821-6838. Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) or [havenofnova@verizon.net](mailto:havenofnova@verizon.net). Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.



The spring performance is the final play for senior Meredith Odegard.



Shaw Wu is one of the actors playing Franz.



Jacob Anderson is the other Franz.

PHOTOS BY STARK PHOTO PRODUCTIONS

# Spring Ballet is a Final Show and New Beginning

FROM PAGE 5

ie roles, dance careers and plays on Broadway. “We’ve got a lot of alumni working in entertainment,” said Jackie Doherty who has been at Metropolitan for 16 years. Students have gone on to perform in Broadway hits such as “Wicked,” “Back to the Future,”

“West Side Story,” and other productions.

At Metropolitan, Scannell was in their production of the Nutcracker several times, landing a spot at the sugar plum fairy and then the fairy godmother in Cinderella to hone her skills on stage. This variety of roles was good for her performing career, she added.

**Casting Coppelia!**

Coppelia! is a story featuring theater elements of hijinx, jealousy and folk dancing set in a picturesque European village. At one point, the story breaks the fourth wall with the audience, getting them involved. Metropolitan’s Charlie Abel “masterfully

embodies the enigmatic Dr. Coppelius in this mesmerizing journey of romance, and illusion,” the description reads. In addition, there is a doll in the toy store window that comes alive and a romance between Swanilda and Franz so there are multiple levels of intrigue and joy.

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# America's Founding Fathers as Ordinary Humans

PHOTOS COURTESY OF IAN CONNER

## Woodson High presents its Cappies musical, '1776.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 90, plus a 25-person pit orchestra, Woodson High's upcoming musical, "1776," is also its Cappies entry. It focuses on America's Founding Fathers before the Revolutionary War as the colonies prepare to hopefully become independent from England.

"I love this musical because it does two things no other musical does," said Director Chris Rushing. "It's a love letter to America but acknowledges both the wonderful and critical things about it, including slavery."

"The other amazing thing is that – we all know how this play's going to turn out – but it's so tense and compelling that I forget and wonder how in the world is John Adams going to pull this off and get everybody to agree, because all the colonies have such different points of view. And no other country had ever broken away from its mother country, in the history of the world."

The curtain rises Friday, April 26, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 27, at 1 and 7 p.m.; Friday, May 3, at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, May 4, at 1 and 7 p.m. Enter through door 18. The show runs some 2-1/2 hours and is recommended for ages 10 and above.

Tickets are at [wtwdrama.org](http://wtwdrama.org) and are on a sliding, pay-what-you-can scale, ranging from \$10 to \$50 VIP tickets that include reserved parking, preferred seating, a signed playbill or poster, plus a trading card.

With people's faith in politicians at a historical low nowadays, Rushing said this play shows that "people don't have to agree with or even like each other. But they can still come together in the democratic process to improve America for its citizens. It's an important reminder that the Founding Fathers were great people, but still just humans doing their best. And I hope it encourages people to get out and exercise their right to vote."



From left, Sara Davitch (as Virginia's Richard Lee) and Silas Blocker (as Thomas Jefferson) rehearse a scene.



From left, Lucas Bickford (Ben Franklin) and Alyce Visioli (John Adams) read a discarded draft of Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence.

### See '1776'

The curtain rises Friday, April 26, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 27, at 1 and 7 p.m.; Friday, May 3, at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, May 4, at 1 and 7 p.m. Enter through door 18. The show runs some 2-1/2 hours and is recommended for ages 10 and above.

Tickets are at [wtwdrama.org](http://wtwdrama.org) and are on a sliding, pay-what-you-can scale, ranging from \$10 to \$50 VIP tickets that include reserved parking, preferred seating, a signed playbill or poster, plus a trading card.

A recent Broadway revival of "1776" was performed with the male roles mainly being played by women, and Woodson is doing likewise. The Theater Department's theme this year is "Young People Taking Back Power," and this musical is about that happening in the past.

"I picked this show for these students because I knew I had a really strong group of actors who could do it," said Rushing. "It's a long script that contains the longest speaking scene for actors within a musical in Broadway history."

The action takes place in and around the Philadelphia Statehouse, and Rushing said audiences will enjoy this production because "it's funny and moving, has romance and is steeped in history with beautiful music. And it portrays these important people as human beings."

Senior Alyce Visioli plays John Adams. "He's a go-getter, enthusiastic about independence and has a one-track mind about

it," she said. "He's a lawyer and farmer who's representing Massachusetts at the Colonial Convention in Philadelphia. He's loyal to the cause and also to those around him and his wife."

She loves her role because "Adams is similar to me since we're both short and spunky and not afraid to speak our minds when passionate about something. He's the driving force pushing the 13 colonies to become independent. People don't think of the Founding Fathers as having personalities and flaws, but this musical lets us show these things."

**"I hope it encourages people to get out and exercise their right to vote."**

— '1776' Director Chris Rushing

Visioli said playing the lead enables her to work with different actors in each scene. "I have lots of lines to memorize, but it's worth it," she said. Her favorite song is one she sings, "Is Anybody There?" because it's the only time Adams is feeling down. "But he bounces back," said Visioli. "And the title refers to him breaking the fourth wall

and asking the citizens and members of the Continental Congress, 'Is anybody there? Does anybody care, does anybody see what I see?'"

She said audiences will like "getting to know the Founding Fathers more and how America was created – and how it also didn't happen. The message is that there's still time to make changes, even today, and we should protect this country's daily life because lots of blood, sweat and tears went into making it."

Portraying Ben Franklin is senior Lucas Bickford. "He's a great foil to Adams, who charges headfirst into every debate and argument without heed for the social backlash he might get," explained Bickford. "Franklin's much slyer about getting what he wants. He's a fan of Socrates and asks seemingly innocent questions to prove his point. He refers to himself as a businessman and printer and takes pride in being successful in business because of his frugality and innovation."

"He's also intelligent and efficient," continued Bickford. "Franklin tries to change people's minds by using humor and heart, so they'll support the vote on independence. He and Adams grate on each other and create some really funny dynamics. Franklin's good-natured and tries to make people laugh; he has some of the funniest lines."

SEE WOODSON HIGH CAPPIES, PAGE 15

## STATIONARY ENGINEER APPRENTICESHIP



Applications for the IUOE Local 99 Apprenticeship Program will be accepted during the period of May 6-10, 2024, inclusive. Applications must be completed in person by the applicant at Engineer Center 9315 Largo Drive West, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$35 application fee includes drug screen.

For additional information scan the QR Code.



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PHOTO BY INOVA

Inova Schar Cancer Institute reaches 5th anniversary

# Inova Schar Cancer Institute 5th Anniversary

FROM PAGE 2

in adults and pediatric patients,” says Deeken.

Asked about other trials, Deeken says, “If not home runs, certainly doubles and singles.” Inova Schar participated in a national effort by the American Society of Clinical Oncology to test multiple drugs across tumors similarly. Inova Schar led the country in enrollment and had their senior physician lead it. “We pioneered immunotherapy clinical trials, transforming cancer treatment,” says Deeken.

Inova Schar is “very excited about” its Inova Saville Cancer Screening and Prevention Center. “Earlier detection increases the chance of curing cancer,” says Deeken. “If patients don’t have a primary care physician, they can just come to us directly; we can take care of them.”

Inova, Northern Virginia’s non-profit community health system, provides cancer screenings and care to uninsured patients through its charity program. Non-average cancer-risk individuals and cancer patients can receive comprehensive screening services. Deeken says Inova Schar offers colonoscopies, lung cancer screenings, and other screenings for patients with BRCA1, BRCA2 gene mutations, and other genetic predispositions to cancer. “Our comprehensive cancer screening for patients and families includes all types.”

Cancer is an emotional and psychological rollercoaster, so treatment is only part of the Inova Schar experience. From their first phone call to their first consultation, oncology nurse navigators

help new patients start treatment and transfer it to the care team to reduce their burden. “We know that hearing the awful ‘C word’ and then having to coordinate the extensive scheduling for the patient or their family is too much. We help patients navigate the first steps of their journey,” says Deeken. “Inova Schar will build on its reputation and trust.”

Free programs help cancer patients and their families live well. Inova Schar offers a nationally recognized program, Inova Life with Cancer. It addresses all patient aspects of life and care and provides personalized counseling, support groups, psychiatry services, nutrition and exercise classes, acupuncture, and more. Deeken says the program is recognized nationwide and integrated into all their care sites.

Caring for those with cancer is a special calling for those on the front lines of cancer treatment: doctors, clinic nurses, infusion nurses, phone operators, and others, because, after that awful news, patients trust them. “It is an intimate, powerful, and humbling experience,” says Deeken. “It’s one that often we succeed in curing their cancer through a very difficult treatment.” It happens less and less often, but still too often, that the cancer can’t be cured, Deeken says.

“We learned resilience from COVID-19,” he says. “We worked together and gained strength from each other in our cancer program, but we have much more now than five years ago. As our patients’ journeys continue, the team works, celebrates, and mourns together, which is another strength.”



## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed. Route ID	Route	Route Name	Structure	Effective Date
BLAND	3099	617	WADDLETOWN ROAD	BIG WALKER CREEK #3	4/4/2024
GIIES	8514	772	SINKINGCREEK ROAD 772	SINKING CREEK	4/2/2024
SCOTT	16685	619	BIG STONY CREEK ROAD	BRANCH	3/21/2024
RICHMOND (M)	21531	161	NORTH BOULEVARD	CSX RAILWAY	3/19/2024
DINWIDDIE	6046	622	BALTIMORE ROAD	GEORGE'S BRANCH	3/19/2024
WAYNESBORO	22301	0	HOPEMAN PARKWAY	CSX RAILWAY	3/14/2024
BEDFORD	2834	699	BORE AUGER ROAD 699	BORE AUGER CREEK	3/13/2024
SMYTH	17395	16	B F BUCHANAN HWY	WHITE OAK BRANCH	3/6/2024
TAZEWELL	18583	631	INDIAN CREEK ROAD	INDIAN CREEK #2	3/6/2024
BEDFORD	2879	746	DICKERSON MILL ROAD 746	WOLF CREEK	3/4/2024

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

*The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.*

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# ENTERTAINMENT



The Spring Community Parking Lot Sale will take place Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the McLean Community Center in McLean.

## WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

**Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

## BONITA LESTINA FAIRFAX OLD TOWN HALL PERFORMANCE SERIES

**Enjoy an evening of music showcasing a variety of genres in the elegant interior of historic Old Town Hall (3999 University Drive) in the heart of Fairfax City.** Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and performances begin at 8 p.m. and run from October to April. Admission is free. Visit: [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts).

### SCHEDULE

April 19: Sylvan Waters Duo – Harp/Brass

### APRIL 1-30

**Young at Art Exhibit for 55+ Plus Age Group.** At RCC Hunters Woods, Reston. This free exhibit, for two-dimensional art only, will take place from Monday, April 1 to Tuesday, April 30. A reception and presentation of awards is planned for Thursday, April 13th in the Community Room from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity to view the art and present several fun awards. At 2:15 p.m., you are invited to attend a performance by violinist Miles Stiebel at the CenterStage.

### APRIL 4-21

**“The Nance.”** At 1st Stage, 1524

Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. This witty, Tony Award-Nominated play, filled with music, dance, and comedy sketches, introduces us to Chauncey Miles, a gay burlesque performer at the Irving Place Theater. The Nance recreates the naughty, raucous world of burlesque's heyday and tells the backstage story of Chauncey and his fellow performers. At a time when it was easy to play gay and dangerous to be gay, Chauncey's uproarious antics on the stage stand out in marked contrast to his offstage life. Visit [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or call 703-854-1856.

### APRIL 6-28

#### Pat Macintyre Retrospective Exhibit.

At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza West, Lake Anne, Reston. See a collection of works by Pat Macintyre, a beloved, lifelong artist with an instantly recognizable style, including original drawings and paintings from the era of Reston's formation. Open every weekend from 12-5 p.m. Meet the artist and connect with fellow Macintyre fans at the show reception, 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, April 14.

### PARK AUTHORITY, MASTER GARDENERS OFFER FREE VEGETABLE GARDEN CLINICS

**As spring blooms, the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Master Gardeners extend a warm invitation to all gardening enthusiasts for a series of free Vegetable Garden Plant Clinics.** These educational programs, offered in collaboration with the Fairfax County Master Gardeners and the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), aim to cultivate a deeper understanding of gardening practices and foster a sense of community among green thumbs of all levels.

Join expert gardeners at a variety of locations as they provide valuable insights, answer questions, distribute soil sample kits, and

offer complimentary analyses of plant and pest issues. These clinics are scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the following Saturdays: April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10 and Sept. 14. Clinics will be held concurrently on each of these dates at eight locations across Fairfax County:

Pine Ridge Park, 3401 Woodburn Road, Annandale  
Baron Cameron Park, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston  
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean  
Grist Mill Park, 4320 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria  
Grove Point Park, 6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield  
George Mason Park, 9700 Braddock Road, Fairfax  
Hogge Park, 3139 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church  
Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna

### JOIN THE SPRING CLEANING EFFORT IN FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS

**It's spring cleaning time again and the Fairfax County Park Authority and dozens of volunteers of all ages throughout the county are rolling up their sleeves to spruce up public parks across the county as part of the annual Watershed Cleanup Days in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy.**

Cleanups have been scheduled at various locations throughout the county and offer a diverse array of activities to be involved in. From collecting and bagging trash to tackling other projects, volunteers will have the chance to contribute to the beautification and preservation of our natural spaces. Choose from among the following locations:

#### Saturday, April 20

Hidden Oaks Nature Center - Roundtree Park, Falls Church (9 a.m.-noon)  
John Byers Park, Alexandria (9-11 a.m.)  
Centre Ridge North Park, Centreville (9-11:30 a.m.)  
Merrybrook Run Stream Valley Park,



The 2024 Earth Day Festival takes place Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Sully Historic Site in Chantilly.

Herndon (9-11:30 a.m.)  
**Saturday, April 27**  
Cub Run Stream Valley Park: Penrose Place, Chantilly (9-11:30 a.m.)  
Cub Run Stream Valley Park: Flint Lee Road, Chantilly (9-11:30 a.m.)  
**Sunday, April 28**  
Lake Accotink Park, Springfield (9 a.m.-noon)

### THURSDAY/APRIL 18

**Green Expo.** 7-9 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. More than 30 local exhibitors will be on hand with information about green landscaping ideas, composting, recycling, energy efficiency, solar power, water conservation and more. The popular “Ask Me Anything” sessions are back this year featuring local experts who will make brief presentations and then take questions from attendees regarding sustainable practices. For more information, visit [www.viennava.gov/GreenExpo](http://www.viennava.gov/GreenExpo).

### THURSDAY/APRIL 18

**“Twelfth Night” Movie.** 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. One of Shakespeare's best-loved comedies, “Twelfth Night” was ‘blissfully reborn’ (The Daily Telegraph) for the 2012-2013 season at London's Globe Theatre. Not rated.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 18

**The Green Expo.** 7-9 p.m. At Vienna Community Center. Plant guidance, giveaways, and expert tips on sustainability are what's in store. Don't forget the best part: live animals! See the new additions: ewes and lambs, along with returning favorites: live birds of prey! Details: <https://bit.ly/TOVGreenExpo>.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 18

**Climate Change: Our Response as Artists.** 4 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Monson Grand Tier III, Fairfax Campus. Co-presented with the Inclusive Collaborative Arts at Mason (ICAM) project with panelists BaoBao Chen, Co-Founder and Producer of Small Island Big Song; Mark Cooley, Associate Professor and Director of New Media Arts, Mason School of Art; Founder of Green Studio; moderated by Edward Maibach, distinguished professor at George Mason University and director of Mason's Center for Climate Change Communication. The group will explore ways in which artists can use their voices to expand global conversation on political, econom-

ic, social, and cultural questions at the root of the climate crisis. This event is a part of the Artist-Activist Speaker Series, an initiative of the Inclusive Collaborative Arts at Mason (ICAM) project.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 18

#### Founders Row Pop Up Workout.

6:30-7:30 p.m. At Rumble Boxing Falls Church, 118 Founders Ave., Falls Church. Rumble Boxing Falls Church is thrilled to celebrate National Exercise Day with a free Founders Row Pop Up Workout as we come together to honor the importance of staying active and healthy. Rumble believes fitness should be empowering and inclusive, and National Exercise Day is the perfect opportunity to experience the Rumble vibe firsthand.

### APRIL 19 TO MAY 4

**The Vienna Theatre Company presents “The 39 Steps”.** Don't miss the fun as Monty Python meets Spy vs Spy. Get tickets at <http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org/tickets.html>

### FRIDAY/APRIL 19

**Schooltime Matinee Performance: Small Island Big Song.** 11 a.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. In conjunction with the Great Performances at Mason series, students will be introduced to music, film, dance, and more, with instruments and rhythms from around the world. The performance includes participatory dance and rhythmic activities, as well as an open Q&A with students. Suggested for grades K-6. First-come, first-served registration for educators.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 19

**7th Annual Scam Jam.** 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. At Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Learn how you can fight back against con artists. Con artists don't care how hard you've worked for your money. They steal billions of dollars from hard-working Americans every year. With advances in artificial intelligence (AI), scams can be hard to identify. Criminals make it hard to spot fraud by using AI to mimic voices, alter photos, and avoid spelling and grammar mistakes.

### TUESDAY/APRIL 19

**Five Hills Garden Club Flower Show – For the Love of Nature!** 2-4 p.m. At Church of the Holy Comforter,

[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

# ENTERTAINMENT



The BRUSH Theatre presents “POLI POP” on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at the McLean Community Center in McLean.

543 Beulah Road, N.E., Vienna.  
Enjoy creative floral designs presented by club members as well as horticultural specimens on display from member home gardens. Free and open to the public.

## FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS READY FOR 2024 SEASON

The opening of the 2024 Farmers Market season is fast approaching and the Park Authority, along with dozens of local food producers, will have tons of fresh and healthy foods waiting for you at all 10 markets located throughout the county.

This year, you can expect to find locally grown produce, delicious baked goods and prepared foods at the farmers markets. Additionally, enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities from musical performances, games, and don't forget to bring your food scraps to support our community composting efforts!

The 2024 season begins April 17 with the McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Market. Check out our full market schedule for the latest times and locations.

### WEDNESDAYS

McCutcheon/Mount Vernon  
April 17-Dec. 18, 8 a.m. - noon  
Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria

Oakmont  
May 1-Nov. 6, 8 a.m.-noon  
Oakmont Recreation Center, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton

Wakefield  
May 1 - Oct. 30, 2-6 p.m.  
Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale

### THURSDAYS

Annandale  
May 2 -Nov. 14, 8 a.m. - noon  
Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Herndon  
May 2 -Nov. 7, 8 a.m. - noon  
Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., Herndon (by the Red Caboose)

### FRIDAYS

McLean  
May 3-Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon  
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean

Kingstowne  
May 3-Oct. 25, 3-7 p.m.  
In the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria

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### SATURDAYS

Burke  
April 20-Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon  
VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke

Reston  
April 27-Dec. 7, 8 a.m.-noon  
Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston

### SUNDAYS

Lorton  
May 5-Nov. 10, 8 a.m.-noon  
VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton

Visit the Farmers Market website for complete information about this year's markets – including details on SNAP benefits for eligible households available at designated locations.

If you have any questions, contact the Community Horticulture Office at 702-642-0128.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 20

**Academy Day.** 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Randolph-Macon College in Ashland. The event will include a seated program that will provide a comprehensive overview of the United States service academies and their admission processes. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions during both the interactive service academy panel and the panel of other military-related options that exist at higher education institutions in Virginia. Information will also be shared regarding application procedures for congressional nominations and medical requirements for the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DoDMERB). Following the program, attendees will be able to meet with officials from all five academies as well as representatives from DoDMERB, Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Richmond, ROTC programs at Randolph-Macon College and the University of Virginia, the United States Marine Corps, the Virginia Military Institute, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, and the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin University at their resource tables. Staff from Virginia congressional offices will also be available to answer questions. Information on the nomination process for the service academies is available on Sen. Warner's website. You may

email academy\_noms@warner.senate.gov with any questions about the event.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 20

**Spring Community Parking Lot Sale.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Shoppers will find bargains galore at this community sale of more than 50 sellers, including a limited number of commercial vendors and flea market dealers. The sale offers a wide variety of new and gently used household goods, electronics, furniture, clothes, appliances, “attic treasures” and other items suitable for every budget. Check out the Kids' Corner, a special area of the sale where children ages 3-15 can increase their math and entrepreneurial skills while selling toys, clothes, games and other items. Visit mcleancenter.org for more details.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 20

**The Giving Garden Meet & Greet.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. At The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Learn about our incoming Urban Farm – “The Giving Garden” and meet our farmer, Annie! The first 50 attendees will receive a free Grow-At-Home Kit. Enjoy activations from sustainable retail partners like Clean Origin, LOccitane, Rothy's and more!

### SATURDAY/APRIL 20

**2024 Earth Day Festival.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Spring is on the way and that means Earth Day is right around the corner! Mark your calendar and make your plans to join Fairfax County's largest, family-friendly Earth Day extravaganza at Sully Historic Site. Celebrate Earth Day with a fantastic time filled with games, entertainment, food and a variety of hands-on crafts, exhibits and activities.

### SUNDAY/APRIL 21

**Bands on the Run 5K.** 8 a.m. This event is open to the entire community and benefits the Langley HS and Cooper MS bands. Friends and family of Langley, Cooper and the elementary schools of the Langley pyramid are especially invited. All ages are welcome. Run the course like a pro or walk the course with



The Vale Arts Spring Show and Sale will take place Friday, April 26, 2024 in Oakton. (Pictured): “In the Shadow”, Size: 7”x5”, Oil Painting by Kim Richards.

a friend! Stay afterwards and enjoy live DJ music, refreshments and sponsors' tables. Race registration is now \$35 for students 6-18 years old and \$40 for adults. All participants will receive an official race t-shirt and children 5 and under are free! Sign up at <https://www.langleyband.org/bands-on-the-run-2024-5k#:~:text=Our%205th%20Bands%20on,walk%20it%20with%20a%20friend!>

[www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

### APRIL 22-24

**2024 Mason Film Festival.** At GMU's Johnson Center at the GMU Fairfax Campus. The Mason Film Festival is an annual film festival at George Mason University showcasing the diverse work of Film and Video Studies students, including that of beginning video students, intermediate directing students, and graduating seniors. The event is free and open to the public, but seating is extremely limited so advance registration is required. To view the Festival schedule and register to attend each of the separate events, visit:

<http://film.gmu.edu/events/annual-mason-film-festival>.

### MONDAY/APRIL 22

**Earth Day.** 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At The PARC at Tysons, 8508 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. Celebrate Earth Day with Celebrate Fairfax, Tysons Community Alliance, Supervisor Palchik's Office, and Supervisor Alcorn's Office! The day will be full of educational and hands-on activities. Visit the website: <https://celebratefairfax.org/event/earth-day/>

### SCHEDULE

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM – Fairfax County Park Authority Nature Walk  
Join Fairfax County Park Authority experts and the team at Providence Board of Supervisors office as they take you on a nature and litter pick-up walk. You will learn interesting facts while helping clean-up the trails!

Note: this activity involves walking for long distances.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

1300 TABLES! Buy! Sell! Trade! VPN

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## AUCTION

Friday, May 3, 12:30pm  
at the Floyd EcoVillage,  
188 EcoVillage Trl, Floyd, VA



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## OPINION

### Calls for Cutting School Funds by \$100 Million

FROM PAGE 4

Defense who is paid \$221,400 and is responsible for a trillion-dollar budget and millions of military and civilian employees. The Superintendent is paid \$407,832. That is more than the President of the United States who makes \$400,000 annually. These are examples of overpaid executives. Keep in mind that a Senator and Congressman makes \$174,000 annually. The Majority and Minority Leaders in Congress as well as the President Pro Tempore make \$193,400 annually.

I understand that Mr. Chairman that you had a real problem with this FCPS budget. I believe that you stated, "the FCPS requested for the school transfer of \$165 million is unrealistic." I certainly agree. This transfer to the school should be substantially reduced especially that they expect a 6% salary increase which should not have given to the top 25 high paid executives of the FCPS. The advertised budget of \$3.8 billion that includes an increase of 8.6% over the previous budget of \$301.8 million even though the enrollment is estimated to rise 1%. In the meanwhile, the latest nationwide inflation rate (cost of living) is 3.5% and yet the FCPS wants their budget more than double the inflation rate. This is outrageous!

Recently the FCPS Board Members were given raises to \$48,000 annually and the Chairman at \$50,000. How many hours per year do the School Board Members work?

FCPS spending has increased six times faster than enrollment since the year 2000 through FY2024. So, my request is to cut the transfer of funds to the FCPS by \$100 million.

I look forward to your written response and also responses from the Superintendent and School Board Members that I am forwarding this presentation to at this time.

**Charles McAndrew,**  
FCTA Board Member  
Oak Hill

**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Tysons Forest Clean-Up

Join Tysons Community Alliance and the team at the Hunter Mill Board of Supervisors office with cleaning-up Tysons Forest!

Note: this activity involves walking for long distances, picking up litter, and moving objects. Supplies for litter pick-up will be provided.

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM – PARC Beautification  
Celebrate your community by beautifying a community hub, The PARC at Tysons! Get hands-on by picking up litter, removing invasive plants, and more.

Note: this activity involves walking for long distances, picking up litter, and removing plants. Supplies for litter pick-up and plant removal will be provided.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 24

**Okaidja Afroso “Jaku Mumor” The Ancestral Spirit of Ghana.** 8:00 p.m. At the Center-Stage at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, Reston. Okaidja Afroso ushers in a fresh breeze of musical flavors from the shores of Ghana’s Gulf of Guinea. Visit <https://restoncommunitycenter.com/things-to-do/performances/touring-artist-series/>.

## APRIL 26-28

**Spring Book Sale.** Sponsored by Friends of Centreville Library. At 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville.

Friday, April 26 from 1-5 p.m.

Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 28 from 1-4 p.m.

Bag Sale on Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 26

**Vale Arts Spring Show and Sale.** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Historic Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Vale Road, Oakton. More than 150 original artworks by 9 local artists, Kim Richard, Linda Bullen, Laura Barringer, Lorrie Herman, Cathleen Lawless, Andrea Cybyk, Jenna Klimchak. Guest Artists: Anna Willard, and Lori Goll.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 26

**Watercolorist Gwen Bragg.** 11 a.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean Art Society is honored to present nationally acclaimed watercolorist, Gwen Bragg, giving a step-by-step demonstration of her wet-on-wet method. She will show how she creates textures in her paintings, applying water and paint on paper that is set on plexiglass and repeatedly flipping it to create colors that blend and flow, resulting in a beautiful aesthetic that is integral to her work.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 27

**DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative.**

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. At Vienna Police Department, 215 Center Street, South, Vienna. In conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes. The Vienna Police Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused, or unwanted medications. Prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over-the-counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at the collection point inside the Vienna Police Department.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 27

**Bamberg Symphony.** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. The Bamberg Symphony—one of Germany’s premier orchestras—debuts at the Center for the Arts in a program inspired by New Yorker music critic and Pulitzer Prize finalist Alex Ross’s recent book *Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music*. It explores Richard Wagner’s complicated, many-sided legacy and his colossal influence on music, art, and culture as part of the ensemble’s concert series “The World After Wagner.”

## SATURDAY/APRIL 27

**National Poetry Month Poetry Reading.** 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. Come celebrate the Poetry in the Parks community engagement series, starting with a free poetry reading held during National Poetry Month. Hosted by ArtsFairfax and the Fairfax Poet Laureate, the fifth event in the series will feature the poetry of prominent writers from the greater Virginia region. Spaces are limited, so reserve your spot today!

## SUNDAY/APRIL 28

**Walk on the Hill.** 2-5 p.m. Some of Vienna’s most beautiful, historic properties will be featured during this year’s Walk on the Hill in the Windover Heights neighborhood. At Windover Avenue between Lewis Street and Lawyers Road. Since 1974, residents and visitors have made the lovely pilgrimage to this historic neighborhood to participate in self-guided tours through dozens of participating yards and gardens offering inspiring views of glorious spring flowers, budding trees, live music, exhibits and refreshments.

# Woodson High Presents Its Cappies Musical, ‘1776’

FROM PAGE 10

“He doesn’t care about his reputation or what people think about him. And he’s not self-conscious about his behavior, so I can do lots of fun, goofy things on stage that other characters can’t. But it’s clear he cares as deeply about American independence as Adams does.”

Bickford especially likes the song, “But Mr. Adams,” sung by Franklin, Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston – the five men in charge of creating the Declaration of Independence. “They’re trying to decide who should write it, and only Adams wants to,” said Bickford. “But he can’t because no one in Congress likes him. So Adams tries convincing one of the others to write it, and they’re offering excuses why they can’t. It’s a funny song with silly choreography.”

He said audiences will appreciate the show’s humor and witty writing that’s “just as intelligent as ‘Hamilton’ – the other musical about the American Revolution – and ‘1776’ predates ‘Hamilton’ by almost 60 years. And it’s impressive that the story is as engaging as it is, without being sung in rap.”

Senior Ian Conner plays Andrew McNair, who later rang the Liberty Bell to announce the Declaration’s completion.

“As the congressional custodian, most of the time he’s fetching drinks and opening windows for the Congress members,” said Conner. “His job is tending to the Philadelphia capitol building, and he wants nothing more than for this Declaration writing to be done so things can return to normal.”

Calling McNair “gruff and anti-establishment,” Conner said, “There was nothing more anti-establishment in the history of the world than declaring independence from England. My character has a punk vibe, as shown by his black leather jacket with spikes, plus punk bands’ logos covering the back.”

He loves playing McNair because “I’m always on my feet and running all over the stage to wait on someone. And I can create different relationships for him with the various congresspeople. My main song is ‘Mama, Look Sharp.’ It’s heartbreaking and is from the perspective of a soldier who’s seen his friends die in battle – and he realizes they’ll never see their mothers again. And since McNair’s also a courier, he has to deliver this tragic news to them.”

Conner described this show as “a fresh take on a classic musical because it leans so far into the punk aspect. And because we’re students doing it, our set is created with desks and chalkboards. Each colony’s symbol, such as Virginia’s cardinal, is drawn on the chalkboards to reflect what students would carve on their desks. Our music is

gorgeous, jaw-dropping and so well-sung by everyone, and the songs are all different in their moods and tempos.”

Costume designers Katy Nguyen and Amalia Manow created some 32 costumes. “We mainly designed men’s overcoats over blouses, with pants looking like breeches,” said Nguyen, a junior. “And the black boots have buckles. Those for independence wear more punk elements like leather straps and metal squares called stubs. Their clothes have some wear and tear, like patches, to show they’re rugged free-thinkers, different from everyone else.”

Those against independence wear costumes with feathers, flowers, bows, lace and ribbons – frilly and with more accessories – illustrating that they’re the ideological opposite of the punks. “And since many of them had slaves on their plantations to grow crops, we have plants ‘growing’ on their outfits to show where their wealth really comes from,” explained Nguyen. “It was satisfying seeing each piece come together and then each character wearing their costumes.”

Overall, she said, the audience will enjoy “the fun aesthetic of this musical’s costumes, set, props, actors and technical aspects. They’ll appreciate how everything blends well and all the hard work that went into it.”

## Diagnosis to Date



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I have been lucky – and/or terribly diagnosed, so that my story/diagnosis has been all wrong. Originally diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer stage IV, I was given a “13 month to two-years” prognosis in late Feb. 2009. I was treated with all manner of conventional – and mostly unpronounceable chemotherapy infused every three weeks for years. Occasionally, depending on the chemotherapy I was getting, and on what my monthly lab work was indicating, my medicine was changed, and the infusion schedule was even extended as well. Despite the mortality statistics, I continued to survive this “terminal” diagnosis leading my oncologist to boast that I was his “third miracle:” a lung cancer patient who didn’t die within the expected – according to the hypothetical book I often refer to, time frame.

As the years passed, my continued survival became even more incredible/rare. Why? Because lung cancer is a killer. Based on easily found statistics, lung cancer is the number one cause of cancer deaths annually. In fact, more people die from lung cancer than the combined totals of the next three cancers. Yet, I lived, and the longer I lived, the more invested I became in my survival and prouder of it too. It was a “Star Trek” kind of adventure: I had gone where few men had gone before.

For nearly 10-plus years I was able to live my life reasonably well until I noticed a jaw-breaker-sized growth above my Adam’s apple. Certainly, I pointed it out to my oncologist (those days appointments were in office – not on zoom). He took note of it, even measured it, but said it was a clone of the lung cancer and because of some skin fact, was basically inoperable. This non-action continued for almost a year. Eventually, he felt compelled to refer me to an endocrinologist, across the hall no less. When she saw me, she immediately asked what that was on my throat. I gave her the short story which ended with a “No. Dr. (name withheld) never recommended it.” She said, “we’re doing a biopsy right now.” I asked if I needed to make an appointment. She said “No.” After the needle biopsy, she said she’d have the results in a few days and would call me. The next day she called and told me. I had “papillary thyroid cancer, stage IV,” she said, not the lung cancer with which I had been unexpectedly living. Not sure if it was a relief, given this new unknown diagnosis, but I was grateful nonetheless that there seemed to be an updated diagnosis (and from I had learned over the years as a cancer patient, almost any cancer other than lung offered a better life expectancy).

In communicating the results to Team Lourie, the endocrinologist felt that papillary thyroid cancer is what I’d had all along, not lung cancer. Moreover, we learned that thyroid cancer is often curable and has earned the nickname “the friendly cancer” because often when treated properly, lives are saved. And ‘treating properly’ is not what I had experienced for the past 11-plus years. I had been treated for non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. I was told, unfortunately, that receiving the wrong kind of chemotherapy/targeted and/or immunotherapy as I had for lung cancer would have minimal effect on my actual thyroid cancer. Apparently, what I had for 11-plus years was a very slow-moving type of thyroid cancer which had been basically untreated since 2009. Finally, it manifested as a lump on my throat.

Here I thought I was superman, having survived lung cancer well beyond my doctor’s original prognosis/expectation, but it turns out I was more like mistake man. I didn’t have a terminal form of cancer after all. I had a curable form that had been untreated. My entire narrative changed that day. I went from beating the odds to what were the odds of misidentifying a tissue sample as lung cancer when it was actually thyroid cancer?

From here my care changed. Within the next few months, I had a thyroidectomy to remove my thyroid and the para thyroid. Going in for the operation, I was hopeful that this recent biopsy had discovered the answer to my prayers: normal life, free of cancer. “But alas, poor Yurick,” it was not to be. When I woke up from my two-hour outpatient surgery, it had actually been a seven-hour surgery as the cancer had spread and embedded itself under my collarbone. The surgeon spent the extra five hours attempting to “get” all the cancer. As much as he tried, ultimately, he was unsuccessful, and I’ve been treated for papillary thyroid cancer ever since – until three or four months ago. That’s when it was determined that the side effects of the thyroid cancer medicine were damaging my kidneys. So much so in fact that I stopped that medicine and have been unmedicated ever since. Here I am, 15-plus years into thyroid cancer during which I’ve been on medicine for only three years and now I’m forced to stop. Comparatively speaking, I had only recently started. Now what? Apparently there is no ‘what.’

It was slow moving to begin with; I must hope it will be slow-moving to end with (prepositions notwithstanding).

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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Top Producer



**Spencer Marker**  
Gold Team  
Top Producer



**Shelley Draheim**  
Gold Team  
Top Producer



**Ngoc Do  
& Associates**  
Gold Team - Top Producer



**John Astorino  
& Associates**  
Gold Team - Top Producer



**The Applegate Team**  
Gold Team  
Top Producer



**Jessie Saucer**  
Gold Team  
Top Producer



**Amanda Scott**  
Gold Team  
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**Carol Hermandorfer**  
Gold Team  
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