

Great Falls CONNECTION

Jo Fleming standing with mixed-media painting including pine tar as one of the media. Fleming is one of the Great Falls artists participating in this year's Great Falls Studios Tour, Oct. 16-18. Hours vary by day: 12-5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17; and 12-5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 18. Admission is free.

Great Falls Artists Welcome Community

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You Can See More in the Dark

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FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

**2015 FCPS
SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENTS**

**Congratulations to these candidates,
as voted upon by our membership:**

AT-LARGE (ALL DISTRICTS) CANDIDATES:

Ryan McElveen
Ilryong Moon
Ted Velkoff

BRADDOCK DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Megan McLaughlin

DRANESVILLE DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Janie Strauss

HUNTER MILL DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Pat Hynes

LEE DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Tamara Derenak Kaufax

MASON DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Sandy Evans

MT. VERNON DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Karen Corbett Sanders

PROVIDENCE DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Patty Reed

SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

No endorsement

SULLY DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

Karen Keys-Gamarra



See more at:

fcft.va.aft.org/news/2015-fcft-school-board-candidate-endorsements

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Chairman Candidates Offer Stark Differences

Anti-taxer Arthur Purves challenging incumbent Chairman Sharon Bulova.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Sharon Bulova is exactly where she wants to be.

"I believe in local government. It's where the rubber hits the road, and where you're closest to your constituents," said Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, the top elected official in Fairfax County.

"My priorities, the number one priority, is to strike a balance between keeping taxes affordable to our residents while also making sure that we are investing in the services and the programs that people in Fairfax County appreciate, rely upon and live here for."

Bulova, formerly the Braddock District Supervisor, took the helm of the county's board in a special election in 2009 after U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly was elected to Congress in 2008.

Arthur Purves (R) is Bulova's challenger in this November's general election.

"You have to understand that the economic situation in this county is not good," said Purves. "I already mentioned that we had close to the smallest job growth of any large county in the United States in the past year."

"We lost 14,000 jobs due to sequestration, we lost a lot of middle-income jobs after the housing bubble burst, the number of food stamps applications has doubled since 2008 and staffing for parks and libraries was cut by 100 staff members since 2008," he said.

"To me, it's crucial to cut taxes, not to prevent a tax increase, but to cut taxes."

That was the beginning of the difference between the two candidates' views about taxes at the Great Falls Citizens Association Candidates Debate held at The Great Falls Grange on Sept. 29.

Bulova said she works to "ensure that we continue to have an excellent school system and balancing that with public safety, human services, and great libraries," said Bulova. "Also parks, fire and rescue, all the services including public works making sure that we can have clean air, clean water. Those are priorities of local government."

About 200 people attended.

"LET ME POINT out that Virginia is one of seven states that still has the BPOL tax, the tax where business has to pay a tax even if it loses money," said Purves. "Virginia used to be first, number one, in terms of being business friendly, in the nation and now we're number four."



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Sharon Bulova (D) and Arthur Purves (R) listen to Ralph Appleton's question at a debate at the Great Falls Citizens Association. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is the only position on the Board elected at-large.

Second Round of Debates

The Great Falls Citizens Association will hold a second round of debates with candidates for public office in Fairfax County on Monday, Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike.

Participating in this debate:

School Board Member, Dranesville District: Janie Strauss* vs. Pete Kurzenhauser
School Board Members, At-Large (voters will choose three): Bob Copeland, Omar Fateh, Jeannette Hough, Manar Jean-Jacques, Peter Marchetti, Ryan McElveen*, Ilryong Moon*, Burnette Scarboro, Ted Velkoff*
County Clerk: Bettina Lawton, John Frey*, Marisa Wissar
County Commonwealth's Attorney: Raymond Morrogh* (unopposed)
County Sheriff: Stacey Kincaid* vs. Bryan Wolfe
Soil and Water Board, At-Large (voters will choose three): Scott Cameron, George Lamb IV, Jerry Peters, Stephen Pushor

* denotes incumbent

"In Tysons Corner, all those new commercial office buildings going up, they aren't attracting new businesses, they are just drawing businesses away from other office buildings in the county. So we need to attract businesses and the way to do that is to be more competitive than our neighboring jurisdictions."

Bulova conceded that "these have not been easy times."

"I was elected chairman just exactly as the great recession happened," she said.

"I am a pro-business Democrat and one of my priorities is to stimulate our economy," she said. "Diversifying our industry sector is something that our Board has been focusing on."

She pointed at the growing hospitality business with Cvent, an event planning company that moved its headquarters to Fairfax County, and the World Police and Fire Games held this year, an economic and cultural success.

The county needs to ensure that "we are not so reliant on the federal government and defense related programs and that we are diversifying our economy into different industry sectors such as medical research and translational medicine," Bulova said.

Revitalizing the older commercial and industrial sections of the county, including Tysons and Merrifield have been another priority, said Bulova.

"Transforming Tysons from what has been a highly successful commercial area into a mixed use walkable community that in-

cludes amenities and exciting programs for all of us to enjoy, and to make sure that is a walkable community that has the kind of bus service, transit as well as the Silver Line."

GREAT FALLS Citizens Association's Ralph Appleton asked the two candidates about transportation projects, including the toll roads.

"Are there inconsistencies between the Board plan for I-66 and/or other toll roads inside the beltway and VDOT plans? If so, briefly highlight any differences and your positions on the differences and then, if you want, your position on toll roads — Good, bad, or what?" said Appleton.

"Bad," said Purves.

He said Gov. Terry McAuliffe wants to toll I-66 inside the beltway for an extended period of time and then have HOT (High Occupancy Travel) lanes.

"These are tax hike lanes. That's a better name than HOT lanes," said Purves. "We really ought to understand why there is no money for transportation and infrastructure and it's not an easy thing to solve. At the federal level, all money is being taken up by Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. We need to fix our entitlement programs if we are to ever fix our transportation problem," he said.

Bulova is proud that she cut the opening ribbon for the Silver Line.

"There's something I agree with Mr. Purves on and that is there was a time when

the federal government was the level of government that paid for large transportation projects," she said.

"Regarding tolls, we've had, at least from my point of view, a relative positive experience with managed lanes, HOT lanes on the Beltway," Bulova said.

Bulova said one approach to transportation problems could include creating a network of choices, including carpool lanes and toll lanes. "So this may be a viable transportation project but there are things we care about and want to see dealt with, especially the impacts of the toll lanes on the surrounding communities. Once you get inside the Beltway on I-66 you can't get on it during peak hours, and this project would allow everybody to use it during peak hours."

CONTROVERSY around the Fairfax County Police Department caused scrutiny and criticism of the Board, especially since the shooting of John Geer.

"My boss has a great saying. The saying is, 'Bad news does not improve with age,'" said Purves.

"John Geer was a civilian and he was unarmed and he was shot by a Fairfax County policeman, and for 17 months the [Board of Supervisors] stood silent while the police department refused to give the details of that shooting to the Commonwealth's Attorney who is responsible for conducting that investigation," Purves said. "And the trust between the community and the police is a fragile thing and it's a very important thing and this 17-month delay, I think, endangered that trust."

Bulova said the Geer case could offer a case study in "everything that could go wrong as far as transparency, sharing what happened with the public and providing the information that was requested and making sure that justice was timely served. And things did not go well in that case," she said.

Bulova created the Ad Hoc Police Practices Commission, which will report its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 20.

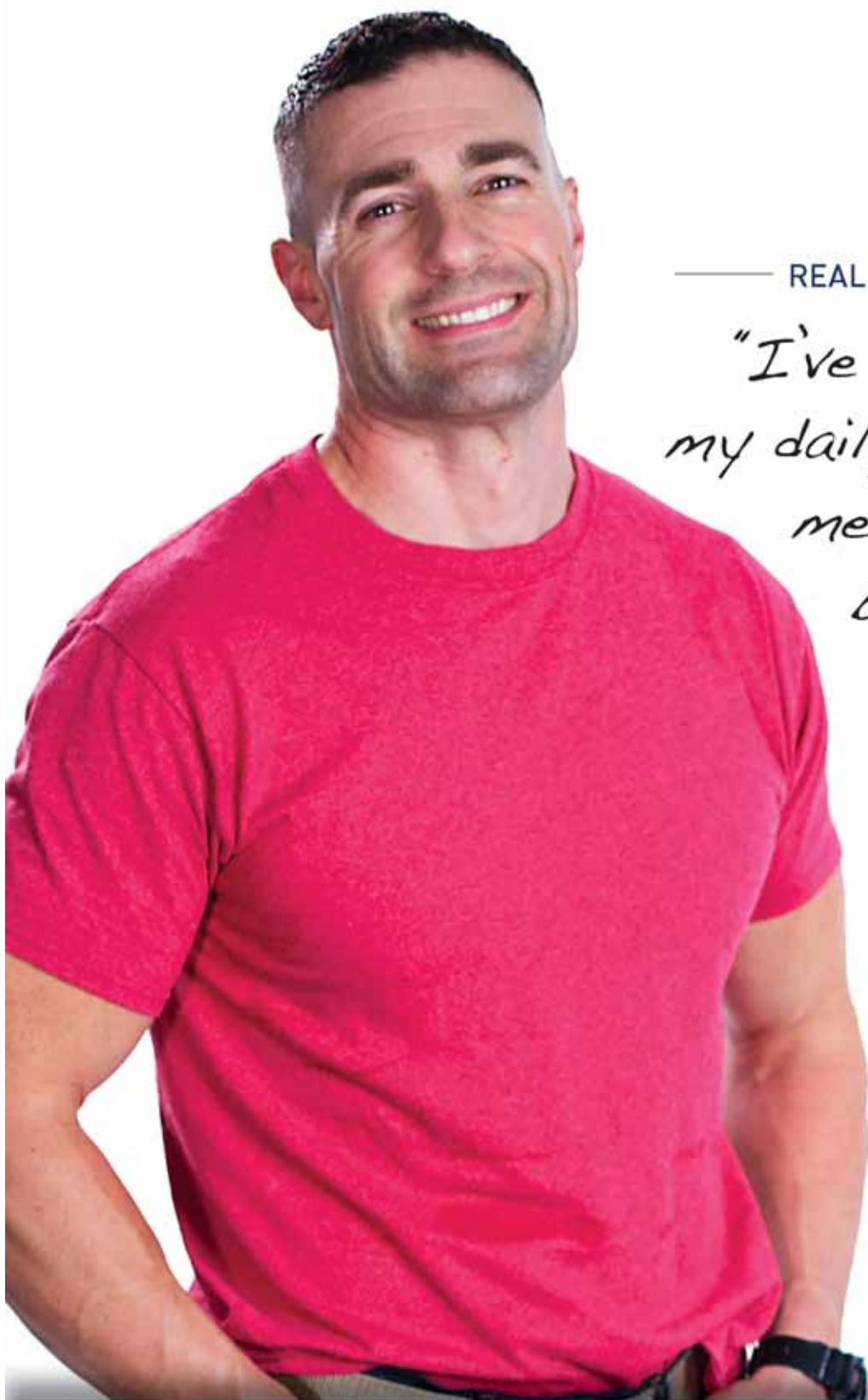
See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission

"You'll see all the work we're doing," she said.

Purves brought up the in-custody death of Natasha McKenna, a woman with mental illness who died in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, after deputies used a taser on her four times while struggling to restrain her.

"It was a death that probably could have been avoided if the county had mental health court diversion program which it considered doing in 2004 and then abandoned," said Purves. "Jails are the largest provider of care for mentally ill persons in the country."

The county is working towards a "diversion first" program that could address some of those concerns. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/diversionfirst/>



— REAL STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS LANES —

*"I've shaved an hour off
my daily commute. It's made
me a better dad and a
better husband."*

- Donald B.
Stafford, VA

Public school teacher Donald lives in Stafford and works in Falls Church. Before the Express Lanes, he says his commute was stressful and unpredictable. When Donald would slug on the HOV lanes, sometimes it took him an hour to get work. He was always rushing and often resorted to fast food. Since the Lanes opened on 95, he still slugs or carools to work, but now he can eat breakfast and dinner with his family and is able to spend more time with those he loves. He no longer misses important events and says his personal relationships have significantly improved.

See more real stories from the Lanes at ExpressLanes.com



Donald's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.

REAL ESTATE

A Very Good News on Market

Banner first three quarters of 2015 for real estate in McLean and Great Falls.

By Karen Briscoe

The first three quarters of 2015 in McLean and Great Falls is up 9 percent overall in terms of number of sales in comparison to the previous time frame in 2014. This is very good news for the market area, as it indicates an environment for the potential for price appreciation provided demand remains strong relative to supply.

The chart breaks out sales of homes for both zip codes into the lower brackets which is considered under \$1.25 million and the upper brackets which is above \$1.25 million. Looking deeper into the statistics, it reveals that all price points other than the over \$3 million market and the \$1.25 – 2 million market experienced an increase in number of sales. The lower brackets saw an increase of over 14 percent in number of transactions. The upper brackets experienced a small decrease of

0.45 percent.

Not surprising the entry-level home purchaser experienced a significant increase of almost 15 percent in demand. Many economists attribute this to the millennial generation now able to enter the market and purchase their first home, which in these areas is likely condo ownership. The 22102 part of McLean that is located in Tysons Corner offers numerous condo options. The opening of the Silver Line metro in 2014 has increased Tysons' attraction for this demographic that desires an urban lifestyle. The other options available in McLean, and to a lesser extent in Great Falls, for the under \$750,000 price point are town homes and smaller, older single family homes.

As there is very little available land to purchase for development in McLean and Great Falls, new home builders continue to represent a portion of this market segment by purchasing lots for new

construction. This type of in-fill development occurs by tearing down an older existing home for the land value. When the builders compete for lots, there is less available for owners that would buy the home to live in. These scenarios can make it challenging for a first time homeowner to purchase, although it actually can be a healthy sign of recovery when new home construction is strong.

The next price range up, between \$750,000 and \$1.25 million, experienced an increase in demand of 14.09 percent year over year. This market segment typically represents the first level move-up home owner. Knowing that with confi-

dence their home should sell quickly for a strong price, these owners are in a better position to make the move to the next price level home. The two upper bracket categories of \$1.25 million to \$3 million are the next level of move-up homeowners. While the \$2 – 3 million price range experienced a strong increase of 24 percent, the \$1.25 – 2 million price range experienced a decrease of just over 3 percent.

Clearly "happy days are here again" for home sellers in McLean

and Great Falls. Good homes priced correctly for the current market sold quickly and, in some segments, with multiple offers. All signs are for 2015 to continue to have positive market conditions.

Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy are active and experienced Realtors with Keller Williams in the Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland and Washington, D.C. market place and would be delighted to assist whether for home buying or selling. Contact them via the means most convenient for you: www.HBCRealtyGroup.com, 703-734-0192, Homes@HBCRealtyGroup.com.



Karen Briscoe

McLean & Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales: 1 st 3 Qtrs. 2015 compared to 1 st 3 Qtrs. 2014 (Based on Final Closed Price)					
	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$750k-\$1.25 Mil	<\$750k
1 st 3 Qtrs. 2015					
22101	8	25	75	161	58
22102	3	14	35	48	159
22066	1	15	45	82	22
Total: 12		Total: 54	Total: 155	Total: 291	Total: 239
Combined Total Upper Brackets: 221			Combined Total Lower Brackets: 530		
	All 1 st 3 Qtrs 2015 Sales: 751				
1 st 3 Qtrs. 2014					
22101	8	15	82	151	41
22102	10	16	32	51	139
22066	3	10	46	48	24
Total: 21		Total: 41	Total: 160	Total: 250	Total: 204
Combined Total Upper Brackets: 222			Combined Total Lower Brackets: 454		
	All 1 st 3 Qtrs. 2014 Sales: 676				

McLean & Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales: 1 st 3 Qtrs. 2005 compared to 1 st 3 Qtrs. 2015					(Based on Final Closed Price)	
	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-\$3 Mil.	\$1.25-\$2 Mil		\$750k-\$1.25 Mil	<\$750k
1 st . 3 Qtrs. 2005						
22101	9	13	78		191	132
22102	15	26	54		64	255
22066	5	13	98		72	41
	Total: 29	Total: 52	Total: 230		Total: 327	Total: 428
Combined Total Upper Brackets: 311				Combined Total Lower Brackets: 755		
All 1 st 3 Qtrs 2005						

Great Falls Studios 2015 Studio Tour - our 12th year!

This year the tour will be **THREE DAYS**

Friday, October 16
Saturday, October 17
Sunday, October 18

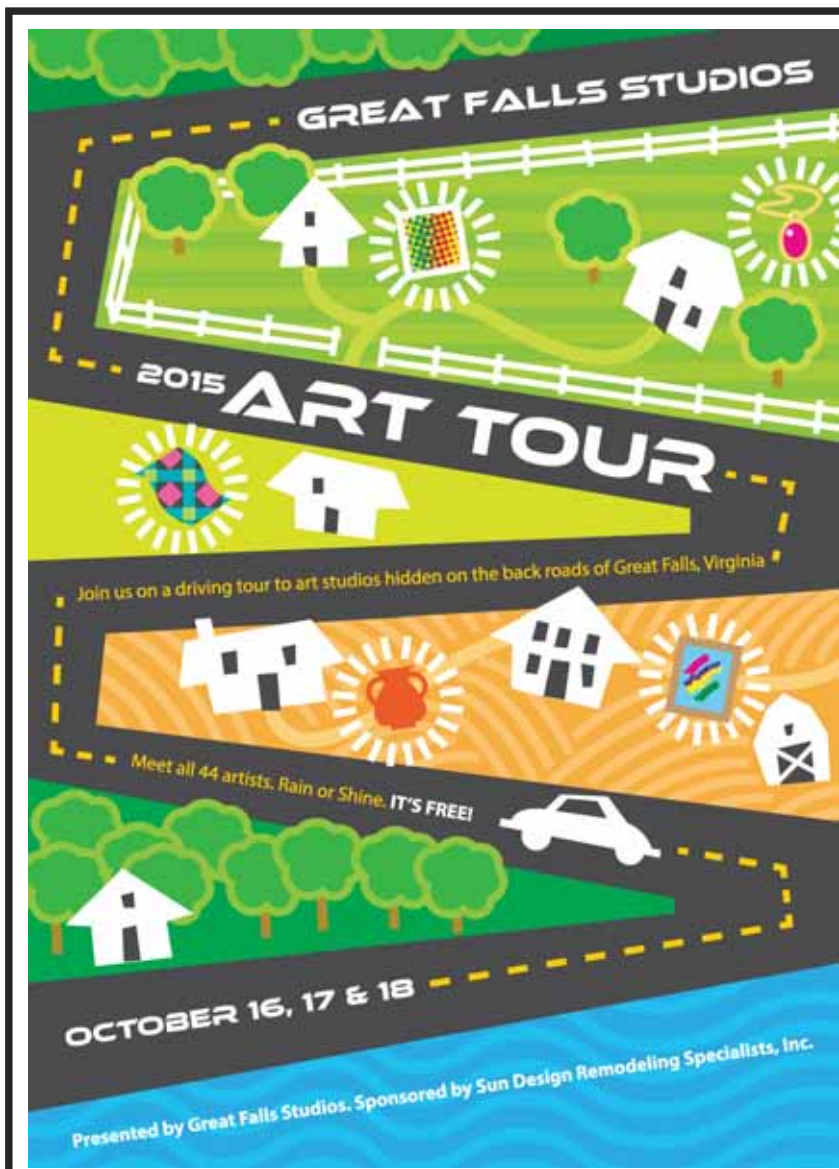
Hours: 12-5 Friday, 10-5 Saturday, and 12-5 Sunday

It's a FREE, family friendly driving tour to visit 46 Great Falls artists in their "creative habitats"---ask questions, see demonstrations of art, buy gifts. Discover the story behind the art and the artist!

Plan to stop by "Studio Headquarters" at the Great Falls Library to see examples of the work of each artist on the Tour. You can pick up a map and brochure at any studio to help plan your visit.

The Tour is sponsored by Sun Design Remodeling Specialists Inc., which will have a recently renovated home on display.

www.GreatFallsStudios.com



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Walter Woodson 703-499-4961



MIDDLEBURG, VA -Excellent condition! Minutes from town, private & protected, all brick Georgian built in 1998. 10' ceilings on first floor, coved ceiling, lovely molding, 2 gas fireplaces, 4 BR, 4.5 BA, new sunroom, great kitchen, 3 car garage w/ workshop, circular asphalt driveway on 7.75 acres. Perennial gardens with stone walls, flagstone terraces and views. \$1,385,000
Peter Pejasevich 540-270-3835 • Scott Buzzelli 540-454-1399



UPPERVILLE, VA - 50+ gorgeous acres! Extraordinary brick colonial in prestigious Greystone. 9000+ sq.ft of spectacular living space featuring 3 beautifully finished levels. Heated pool, tennis court and brilliant gardens overlook pond with mtn views! \$3,999,000
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LEESBURG, VA - One-of-a-kind home. Main level master. Open Kitchen & Morning Room, Family Room w/ Stone FP, Large finished lower level with Granite Wet Bar & Wine Cellar, HUGE indoor pool, pond, 8-Person Hot Tub, Stone Patio, Deck, Gazebo, Outdoor Kitchen. \$1,350,000
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THE PLAINS, VA - - Cloverland Farm is truly a masterpiece of fine country living. Stone home constructed of the highest quality, designed by architect William Lawrence Bottomley in 1932 and build by locally known builder William Hanback. Grand foyer, stately rooms, mahogany library, conservatory, chefs kitchen, indoor pool, tennis court, magnificent views. \$6,500,000
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OLIVER ST, PAEONIAN SPRINGS, VA - Attention Contractors 1/4 acre lot with house. Property has electric, heat but needs well, septic and plumbing and has no bathrooms. Last house in neighborhood sold for \$328,000 as-is. Owner financing & ask for zero downpayment while builder/purchaser restores house. Additional lots available. \$190,000
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FOREST HILL LN, BLUEMONT, VA - Incredible Mountain Retreat nestled among the trees with views all the way to DC. Just about an hour from the beltway and suitable for year round enjoyment. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, office, gorgeous wood and stone throughout. Appointment required. \$479,900
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News



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX PUBLIC ACCESS

Chuck Peña, Executive Director of Fairfax Public Access, presents Louise Anderson, Verizon's FiOS Franchise Service Manager for the Commonwealth of Virginia, with a plaque in recognition of the 10th Anniversary of Verizon's support.



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

John Monsul, Producer/Host of Communicating Today with Chef Jacques Haeringer of the L'Auberge Chez Francois country restaurant in Great Falls.

Communicating Today With Fairfax Public Access

Channel 10 airs season 25; episode 700 of TV program created, produced and hosted by John Monsul of Great Falls.

BY JEAN T. JIANOS
THE CONNECTION

On Monday, Oct. 12, John Monsul was producing the 700th program of his show, "Communicating Today," at the television studios of Fairfax Public Access (FPA), just as he has done every other week for the past 25 years, from the show's debut in 1990 to the present. FPA's Director of Operations, Steve Ruddell, says Monsul is a consistent and dependable producer. Ruddell started his career with FPA in the Equipment Room. Producers like Monsul are required to call the Equipment Room to reserve a television studio and equipment, and are also required to sign-in at the Equipment Room when they arrive for their scheduled reservation. Ruddell says that Monsul, "always comes in like clock-work."

MONSUL'S GOAL in creating and producing "Communicating Today," one of the longest-running programs on Channel 10, is "to improve communications in the world with the end result being to better the human condition." Monsul believes that, "if we can improve the interpersonal communications skills of the people of the world, we can eventually improve the overall quality of life." FPA operates the television and radio production facilities available to

Fairfax County residents like Monsul, and provides county residents access to the tools and resources they need in pursuing their goals.

Active FPA members who have paid the annual membership fee may use most FPA production facilities and equipment for free, if they have been trained and certified through FPA's training courses, and so long as they are creating non-commercial programming for any FPA television or radio channel.

"Communicating Today" is taped on Monday nights at the FPA studios, located at 2929 Eskridge Road in Merrifield, between the U.S. Post Office and the Mosaic development, off Rt. 29, Lee Highway.

FPA's Merrifield production facility has three digital television studios that provide access to a news desk, a fully operational kitchen set for cooking programs, custom designed set backgrounds, and a computer generated virtual set. In addition, the studios are equipped with multiple cameras, lighting instruments and audio equipment, as well as control rooms that contain everything needed to produce a professional television program.

The post-production lab is equipped with editing and graphic software, and enables radio and television producers to create professional sound quality. The two digital radio studios are fully equipped for production.

SEE MONSUL, PAGE 7



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Art Lecture Series with Richard Kelly

The Arts of Great Falls announces the next talk in their Art Lecture Series, "Collecting for the Long Haul" by Richard Kelly on Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7-8 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls School, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Richard Kelly is a local art collector whose collection focuses on the Golden Age of American Illustration (1890-1935). The Kelly Collection holds approximately 350 paintings including originals by Norman Rockwell, Maxfield Parrish and N. C. Wyeth, works on paper, and 9,500 volumes in its reference library. It is located in the Kelly residence which was designed by museum architects specifically for the display and storage of the art. Hear from Kelly how the Collection was put together, how it is cared for and how it is shared with people all over the country. The Art Lecture Series is always free and open to the community.

The Arts of Great Falls (formerly known as Great Falls Foundation for the Arts) is a nonprofit art foundation providing an art school, working artists' studios, and art events & activities to the community. www.greatfallsart.org.

Monsul

FROM PAGE 6

tion and transmission, including the ability for callers in to a radio program to be heard on air. FPA also has equipment available for shooting on location.

THE NEXT FREE, monthly orientation session that offers an overview of FPA's services and facilities, as well as a tour of their studios, is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. See www.fcac.org/orientation for registration information.


FPA's four television channels are carried by Cox Communications of Northern Virginia cable system; Verizon Virginia, Inc.'s Verizon FiOS TV; and in Reston, by Comcast.

Charles "Chuck" Peña, Executive Director of FPA, notes that November 2015 marks the 10th Anniversary of FPA's partnership with Verizon Virginia, Inc.

"Fairfax Public Access is extremely fortunate to enjoy such excellent relations with Verizon Virginia, whose support of FPA is essential to us as we work to provide exceptional community media services to the residents of Fairfax County," states Peña in FPA's press release.

Ruddell says that Monsul has contributed to FPA's fulfillment of its mission, "[t]o provide quality and engaging community television, radio, education, and cablecasting services of interest to the public, and encourage the participation and involvement of residents of Fairfax County and the Washington metropolitan area."

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- Received a Freedom of Information Award the Virginia Coalition For Open Government (2013)
- Recognized as the Public Official of the Year (2006)

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Patients Love DermaPen!



BEFORE AFTER



BEFORE AFTER



BEFORE AFTER



BEFORE AFTER



BEFORE AFTER





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OPINION

Closer Look at School Spending

Report: Local schools spend less to educate more challenging students.

Since Fiscal Year 2009, Alexandria Public Schools has reduced per pupil spending by 13.3 percent, adjusted for inflation. Arlington County Public Schools has reduced per pupil spending by 15.7 percent, but still spends the most per student of any school district in the state.

Fairfax County Public Schools has reduced per pupil spending by 6.5 percent over the same period, adjusted for inflation, but FCPS spends significantly less per student than either Alexandria or Arlington.

These numbers are from a draft report released last month by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission in a report on Efficiency and Effectiveness of K-12 Spending 2015. In FY 2014, the average Virginia school division spent 7 percent less to educate each student than it did in FY 2005.

These numbers are critical to understand as local schools, Fairfax County in particular, face a looming budget gap in the coming budget cycle. It's easy to skip the specifics, look at a large overall budget number and conclude that surely there is plenty of room to cut the budget. These numbers show the problem with that approach.

Fairfax County was among the Virginia school divisions with a reduction in resources and numbers of teachers per student which also had a growing percentage of "resource-intensive" students.

More than 27 percent of Fairfax County Public Schools students were living in poverty in 2014; that's 49,895 students, up from about 18 percent or 28,527 poor students in 2005. Number and percent of students with limited English have also grown over the time period. In 2014, 49,442 students, or 27 percent, in FCPS are limited English proficient, up from 35,091 or 22 percent in 2005. The report calls these students "resource intensive," and what that means is that it costs more to effectively teach them.

The larger chart comes from a different source, the 2015 Washington Area Boards of Education Guide, and shows Fairfax County with far lower per pupil costs and teacher salaries than surrounding school districts.

Arlington and Alexandria school districts also have large percentages of poor students.

Alexandria had 6,160, or 58.8 percent of its students living in poverty in 2005, and in 2014, 7,443 poor students, 55 percent. Alexandria has also had an increase in limited English proficient students, 33.3 percent of 4,510 students in 2014, up from 22.7 percent in 2005.

Public Schools	Fairfax County	Montgomery County, MD	Arlington County	Alexandria City
FY 2015 Cost Per Pupil	\$13,519	\$15,351	\$19,040	\$17,041
Average Teacher Salary	\$66,782	\$75,452	\$76,892	\$73,612
2014 ACTUAL ENROLLMENT				
Total Enrollment	183,895	151,289	23,421	13,563
Percent ESOL Enrollment	17.0%	13.2%	17.4%	25.5%
Percent Free/Reduced Price Meal Eligible	27.5%	34.3%	31.8%	59.7%
Percent Special Education Enrollment	13.8%	11.7%	14.7%	12.6%
2015 APPROVED ENROLLMENT				
Number Increase/Decrease from 2014 Actual	2,890	2,889	792	548
Percent Increase/Decrease from 2014 Actual	1.6%	1.9%	3.4%	4.0%
SCHOOLS				
Elementary	139	133	22	12
Middle	23	38	5	2
Traditional (K-8)	0	0	0	1
Secondary and High Schools	25	26	5	1
Special Education	7	5	2	0
Alternative	2	0	3	2
SOURCES OF REVENUE				
Local	69.6%	66.6%	83.0%	79.3%
State	23.3%	27.9%	12.5%	14.9%
Other	7.2%	5.5%	4.6%	5.8%
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS				
School-Based	93.2%	91.2%	90.9%	89.7%
Nonschool-Based	6.8%	8.8%	9.1%	10.3%

SOURCE: 2015 Washington Area Boards of Education Guide

GRAPHIC BY LAURENCE FOONG/THE CONNECTION

Comparison of local school district finances and enrollment from the 2015 Washington Area Boards of Education Guide.

INFLATION ADJUSTED PER PUPIL SPENDING			
Division	FY 2009	FY 2014	% Change (FY 09-14)
Alexandria	\$20,323	\$17,622	"13.3%
Arlington	\$22,214	\$18,736	"15.7%
Fairfax	\$14,901	\$13,931	"6.5%

Inflation-adjusted to 2014 dollars.
SOURCE: Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission report on Efficiency and Effectiveness of K-12 Spending 2015 <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt472.pdf>

In Arlington, 7,972 students, 33.9 percent were living in poverty in 2014, up from 6,373 students, 35.8 percent in 2005. Arlington has seen a drop in limited English students, from 35.5 percent (6,323 students) in 2005 to 28 percent in 2014 (6,591 students).

As the saying goes, if you think education is expensive, try ignorance. And if you think it's too expensive to effectively educate the population we have, consider the costs of services to people who don't have the education they need to live successfully later in life.

Effective leaders in Northern Virginia will have to lead the way to funding effective school systems in a challenging economic environment. But if you hear a candidate claim that schools can get by on less by being more efficient, ask if they have read this report.

According to the JLARC report: School districts reduced per-student spending on instruction through a combination of employing fewer teachers per student, limiting teacher salary growth, and requiring teachers to pay a higher percentage of health insurance and retirement benefit costs. Divisions report that these spending reductions are hindering instructional effectiveness.

School divisions reduced instructional spending by less than one percent, and non-instructional spending by 10 percent, at the statewide level during the time period.

You can read the Virginia JLARC report here: <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt472.pdf>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to north@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

MONDAY/OCT. 19

Candidate Debates. 6:30 p.m. The Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Participating in this debate: School Board Member, Dranesville District, Janie Strauss vs. Pete Kurzenhauser; School Board Members, At-Large (voters will choose three), Bob

Copeland, Omar Fateh, Jeannette Hough, Manar Jean-Jacques, Peter Marchetti, Ryan McElveen, Illyong Moon, Burnette Scarboro, Ted Velkoff; County Clerk, Bettina Lawton, John Frey, Marisa Wissar; County Commonwealth Attorney, Raymond Morrogh (unopposed); County Sheriff, Stacey Kincaid vs. Bryan Wolfe; Soil and Water Board,

At-Large (voters will choose three), Scott Cameron, George Lamb IV, Jerry Peters, Stephen Pushor.

THURSDAY/OCT. 22

How-To Immigration Seminar. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Moss and Company, 1750 Tysons Blvd., Suite 1500, McLean. Complete your

marriage petition and adjustment of status application (Green Card) guided by an attorney. Hands-on seminar where you will be guided in building your package and preparing it for filing. Must register to reserve a spot. Limited space. \$150. Call 407-342-6605 or rmoss@mossimmigration.com to register.

Great Falls
CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Community Reporter
240-393-2448
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
[@jonroetman](https://twitter.com/jonroetman)

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Salome Howard-Gaibler
Display Advertising
703-778-9421
salome@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising
703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
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Before: “The old kitchen was too dark and cramped,” owner Joseph Lopez said, “and did not offer much of a view of the lovely backyard.”



Sun Design Remodeling is holding an open house in a recently renovated home in conjunction with the 12th Great Falls Studios Tour Oct. 16-18. The residence owned by Joesph and Alison Lopez demonstrates how open floorplans are being effectively introduced into homes that previously employed a more traditional room configuration. Designers enlarged the kitchen by relocating the formal dining room and creating a stronger visual linkage to a backyard filled with old stand trees. Tour hours are Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m.

Renovated Home Included in Great Falls Studio Tour

12th annual event scheduled for this weekend.

BY JOHN BYRD

A renovated, circa-1970s Georgian Colonial will be featured in the 12th annual Great Falls Studios tour Oct. 16-18. A comprehensive first floor makeover to the home of Joseph and Alison Lopez, the project by Sun Design Remodeling Specialists demonstrates new interior design modalities now being

applied to traditional floorplans in older homes.

“There’s a design revolution underway in northern Virginia,” said Sun Design founder and chairman Craig Durosko. “We find there’s a lot of interest in what’s being done. An open house is one way locals see what ideas may apply to their own homes.”

Sun Design Remodeling Specialists, a 30-year-old design/build remodeling firm, has

sponsored the Great Falls Studios tour since 2012. This year, the event will feature the work of more than 40 local artists in 26 locations around Great Falls. Work by fine arts painters Alicia Sommers and Karen Bateman will be on display in the Lopez home.

The Lopez renovation draws attention to space planning and design concepts that “open up” a traditional floorplan by selectively reconfiguring existing interior walls.

The original 2,700-square-foot house, which the family purchased eight years ago, was built around a standard center hall tem-

plate with a front-facing foyer and living room that segued to a rear dining room, kitchen, and family room configuration. To gain more living space, Lopez converted a 280-square-foot screen porch to a sunroom three years ago, but the changes didn’t resolve other inherent problems.

“The rear rooms were too dark and cramped,” Joseph Lopez said. “Yet there was a lot of wasted space everywhere.”

Other shortcomings:

- * With 8-year-old twins about the house, circulation in the kitchen was problematic.



Specialty designer Katie Coram proposed a 9-foot-by-5.5-foot wall-mounted board as a way to contain and display kitchen art. The board is a metal surface topped with porcelain that accommodates pictures held by magnets and erasable messages in felt tip pen.

The traditional U-shaped counter space in the kitchen was as much a barrier as an asset. Storage capacity was limited. There was no place to display the children’s drawings which hung from cabinets and appliances.

- ❖ The living room and formal dining room were mostly unused — consuming a lot of first level square footage without much family benefit.

- ❖ The interior to the family room — which included a working fireplace — was notably dated.

- ❖ View and access to the lower-level playground from the kitchen was obstructed by a landing two steps down that required a 90-degree turn.

- ❖ Despite a setting that backs up to a 50-acre, tree-filled easement, there were no clear sight lines from the kitchen to the back yard where the boys were usually at play when not in school.

“WE HAD STARTED thinking about making changes before we moved in,” Joseph Lopez said. “We had many ideas for improvements — but didn’t know what would work.”

Enter Sun Design’s lead designer Jon Benson and specialty designer Katie Coram.

“The first consideration was how to create a space plan that was consistent with how the family actually uses the house,” Benson said. “Everyone acknowl-

edged that the dining room was too small and that the sizable living room didn’t have much of a role in the family’s everyday life — so there was some useful square footage we could re-deploy.”

These observations in mind, Benson drafted a plan that deleted the wall between kitchen and dining room to form a 30-foot-by-14-foot family kitchen. The larger footprint created the space needed for a four-seat food prep island and dining counter, a breakfast area and a substantially enlarged pantry.

It also allowed for direct access to the staircase leading to the lower level. With the kitchen extended, Benson cut a new door to the downstairs and installed a straight staircase, making it easy for Alison to keep an eye on the boys from upstairs.

To improve natural light and sight lines, the designer eliminated the partial wall and sliders leading to the sun room, then designed a 12-foot opening utilizing “by-pass” sliders on a double track that telescope into the wall.

The result: Alison can easily keep an eye on the backyard from anywhere in the kitchen. Equally appealing: an indoor-outdoor continuum that brings the wooded setting into visual range from every part of the renovated kitchen.

“The beautiful view is one of the main reasons we bought the house,” said Joseph Lopez. “Having it available in the rooms where we spend a lot of time is wonderfully fulfilling.”

CONVERTING THE UNUSED unused living room into a spacious formal dining room with fireplace, likewise, satisfied the family’s holiday entertainment requirements. As a bonus, the children now use the dining room to start their homework just steps from their mom in the kitchen.

With space planning issues under control, Alison Lopez huddled on finish work details with Coram.

“It was great bouncing ideas off of someone with her interior design skills,” Alison Lopez said. “There were so many details — cabinet styles, colors and finishes; best granite options for the island counter top. Katie recommended a houndstooth pattern for the backsplash — which really improved on the white brick-style design I had been considering.”


The stand-out inspiration, though, was Coram’s suggestion that the family’s “kitchen art” could be better presented in a 9-foot-by-5.5-foot message board mounted on the wall between the kitchen and the entrance to the dining room.

A steel surface covered in porcelain, the board accommodates photos and art held by magnets, but also offers a handy place to jot down “to do” lists written in an erasable felt tip pen.



“It’s a fun piece,” Alison Lopez says. “Just looking at it makes me smile.”

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com or www.HomeFrontsNews.com) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.

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Buying Real Estate Abroad

Local Realtor to appear on “House Hunters International.”

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

An Arlington-based real estate agent is getting a brush with fame. While recently in Roatan, Honduras, for scuba diving lessons, Stacy Hennessey of McEneaney Associates, Inc. made a quick decision buy a house that she can rent to vacationers.

“I travel a lot and I’m always on the lookout for properties,” said Hennessey.

Her purchase caught the attention of producers of HGTV show, “House Hunters International,” which chronicles the adventures of home hunters and their real estate agents as they

purchase homes around the globe. The show explores local cultures and the intricacies of international real estate purchases.

Hennessey admits the process of buying a house abroad can be daunting. “The paperwork was all in Spanish,” she said. “Make sure to work with a real estate agent that knows the laws, neighborhoods and where is a good investment if you are looking to own a vacation rental.”

Finding a reputable property management firm to market and maintain one’s investment is also an important part of the process. “That is essential, so is making sure you get insurance” she said. “Make sure you find out all the utility costs and whether there is a well for

water ... and a backup generator.”

She recommends that potential investors do their homework before purchasing. “Learn whether you need to pay cash and whether you will own clear title,” said Hennessey. “Some countries don’t allow foreigners to own property directly but Honduras does.”

One suggestion she offers is visiting the website Vacation Rentals by Owner (VRBO) website to get a sense of the real estate market in a chosen area.

“Also, look at the flight schedules going to the chosen location so you know how much traffic and how many tourists come to the island,” said Hennessey. “There are some cases where you can fly to a location easily and return easily at some times of the year, and other times when it can take you 20 hours to get back.”

Hennessey said the features she found most appealing about the



PHOTO COURTESY OF STACY HENNESSEY

Arlington-based real estate agent Stacy Hennessey will share her experience purchasing a home in Roatan, Honduras on the HGTV show, “House Hunters International.”

property she purchased is the fact that it is waterfront and its close proximity to restaurants and shopping. She also loved the locals. “People are so friendly there,” she said. “When you pass someone on the street they al-

ways say hello no matter what color your skin is or what you do for a living.”

Hennessey, who is in the process of renovating the home, says the show is expected to air in February.

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NEWS

You Can See More in the Dark

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Bob Parks showed 40 members of the Great Falls Citizens Association a satellite photo of the world; the United States was lit up like a Christmas tree.

"We're winning the lighting war. Japan might be edging us out," said Parks. "We do this by wasting electricity and we've been doing this really well for 75 to 80 years."

Parks is the executive director of Smart Outdoor Lighting Alliance, which assists cities in their transition to energy efficient, and ecologically responsible public lighting.

"You can't wait until it's too late to change. It's like global warming," he said. (See volt.org)

The Great Falls Citizens Association held an educational event Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the Great Falls Library to discuss the night sky issues in Fairfax County, demonstrate how light pollution washes out the skies and discuss the Fairfax County Park Authority/Analemma Society construction of a new observatory at Turner Farm park.



PHOTO BY T.R. COOK

About 40 people listened to the presentation on Dark Skies sponsored by the Great Falls Citizens Association

In most parts of the Washington metro area, the skies are "washed out" by night lighting that destroys residents' ability to see the skies, according to Great Falls Citizens Association.

"Light pollution can affect the night sky a state or two away," said Parks.

GREAT FALLS has a long-standing effort to preserve dark skies to enable residents, students and as-

tronomers to view and appreciate the stars, constellations and lunar events.

"Preserving this unique local asset is a challenge," said Bill Canis, of Great Falls Citizens Association.

There is good news.

"Great Falls is unique in that the only place that is as dark as it is is Clifton," said Parks of the region. "Manassas is nowhere near as dark."

But even though Great Falls is a

Dark Skies initiative in Great Falls allows better views of the heavens.



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Bob Parks assists cities in their transition to energy efficient, and ecologically responsible public lighting. "You can't wait until it's too late to change. It's like global warming," he said. (See volt.org)

relatively darker area, there still is significant light pollution, said Charles Olin, the founder and president of the Great Falls-based Analemma Society, which raises awareness and understanding of science through astronomy for

Charles Olin founded the Great Falls Observatory at Turner Farm Park. The Analemma Society raises awareness and understanding of science through astronomy for children and adults.

children and adults.

"In 1948, I fell in love with astronomy in the middle of London," said Olin.

"In 1971, I would go out on dark

SEE DARK SKIES, PAGE 13

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

OCTOBER

10/28/2015 Election Preview

NOVEMBER

11/4/2015 Wellbeing

11/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle

11/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools

11/19/2015 Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I

Thanksgiving is November 26

11/25/2015 Celebrating Gratitude, Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

12/2/2015 Wellbeing

12/9/2015 Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II

12/9/2015 HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays

12/16/2015 .. A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday Entertainment & Gifts Pages

12/23/2015 Special Issue – Safe for the Holidays

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NEWS

Dark Skies

FROM PAGE 12

nights and I could see the Milky Way and see the dark clouds in the Milky Way," he said, of views from his home in Great Falls. "Today, even in the park, we can't even see the Milky Way most nights."

Before the Observatory and Turner Farm Park was built, he determined Great Falls was the darkest spot in the area. "Based on that, I thought it would be a great idea to have an observatory in Great Falls," he said.

LIGHT POLLUTION affects wildlife, including feeding patterns, migration patterns and reproductive patterns," said Tammy Schwab of the Fairfax County Park Authority.

It affects water quality, and crops, such as lettuce and spinach because they bloom early and strawberries because they don't bloom at all, said Schwab.

The Park Authority in 2010 started a Dark Sky Campaign. It's changed outdoor lighting for the county's recreational facilities, for example.

Fairfax County is on the cutting

See the Stars

Observatory Park at Turner Farm is open to the public for viewings of the night sky every Friday night beginning at sunset, weather permitting. Weather and sky conditions can be monitored by viewing the weather watch on the homepage, www.analemma.org.

To determine whether it is a good night to come out, here is the rule of thumb: If you can see stars, yes. If you can see clouds, no.

Feel free to bring telescopes and cameras, chairs, blankets or snacks. The gathering usually lasts for about an hour, starting at sunset.

The Analemma Society, a nonprofit organization, has a partnership agreement with the Park Authority to develop recreational and educational astronomy programs at Turner Farm. The Society raises money to support these programs through a network of volunteers that range from individuals to public schools to universities.

On Saturday, June 21, 2014, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at Observatory Park. Construction on a roll-top observatory is scheduled to begin in November and will provide the facility with four permanently mounted telescopes.

The Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls

Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm/>

edge with a light ordinance the Board of Supervisors adopted in 2003, "one of the most comprehensive ordinances of its kind in the nation."

But the ordinance needs to be reviewed, said Parks, and needs to be enforced.

Light pollution can also affect sleep patterns of human beings, said Parks.

Of 750 million outdoor light fixtures worldwide, 160 million are in the United States, said Parks. And these lights are not efficient, with light glare, light trespass, and lighting that doesn't target the intended area and instead points upward.

"This is our legacy of the last 50 years," he said.

"Chicago thought it would make citizens feel safer if they lit the city. It may do that, but it doesn't make them safer," said Parks.

He used Cambridge as an example of a city that uses new lighting technology that reduces energy, costs and lighting pollution while continuing to ensure safe neighborhoods.

But he also said that he has at times not been taken seriously when trying to articulate the urgency of what he preaches.

Canis asked if any of the new buildings in Tysons Corner are addressing these outdoor lighting concepts.

"No," said Parks.

See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm/>.

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to north@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

The 53rd Annual James A. Bland Contest. Through Monday, Feb. 15. Vienna Assembly of God Church, 100 Ayr Hill Avenue, Vienna. Sponsored by the Vienna Host Lions Club, the contest will include school age (elementary and high school) vocalists and instrumentalists who will each present a song or piece of no more than eight minutes and will be judged by local experts in their field. Contest will be on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m. Information and an application can be obtained by contacting Lion Susan Stiles at sandcs89@yahoo.com or 703-938-1142. Deadline Monday, Feb. 15.

ONGOING

Two Simultaneous One Man Shows. Through Saturday, Nov. 14. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. Figurative artists David Cochran's and Joseph Sheppard Rogers' work will be on display.

THROUGH SUNDAY/OCT. 18

Now Comes the Night. 1st Stage Theatre, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. American journalist Michael Après has been released after being held hostage for 18 months in Iraq. Michael's close colleague and friend, however, begins to suspect that Michael isn't free yet. An explosive television interview puts their friendship to the test as secrets, lies, and betrayals haunt both men. For tickets and information, visit <http://www.1ststagetysons.org/>.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 14

Great Falls Historical Society's Oktoberfest Potluck Dinner. 6 p.m. Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.
Pokemon League. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play Pokemon with your friends.

THURSDAY/OCT. 15

Great Falls Writers Group. 11 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Support group for writers.

FRIDAY/OCT. 16

Julie Fowlis in Concert. 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Tickets: \$20-\$35.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 16-18

Great Falls Studios 2015 Art Tour. Travel the back roads and main streets of the village to individual and group studios. Meet more than 40 GFS member artists - quilters, painters, potters, sculptors, jewelers, photographers and more - in their natural environment. Demonstrations, exhibits and hands on activities in creative spaces. Exceptional art for sale. www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 17

Providence Fall Festival. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road, McLean. Games and crafts for children, pumpkin carving, hay rides, pony rides, slides, and moon bounces. Vendors and artisans include Thirty-One, Scentsy, Jamerry Nails, Rodan & Fields and more. Participate in one of the old



Judy Gold and Bruce Vilanch perform at The Alden, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. on Saturday, Nov. 7. The comedians pair up for separate stand-up sets united by their gay, Jewish identities and raunchy, sidesplitting observations. Mature audience.

Halloween Calendar

Halloween events in the area

SATURDAY/OCT. 17

Family Halloween Party. 11 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Come join the fall family fun at the Town of Vienna Halloween On The Green event. Activities include a costume parade, spooky crafts, games & prizes, storytelling, moonbounces and more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 22

Haunted Gingerbread Houses Workshop. 6:30-8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Tickets: \$35-\$45.
Halloween Bunco Night Benefit. 7-9 p.m. The Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street NW, Vienna. Games, food and wine, and art works. Come in costume, if you like. Space is limited and a \$20 donation reserves your seat. <http://viennaartssociety.org/events-exhibitions/>.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 24-NOV. 1

Reston Zoo's Zooboo. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Reston Zoo, 1228 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Designed for a younger audience, Zoo Boo offers four days of scare-free fun. Join their safe zoo neighborhood of Halloween entertainment, with kid-friendly fun around every corner.

SUNDAY/OCT. 25

Trunk or Treat. 11 a.m. Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Community event. Children 5th grade and under. Free. youth@greatfallsumc.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 28

69th Annual Vienna Halloween Parade. 7 p.m. Maple Avenue, Vienna. With the theme of "Celebrating 125 Years of the Town of Vienna" come in costume to celebrate Halloween. Visit www.viennava.gov.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 30-31

Water Pumpkin Patch. Friday, 5-7 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tysons YWCA, 8101 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. Come ready to have fun, swim in the pool with the pumpkins and pick one to go. \$6 per person, \$20 per family. karen@neptune-aquatics.com.

fashion cake walks or just sit back and enjoy funnel cakes and festival foods. Free admission, rain or shine, fun for all ages.

Model Trains and Thomas at Open

House. 1-5 p.m. 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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call Karen at 703-917-6468**

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

friends in the Historic Vienna Train Station along the W&OD trail just past the Caboose. 703-938-5157. www.nvmr.org.

Vale Fall Fair. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. The historic Vale Fall Fair has been held since 1934. Pie eating contest, balloons, bake sale, toy and book sale, crafts, music, barbecue, Oakton Eagle Presentation, instrument petting zoo, haunted forest. Kids, bring your Halloween costumes for the parade.

Julie Fowlis in Concert. 8 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Born and raised on the remote island of North Uist, Fowlis has won "Gaelic Singer of the Year" and "Album of the Year" honors and is one of Scotland's true contemporary treasures. \$35/\$20 residents. www.mcleancenter.org.

LEGO Architecture Event. 2 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Children will have the opportunity to build with Architecture Studio bricks, discuss the inspiration for their build and explore how they can use basic architecture shapes and principles to influence it. Children with age of 14 and up are invited. Free admission. For registration, call 703-506-2937.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 17-18

Tysons Fall Harvest Festival. 12-5 p.m. Lerner Town Square at Tysons II, 8025 Galleria Drive. Arts and crafts, petting zoo, moon bounce, great craft beers, 10 of Virginia's best wineries, and more tastes of fall.

Claude Moore Colonial Farm 1771 Market Fair. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Warm yourself by the fires and enjoy the splendor of autumn with crisp local apples, warm savory meat pies and hearty breads, or let Market Fair entertainers, tradesmen and the militia amuse and educate you. Visit www.1771.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 18

Vienna Crop Walk for Hunger. 2 p.m. Meet at the Vienna Town Green, walk up to three miles in the Vienna community & return to the Town Green for refreshments and door prizes. Money raised goes to CHO (Committee Helping Others) locally and to Church World Services (www.cwsglobal.org) for emergency help and disaster relief abroad. Sign up at www.viennacropwalk.org.

Teen Sex Trafficking: Hiding in our Neighborhood. 2-4 p.m. The Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road NE, Vienna. The program will feature experts involved in the fight against scouting, manipulation and recruitment of teenagers, and there will be displays from several area organizations with information on how you can help.

MONDAY/OCT. 19

Artsplay Classes. 12:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Music, drama and movement program to encourage self-expression and imaginative play. The program includes five classes and families.

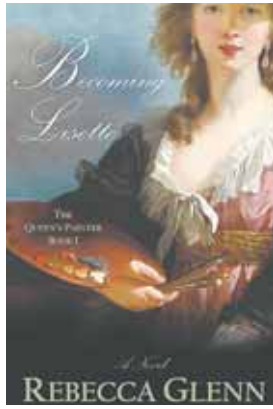
TUESDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 20-25

Washington International Horse Show. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7-10:30 p.m. Verizon Center, 601 F St., NW, Washington, D.C. One of the oldest and most prestigious equestrian sporting events in the U.S. Held each year in October in the heart of the nation's capital, WIHS welcomes spectators to six days of world-class international show jumping and top



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rebecca Glenn



Meet the Author at Great Falls Library

Local author Rebecca Glenn will be speaking about her debut novel "Becoming Lisette" at the Great Falls Library on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. No reservations required. The library address is 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

Glenn's novel has already received high praise. The Historical Novel Society said in a recent review, "Rebecca Glenn handles it all smoothly and adroitly, imbuing all her characters, but especially Lisette, with believably realized personalities and giving a very vivid sense of the 18th-century art world. I finished it eagerly looking forward to the next volume in the series."

Kristin Clark Taylor, a fellow Great Falls resident and facilitator of the Great Falls Writer's Group said, "Rebecca filled each page, each and every scene, with tone and texture; she took me by the hand and led me straight into that rich period of French history."

"Becoming Lisette" is the story of Élisabeth Vigée, an independent and beautiful young woman, affectionately called Lisette by friends and family. She has progressed in the art of oil painting faster than anyone could have anticipated. Having received instruction from her beloved father, Louis Vigée, a prominent Parisian guild painter, Lisette possesses all the qualities of a brilliant young painter, but is saddled with a singular disadvantage – being a woman. Undeterred, Lisette believes that she can become a painter in Paris. Approaching a marriageable age, her parents have other plans for Lisette, ones that don't include painting. Lisette finds support in Queen Marie-Antoinette and in a dashing art collector and French Army officer named Amante, who is clearly intrigued by her talent and beauty. After Lisette's father dies unexpectedly, her family is left in dire financial straits. Lisette wants to support her family, but before she can sell a single painting, her mother marries a wealthy merchant jeweler named Le Sèvre. Le Sèvre discovers Lisette's artistic abilities and soon has her painting portraits of his noble and wealthy jewelry clientele. It quickly becomes clear that Le Sèvre only wants to control Lisette, leading to severe consequences for her budding career, Amante's pursuit of her affections and even her safety. Lisette realizes that she must find her own way – before it is too late. "Becoming Lisette" is book one of the Queen's Painter Series.

Rebecca is a graduate of Brown University and The University of Chicago. Her experiences organizing art museum exhibitions and teaching college Art History courses motivated her to write historical fiction. She continues to be inspired by the untold stories of women from history. Rebecca lives in Great Falls with her husband and three children.

More information about the author can be found on her website, RebeccaGlenn.com.

national hunter and equitation competition plus community events, entertaining exhibitions, boutique shopping and ringside dining and hospitality. \$15-\$60. <http://www.wihs.org/tickets/>.

TUESDAY/OCT. 20

Legos in the Library. 3 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Get creative with Legos. Legos provided. Ages 5-12.

Art Lecture Series, "Collecting for the Long Haul." 7-8 p.m. The Arts of Great Falls School, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Richard Kelly's

collection focuses on the Golden Age of American Illustration (1890-1935). The Kelly Collection holds approximately 350 paintings and works on paper as well as 9500 volumes in its reference library. Hear how he put the collection together, how it is cared for and how it is shared with people all over the country. Free. www.greatfallsart.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 21

Pokemon League. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play Pokemon with your friends.



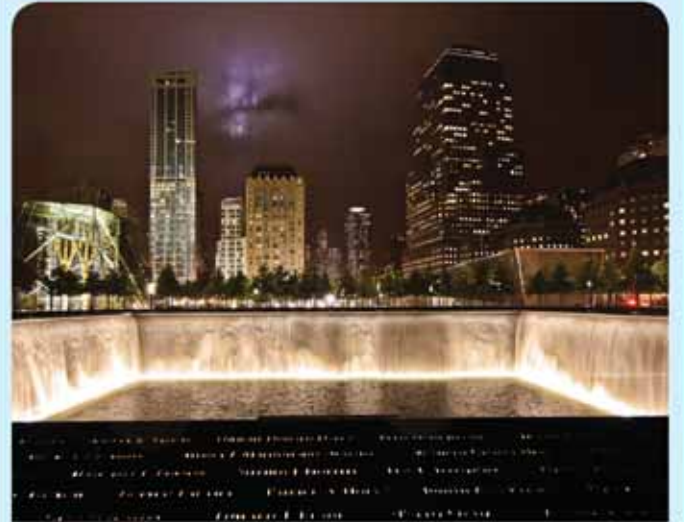
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Here's What's Happening at MCC

Old Firehouse Teen Center Trip to Bennett's Curse Haunted House

Friday, Oct. 16, 3:30-10 p.m.
\$50/\$40 members



Take a Day Away! 9/11 Museum & Memorial Tour

Saturday, Oct. 17, 7 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
\$195 per person/\$190 district residents

Onstage @ The Alden Julie Fowlis in Concert

Saturday, Oct. 17, 8 p.m.
\$35/\$20 MCC district residents

Fun for the Whole Family Haunted Gingerbread Houses Workshop

Thursday, Oct. 22, 6:30-8 p.m.
\$45 per house/\$35 MCC district residents

Old Firehouse Teen Center Monster Mash

5th & 6th Grader Party
Friday, Oct. 30, 7-9 p.m.
\$35/\$25 MCC district residents

The Alden, Silent Film Series "The Man Who Laughs"

Saturday, Oct. 31, 2 p.m.
\$12/\$8 MCC district residents

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org



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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY TIM DILLISTIN

South Lakes Runners Participate in Glory Days Invitational

South Lakes High School Cross Country team was among 70 teams participating in Glory Days Invitational at Bull Run Regional Park (5K) in Manassas, on Saturday, Oct. 10. Calvin Warstler (top) won 25th place among 375 runners in Freshman Boys race and Jordan Anderson (bottom) was 56th among 236 runners in Freshman Girls race.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Cougars Improve to 4-7

Sarah Clinton and the Oakton field hockey team defeated Chantilly 2-1 on Monday, improving the Cougars' record to 4-7. Oakton will travel to face Centreville at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15. The Conference 5 tournament is scheduled to begin Oct. 20.

Oakton Football Beats Centreville

The Oakton football team defeated Centreville 28-24 on Oct. 9, improving the Cougars' record to 3-3 overall and 1-2 in Conference 5.

Oakton will travel to face Chantilly at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16.

Madison to Host Lacrosse Tournament

James Madison High School's girls' lacrosse program is hosting its 5th Annual Lax O'Wen Tournament on Saturday, Oct. 31.

The all-day tournament begins at 9 a.m. and will run until approximately 7:30 p.m. on Madison's turf field. Come on out to support some of the area's most competitive girls' lacrosse teams. On-site concessions including hot/cold drinks, Chick-Fil-A, pizza and Vienna Inn chili dogs will be available throughout the day. The team will also be collecting donations on behalf of the Committee for Helping Others (CHO) and welcomes contributions of dried canned fruit, small-sized toiletries and gift cards to local grocery stores.



PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR

McLean quarterback Carter Govan throws a pass against Chantilly on Oct. 9.

McLean Football Falls to Chantilly

Thunderstorms in the Northern Virginia area and a delayed start could not prevent the Homecoming festivities and the Chantilly Chargers from a 27-7 victory over McLean on the gridiron Oct. 9 in Chantilly.

Chantilly quarterback David Tammara threw two touchdown passes and ran for another, and Cush Eastman ran for 134 yards and a touchdown. Chantilly rushed for over 300 yards for the game.

Chantilly opened with a 20-0 lead after Tammara's 68-yard run on third down and never looked back. McLean scored its lone touchdown in the second quarter.

Chantilly improved to 4-2 overall, 1-1 in Conference 5. McLean remained winless at 0-6. The Highlanders will host Yorktown at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16.

— WILL PALENSCAR

Herndon Field Hockey Beats Marshall

The Herndon field hockey team defeated Marshall 4-0 on Oct. 9, improving the team's record to 11-3.

The Hornets faced Robinson on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Herndon will conclude the regular season with a road game against Westfield at 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16 — a rematch of last season's conference championship game.

South Lakes XC Competes at Glory Days Invite

The South Lakes cross country teams competed at the Glory Days Invitational on Oct. 10 at Bull Run Regional Park in Manassas. The girls' team finished 15th, led by Monica Lannen, who took 63rd place out of 221 competitors with a time of 20:27. The boys' team finished 31st, led by Sean Casey, who came in 131st out of 244 harriers with a time of 17:44.



Antarctica Landscape by Robin Kent.



Tulips by Terri Parent.



Trees by Richard Suib.

Great Falls Studio Tour To Feature Top Photographers

Annual art event to include contingent of award-winning shooters with tips for better photos.

Eight photographers based in Great Falls are among 37 artists preparing for the Great Falls Studios Tour, an annual event that showcases the creativity of the community's artists. The free tour to home studios of local artists, will be held Oct. 16-18.

"The large contingent of photographers in this year's tour will be displaying images from Great Falls to Antarctica, providing tour visitors with a seminar on what it takes to make an extraordinary photograph," says Robin Kent, president of Great Falls Studios, the local art group that manages the tour. "Whether your interest is traveling to exotic destinations, learning about nearby hidden gems or getting tips on the latest photo techniques, you'll find it here. The photographers of Great Falls Studios have photographed in all seven continents and all 50 states."

The eight shooters provide a breadth of experience, each a little different from the rest. They are:

Walt Lawrence has been documenting the landscapes, wildlife, and historical sites of Great Falls for more than a decade. His work epitomizes the photographic opportunities right here at home. He will be exhibiting his work at the Artists' Atelier, Stop #14 on the Tour.

Robin Kent is known for his dramatic images of Washington, D.C. More recently, he has journeyed from Mexico to the Antarctic Peninsula and will have just returned from Iceland with new images from above the Arctic Circle. His stop is #22.

Bob Schroeder is known for his ability to capture the spirit of place. He has climbed the steps of ancient ruins from Angkor Wat, Cambodia to Tikal in Guatemala, explored the streets of St. Petersburg, Russia and



Hérons by Walt Lawrence.

Havana, Cuba, and trekked across the Serengeti.

James Diedrich recently returned to the United States after living 30 years overseas in locations across Africa, Asia and Europe. He is co-author with his wife, Darlene, of the book, "Don't Shoot the Giraffes," an account of their seven years in Tanzania, with compelling images of Mount Kilimanjaro and the African landscape.

Both Schroeder and Dietrich will be exhibiting at a new stop on the Tour—State Gardens, located at 10106 Georgetown Pike, just west of the Fire Station, Stop #7. They are hosting four artists for the full three-day Tour—three photographers and a painter Lorrie Bouhaouala. The nursery has pumpkins of all shapes and sizes, as well as flowering fall plants of all colors to bring cheer to the exterior of your home.

Also at the State Gardens stop is photographer Dee Leegett, who specializes in nature photography in the Great Falls area and around the country.

After completing a year-long certification program from Boston University's Center for



Zebras by Bob Schroeder.

Digital Imaging Arts, Dean Souleles began teaching digital photography in his fully equipped home studio. His own photographic subjects include environmental portraits, mesmerizing landscapes and striking rhythmic studies of color and contrast. His stop is #23.

Terri Parent's work, best known for unique perspectives on everyday subjects, is exhibited in commercial galleries across Virginia. Parent's stylistic approach ranges widely from classic photographic realism as can be seen in her lush floral studies printed on large canvases, to unique abstract representations that strip away all but the basic elements of a composition. Parent will be at Stop #1, the Great Falls Community Library, where there will also be a display of work by each artist on the Tour.

Richard Suib's digital creations are based on photography, using digital processes, as would a painter, and rendering the images as giclée archival limited-edition prints. He has been widely exhibited in regional, national, and international galleries and has won many awards, chief among them the

Weekend with Great Falls Artists

The Great Falls Studios Tour— which also features painters, jewelry designers and experts in other media— has become known as a fascinating and family-friendly experience, an all-too rare opportunity to meet artists face-to-face in their own creative habitats and learn how art is produced.

Visit www.GreatFallsStudios.com for more information about all the artists on the Tour. You can download a map and brochure to plan your visit, or simply pick one up at any stop on the Tour. Hours are noon-5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

Great Falls Studios is a consortium of more than 100 artists who live or work in Great Falls. Since 2003, its goal has been to promote and support local artists and to make the Great Falls community a more artful place.

The Tour is sponsored again this year by Sun Design Remodeling, and one of the tour stops will feature one of their recent remodeling projects, plus the work of two Great Falls Studios painters. Sun Design is an architectural design-build firm that brings visions to life for owners of fine homes in Northern Virginia. Both organizations benefit from this association, building on the creative energies of their artists and designers to provide an important service to the community.

Presidential Design Excellence Award from the National Endowment for the Arts. For ten years he headed the United States Information Agency's Exhibits Development Division. Suib will be at Stop #4.

All the photographers will share tips for taking great photos, fun locations in the area for photography and more.

It's Essential, Apparently

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



From what little I know, and even less from what I read, but mostly from what I hear – from Rebecca (my certified holistic health coach) – essential oils (lemon, lavender, peppermint, frankincense, to name a few) are the possible/potential answer to many questions and conditions: insomnia, indigestion, anxiety, stress, muscle tension, and even cancer and immune system health, among many others. Unfortunately, one never knows for sure of the outcomes because, other than The Ten Commandments, especially as it concerns science and medicine, very little is written in stone. In this context, if a patient wants to pursue alternatives to standard/a.k.a. Western medicine, there are ample avenues on which to travel. Information will flow freely on the Internet, and of course, numerous books have been written outlining non-conventional treatments for pretty much anything that ails you, especially cancer. Knowing what to do is difficult – to say the least; and impossible, to say the most.

Sifting through the many choices and filtering out the advertising and self-promotion are skills with which I was not blessed. I'm fairly gullible and inclined to accept and embrace a reasonable-sounding premise. My problem is that – other than sports and chocolate, writing a column, and selling a non-tangible – I know very little about a lot of things. As such, I am ill-equipped to deal with the many issues and decisions common – and recurring, in a cancer patient's life: life and death mostly; sustaining the former and avoiding the latter in particular. And in that struggle, one is faced with many challenges. Challenges which my heretofore normal/uneventful and healthy life did not and likely could not have prepared me for, beginning with the words I unexpectedly heard from an oncologist in February, 2009: "You have stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer. I can treat you but I cannot cure you. Your prognosis is 13 months to two years." Sentences which, almost seven years later, I can still see and hear. Try falling asleep every night with that advisory/scenario rolling around in your head.

But sleeping is a must, as is being open to new/non-traditional ideas/remedies. Standing pat and/or going along with the standard program has merit certainly, and decades of success way beyond this mortal man. However, when your doctor uses the "t" word (as in terminal), standing pat no longer seems prudent – at least it didn't for me.

The incredulity of it all is almost overwhelming. It's akin to being knocked off your feet, almost literally. Eventually though, you pick yourself up emotionally and begin to consider – not that day of course (you'll note I didn't say decide) – how you're going to live the rest of your life: as a victim or as a victor. Are you going to live and learn or just wait your turn? It's an extremely personal choice and one that didn't come easily or naturally for me. The process took/takes time and one size – so to speak, does not fit all. For all I know – and it's very little, actually – I'm still alive in spite of the alternatives I've incorporated into my routine. Nevertheless, life is still going on and I am still open to adding new anti-cancer-sounding products/pursuits. Essential oils are simply the most recent tool in this cancer patient's arsenal. Will its use matter? I can only hope. But as long as I'm still in the game, I'll continue to believe that "oil's well that ends well."

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

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

FAMILY COURT FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE
NOTICE OF FAMILY COURT PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ACTION
TO: Michelle Oliva, Respondent
Petitioner, Jhon Caceres has filed a Petition for an Order of Protection From Abuse against you in the Family Court of the State of Delaware for New Castle County. Petition No. 15-29228. A court hearing has been scheduled for 10/16/2015 at 11:30 am. The Family Court is located at 500 N. King St, Wilmington, DE 19801. If you fail to appear the hearing may proceed without you. There is Ex-Parte Order in effect. If you wish to obtain the information on this filing prior to the hearing, please respond to the Family Court location noted above.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
On the Gourmet, LLC trading as Maple Avenue Market, 128 Maple Avenue, E, Vienna, VA 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer Off Premises and Keg License to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sara Guerre, owner NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Dee Dee 515, LLC trading as Social, 1307 Old Chain Bridge Rd, Mclean, VA 22101. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Srithongkum Kanoakorn, Managing Member NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.


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