



Making the Best of Blizzard in Great Falls

NEWS, PAGE 3

Eli Ochsenchlager, of Great Falls, five months old and 23 inches long, "Cutest snow stick I have ever seen." Photo taken 10 inches ago at 9 a.m.

Great Falls: What's Coming?

COMMUNITY OUTLOOK, PAGE 14

Living on the Land: 'Semi-Rural' Great Falls

NEWS, PAGE 8

Specializing in Northern Virginia Properties

GREAT FALLS

\$1,785,000



Situated on almost 2 wooded acres, this is the gem you've been waiting for in popular Falcon Ridge. This charming home is filled with luxury from the hardwood floors, five fireplaces, an apartment sized master suite, and the ultimate entertainment/club level to the two decks, stone plaza, sparkling fountain, and fire-pit for consummate outdoor living. True perfection!

OAK HILL

\$575,000



Fabulous Craftsman-style colonial decorated like a beautiful resort home – a place where you can retreat from today's hectic lifestyle. Picture-perfect décor adds to the appeal of this gorgeously landscaped home. It's not often that you find such a fabulous offering. Ideally sited on a quiet tree-lined street close to Fairfax County Parkway for an easy commute.

GREAT FALLS

\$829,000



Idyllic setting in north-east Great Falls, close to both the Potomac River and the Riverbend County Club, as well as an easy commute down River Bend and Georgetown Pike to the Beltway. This 1.7 acre cleared lot offers the ultimate in serenity and convenience for a spectacular new design with panoramic views of the night skies. Call for more details.

GREAT FALLS

\$1,395,000



Recent renovations reflect today's exacting details including new hardwood floors, neutral and desirable colors, remodeled chef's kitchen, and exquisite custom bathrooms. Designed for style and functionality, the owners left no detail undone. Prepare to be wowed from the moment you enter the new front doors. You will love the large open spaces and window walls with spectacular views of a level backyard surrounded by mature trees for privacy.

GREAT FALLS

\$1,350,000



Built in 1979 by François Haeringer on four bucolic acres with a pond, this French Alsatian home features many old-world architectural details. It offers room after room of spacious comfort and classic ambiance from the elegant French windows, stained glass ports, sparkling sun room, to a first floor master suite. All of this plus ten adjacent acres also for sale. Call for details!

GREAT FALLS

\$2,400,000



Rare opportunity to own 10 acres that were part of François Haeringer's original family property. Nice mix of woods and cleared space with the potential of between two and three wooded building sites overlook the vast open area. This property can be purchased alone or combined with 944 Walker Rd for a spectacular 14-acre retreat.

Donna Uscinski

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Playing in the snow: Sophia Dumas of Great Falls.



Alex Dumas of Great Falls.



Kelly Rose Berk, 17, of Great Falls, junior at Langley HS, plays with her dog Bebe on the back deck of her house during the blizzard.



Debbie Copito of Great Falls sent us this photo of Blizzard Yoga, titled 'How to Beat the Winter Blues.'



'What's going on here... I need to go out?!'



Ed McNamara getting some help shoveling from Spalding in Great Falls.

Making the Best of Blizzard in Great Falls



Matt Gilbert of Pamlico Lane shoveling off a flat roof just to be safe.



Elizabeth Karanik loving on her pony Paulie.

PHOTO BY JUIE CASSO/GREAT FALLS



Aubrey Augustine, 13, at Barn in Great Falls.



Taek Lee of Great Falls clearing the snow from this week's blizzard.

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When Barbara walked into Koko FitClub, she was nervous. Facing serious health issues, her doctors prescribed exercise. Traditional “gyms” caused fear and dread – she tried them, and hated them. Her goal: to get healthy and build strength in a place that made her feel like she truly belonged.

At her first session, Barbara could barely lift any weight. Her FitCoach, Tyler, encouraged her to stay positive. He guided her through 25-30 minute workouts, just 2-3 times a week, and discussed healthier eating. Within 30 days, Barbara saw results. The workouts were exciting and (finally!) she could do push-ups!

After several months training with her FitCoach, Barbara is 50% stronger. She looks fantastic. She is strong, fit and, most importantly, healthy.

Tyler is impressed. “To see someone who has gone through so much and is now achieving her goals – it’s incredible. Barbara always wants me to challenge her, and I love it! What makes me most proud is the simple fact that she is proud of herself. I may have helped along the way, but if she hadn’t made the first step to come into Koko FitClub, none of this would have been possible.”

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NEWS

UPS Store Opens in Great Falls

The UPS Store, located at 9893 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, opened on Monday, Jan. 4.

"As a one-stop shop for shipping, postal, printing, fulfillment and comprehensive small business services, we look forward to serving individuals and local business owners within the Great Falls community," said The UPS Store franchise owners Marlon Barrera and Marat Mukhametov.

In addition to domestic and international shipping, the Great Falls location of The UPS Store offers full-service packaging; presentation and document finishing (binding, laminating, etc.); wide format printing, online and in-store printing services (business cards, letterhead, reports, rubber stamps, etc.); black-and-white and color copies; notary; custom crating and shipping for large items (furniture, artwork, motorcycles, etc.); mailbox and postal services; office and packaging supplies; and a variety of other business services.

"Our 24-hour access mailbox services are a convenience that more general and small-business consumers are discovering," said



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The UPS Store opened on Monday, Jan. 4 at 9893 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. From left - Marlon Barrera and Marat Mukhametov.

Mukhametov. "They like the fact that we provide them with a street address, not a P.O. Box, as well as the option to receive an e-mail or a text alert when they have a package waiting."

Prior to purchasing The UPS Store Barrera and Mukhametov had both been working for UPS;

Barrera as a lead sales associate at another UPS Store, and Mukhametov as a UPS package car driver out of the Alexandria UPS Hub.

The Great Falls Store is opened from Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

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BLIZZARD 2016

Making the Best of Blizzard in Great Falls



Luke Gilbert, 4, having a relaxing swing.



Madelyn Gilbert, 6, exhausted from so much fun.

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NEWS

Great Falls Boy Scout Troop Helps Neighbor Dig Out After Blizzard

Great Falls Boy Scout Troop 6783 helps Mr. Khoo of Columbine Street dig out.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Great Falls Boy Scout Troop 6783 exemplifies neighborliness after the storm of 2016. Back row from left, Chiquita and Bruce O'Cain, Joshua O'Cain, Benji Prickett and Jed Prickett. Front row, from left, Neighbor Mr. Khoo and Jonluke O'Cain

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Living on the Land: ‘Semi-Rural’ Great Falls

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY, PRESIDENT
GREAT FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dairy farming was the most prevalent economic activity in the Great Falls area from the 1880s, after the Civil War, through to 1989, when the very last functioning dairy farm was sold. From the 1980s to the present, there has been a lot of local activity around mega-mansions, cul-de-sacs, and mowed lawns. However, the mission of our local citizens association, formed in the late-1960s, has been “To preserve and protect the semi-rural character of Great Falls.” The Great Falls Historical Society’s January Program, Living on the Land: Semi-Rural Great Falls, featured five local residents who bring their land into abundant life in remarkable ways, establishing a deep and enduring connection with their land.



PHOTO BY DAVID KONDNER

Several of David Kondner’s seven sheep graze next to his pond. His property includes a barn with stalls, a pond and fencing around the entire five acres.



PHOTO BY KEYVAN MOUSSAVI

The goat herd of American and French Alpines are bred and kidded annually at the Amalthea Ridge Farm, a three-acre farm on Fringe Tree Road in Great Falls. Some are sold to other farmers and some are kept for milk production, and such artisan products as milk, cheese, lotions and soaps.

The “Kondnerosa”

Dave Kondner grew up on a 350-acre cattle ranch in the Maryland countryside. Although there wasn’t much money in small farming, he always loved the natural environment. When he found his 5-acre property in Great Falls, so close to urban amenities but shielded from the urban hubbub, Kondner and his wife bought a five-acre former horse farm with a house and barn, completely fenced, with a pond and lots of untouched countryside.

Kondner loves the great wildlife around his home including the bald eagle, the red-shouldered hawk, the osprey, even a wild turkey, and lots of wild birds that hang out on his feeder. Kondner’s property is a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Domestic geese and lots of wild geese enjoy his pond. Kondner built a koi pond with a fountain in his front yard. Kondner’s deck overlooks his pasture, making it possible for him to throw food scrapes over the deck for his herd to enjoy.

Kondner has four goats and seven sheep and, ah yes, meat in the fall. Sheep are lean, but goats are even leaner. The pulse of life around him gives him great joy, delight and a sense of wellbeing.

Growing ‘Kids’ on Fringe Tree

Keyvan Moussavi and his wife Sarah Wehri manage a herd of up to 30 goats on their three wooded acres next to a 100-year flood plain off of Leigh Mill Road. Their endeavors involve the year-round lifecycle of mating, birthing, weaning, selling or keeping a solid genetic mix of well-fed, well-bred, well-behaved and well-socialized ani-



PHOTO BY BARBARA SMITH

The Smith’s Historic Raspberry Garden: This raspberry garden is filled with red, yellow, black and purple raspberries – both summer and everbearing – as well as a variety of herbs.

mals who produce outstanding milk for those with milk and cheese shares or for use in luxury soaps and lotions. Sarah, who holds a Ph.D. and is a biochemist, wrote her thesis on emollience and fashions remarkable soaps right here in Great Falls.

The Pleasures of a Semi-Rural Life

Barbara and Doug Smith live in the historic John Gunnell House on Arnon Meadow Road, built in 1851. An old garden still stands. Barbara has endeavored to locate heirloom bulbs and seeds from the earliest known dates that would have been in keeping with the time the house was built. Barbara noted the heritage trees found on her property as well as a fenced-in raspberry garden from the previous owner. Barbara is experimenting with different kinds of raspberries, both summer and ever-bearing berries.

New gardens have been built that include

a fruit orchard and a deer-proof garden to grow organic vegetables, with a small garden nearby for asparagus.

Barbara started a wildlife habitat for all kinds of birds, butterflies and other wildlife, and has enjoyed watching the bluebirds building their nests. In the process, she has become particularly concerned about the monarch butterflies and now raises butterflies from the baby caterpillars found on milkweed in her garden, setting them free once they emerge from the chrysalis 10 to 14 days later. Her greatest pleasure is the enthusiasm of their grandchildren – weeding, mulching, planting seeds, picking raspber-

ries, filling the bird feeder, and most of all, seeking and gathering monarch caterpillars and watching with fascination each life stage of these beautiful creatures.

Farming on Two Great Falls Acres

Chris and Sara Guerre rent two acres of fertile farmland just off of River Bend Road, where they plant, grow, harvest and prepare organic-equivalent produce for Maple Avenue Market, their boutique food store on Maple Avenue in Vienna, their various farmers markets, and of particular importance, their commitment to getting their organic produce into the public school cafeteria. Getting better food in the cafeteria helps kids eat better, enjoy healthy food, and hopefully change their attitude about food. Feeding school children is clearly Chris’s passion. He has helped kids build a garden at their schools, he has brought them on tours to his farm, he and Sara have brought prepared vegetables and salads to

schools to share healthy eating and new tastes. Chris’ eyes sparkled when he reflected on the miracle of a handful of seeds, which cost next to nothing, and the wonderful miracle of the planted seed, and the abundance it gives forth. His amazement with the miracle of earth, seed and water inspires his year-round dedication and commitment.

Conserving a 13-Acre Garden

Barbara and Doug Cobb own a 13-acre property on Crooked Crow just off of Georgetown Pike. In Doug’s oral history, he refers to his property as “paradise.” A mix of wild, wooded acres, manicured flower gardens, and vegetable gardens, the land conveys all the lush and wonderful aspects of nature. Barbara and Doug have decided to keep their garden in tact by enlisting their property with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. As such, it is permanently protected from being subdivided, and will remain as one single property for generations to come.

As we have learned and have recorded for future generations, in the year 2016 there were residents living upon our land called Great Falls who were still fully in touch with the full and essential meaning of “semi-rural” and one might say, quite simply, they their simple connection with the land created for them lives of great joy. The presentations have been filmed and may be viewed at our web site (www.gfhs.org).

The Great Falls Historical Society was organized in 1977 to promote community spirit by bringing the past into the present. Our next program, “Historic Preservation” presented by Susan Hellman will be on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Library Meeting Room.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

Eight students from Fairfax County Public Schools — all attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) — have been named semifinalists in the 2016 Intel Science Talent Search.

The students, with their project names in italics, are:

❖ *Jake Cui, A Machine Learning Approach to Identifying Ordered Binding Regions on Order-disorder Protein Interfaces.*

❖ *Tarun Kamath, Marked Decreases in Pediatric and Young Adult Solid Organ Cancer Mortality in the United States Since 1940: Analysis and Hypotheses.*

❖ *Ava Lakmazaheri, Brain-actuated Robotics: A Logic-based Approach for Multimodal Programming and Operation of Assistive Humanoid Robots.*

❖ *Austin Mills, Demonstrating the Development of Heavy Metal Resistance in Non-tolerant Multigenerational *Brassicacarpa*.*

❖ *Kunal Shroff, The Relationship Between Lethality and Genomic Instability in Euploid and Aneuploid Yeast Cells Expressing Pathological Huntingtin.*

❖ *Matthew Sun, Hyperacute Temporal Resolution with a Neural Population for Biologically Plausible Firing Rate Change Detection.*

❖ *Jason Wei, Improving Lateral Flow Immunoassay Sensitivity by a Palladium-catalyzed Dye Reaction.*

❖ *Michael You, Two-degree-of-freedom Bubble Oscillations in Elastic Vessels and its Application in Sonar-induced Marine Mammal Injuries.*

The 300 semifinalists were chosen from more than 1,750 entrants and will receive matching awards of \$1,000 along with their school.

This is the 75th year of the Science Talent Search, which Intel has sponsored since 1998, providing \$1.6 million in awards and scholarships to contestants.

Lindsay B. Benedict, a teacher at McLean High School, has achieved Certified Journalism Educator status from the Journalism Education Association (JEA). JEA is a nonprofit that encourages professional standards for journalism programs and student publications.

Vitale Alexander Christy, of Great Falls, graduated from the University of Tampa in Florida on Jan. 19 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and a minor in Writing.

Victor Zheng, 21, of McLean, is among five University of Virginia scholars who have received Critical Language Scholarships to assist them in pursuing their love of language. They will spend seven to 10 weeks in intensive language institutes this summer in one of 13 countries to study languages the U.S. government has deemed "critical." Zheng will study Chinese in Dalian, China. He is a third-year history and Chinese major who is learning Mandarin Chinese.

Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, Va. announced Cadet Second Lieutenant **Chase Dixon** from Vienna as Officer of the Month for October. Dixon is a senior and the son of Mr. Michael Filan and Mrs. Elizabeth McElroy-Filan. Cadet Dixon is the Executive Officer of Alpha Company and is a member of the Key Club.

Maria Kehrl, of Great Falls, qualified for the Dean's List at High Point University in North Carolina for the Fall 2015 semester.

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'Disappointing, Not Surprising'

Bills to rein in predatory lending die in Senate committee.

EDITORIAL

Have you ever paid 36 percent interest on a loan or credit card? Not likely. It's an outrageous rate, especially given that the actual cost of money is close to zero right now.

But right now, some people in Northern Virginia are paying more than 200 percent on loans secured by their car title. These are people who are both financially desperate and financially unsophisticated, who likely assume that regulation would keep a lender from bleeding them dry with unrestricted interest rates.

Predatory lending is a local issue, with car title lenders congregating in lower income areas like along Route 1 in the Mount Vernon area, and also queuing up near the border with Prince George's County, Md., where car title lending is illegal.

Earlier this week, a Virginia Senate committee killed a bill that would have capped consumer loan interest rates at 36 percent. It's hard

to believe, but right now there are no limits to the interest rates that can be charged in Virginia. And car title lenders, which are not consumer loans, often have effective interest rates of more than 200 percent.

"Predatory lending is a major problem in the U.S. 1 Corridor," said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who introduced the failed legislation to curb predatory lending. "Car title lenders have been abusing this loophole by charging rates over 200 percent. ... To rein in car title lender bait and switch tactics, I am proposing to limit interest rates on consumer finance loans at 36 percent." But that effort died in a Virginia Senate Committee this week.

Between 2010, when the Virginia General Assembly gave the green light to the car title lending industry, the total number of locations more than doubled from 184 to 395.

Some legislators claim this is a free market and personal responsibility issue, that people who have no other options should be able to turn to high interest lending as a last resort. But most people who turn to these loans would be better off without this last resort.

"It's a trap, and although it's presented as a loan it's really loan-sharking," said Jay Speech,

executive director of the Virginia Poverty Law Center. "People who get into this end up much worse off than when they started."

We all pay the price when an industry preys on the poor. People who lose their cars can lose their jobs, then relying on the frayed and inadequate safety net.

Michael Pope, who wrote about car title lending abuses when he worked for the Connection and Gazette Packet, recently completed a multi-part investigative series on predatory lending for WAMU, which you can listen to here: http://wamu.org/the_debt_trap

When his series concluded, the message of the damage of predatory lending seemed to resonate. Legislation to rein in the abuses of 200 percent interest seemed destined to make a difference.

This year, it will not.

Attorney General Mark Herring tweeted, "disappointing, not surprising" on Monday in response to the news that all four bills that sought to limit predatory lending were voted down in committee.

Disappointing, but not surprising. A sad commentary.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Pet Photos for the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on Feb. 24, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 17.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

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Progress on Transportation

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

In the early years of the 20th-century travelers were advised not to come to Virginia because of the poor condition of the roads. Deep ruts, mud holes and lack of maintenance made travel precarious in the Old Dominion. In 1925 State Senator Harry F. Byrd who as a young man had worked part-time on a private toll road—the Valley Pike in the Shenandoah Valley—ran for governor on the campaign slogan "Get Virginia out of the mud." Byrd's campaign was successful, and in his single term as governor he established the Virginia Department of Highways. His centralized highway system led to the present-day highway system that is one of the largest in the country with 57,867 miles of highways and 20,991 bridges. Byrd also implemented a "pay as you go" financing system that keeps the pace of highway construction and improvement at the rate of current revenue without borrowing. Old timers in the state remember traveling on roads that went from two to four lanes and back to two every few miles as money was available in the highway construction fund to complete the widening.

Governor Gerald Baliles who served from 1986 to 1990 was able to get a significant highway funding program approved in 1986 that along with federal funding was able to make improvements to the highway system and to introduce funding for mass transit. That was the last time politicians in Richmond could agree on a financing plan for

transportation until 2013 when new monies were approved along with a new approach for identifying projects.

Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne last week briefed the House Transportation Committee on which I serve and outlined the three Rs in transportation planning that have come about because of legislation passed the last couple of years. As a result of bipartisan efforts, Virginia's transportation program has been renewed with new resources for all modes of transportation. The program has been reformed by requiring use of an outcome-based prioritization process with increased accountability and transparency. The transportation program has been refocused by replacing the decades-old allocation formula with a new formula that aligns funding with need. Gone is the approval of funding transportation by locality to a shift to regional consideration and statewide needs. Rather than the piecemeal approach to project funding there now will be full funding of projects. And the new system of funding that has been put in place is designed to shift prioritization from politics to factors of congestion mitigation, safety, accessibility, economic development, environmental concerns and land usage.

Governor Byrd's Department of Highways whose name was changed to the Department of Transportation years ago has begun functioning with a multi-modal approach that includes bus and rail as well as bicycles and pedestrians. While Northern Virginia continues to face significant challenges as one of the most congested parts of the country, additional funding that is now available along with the outcome-based prioritization process will accrue to the benefit of our region. Results will not be immediate, but I believe we are moving in the right direction.



LETTER

Honoring Those Who Serve

To the Editor:

The Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards (VSAs) are produced by Volunteer Fairfax. Every day our community is served by dedicated volunteers and each year we have the opportunity to honor them at this county-wide celebration. It was this event six years ago that inspired me to join the Board. Since, I've had the pleasure of being a member of the Board, to include service as its most recent Past President. It has been a rewarding experience. Saying thank you to those who serve is a value I know our community holds dear. That's why I am surprised to see how little awareness there is in our part of the County for the organization and what it does to resource

needs, promote corporate social responsibility, and advance emergency preparedness.

Nominations for the 2016 awards are open now through Feb. 4 at www.VolunteerFairfax.org. As you take the time to honor our outstanding volunteers by nominating them, please take a moment to learn more about Volunteer Fairfax so you, too, can see that the value to our community

far exceeds what you might think. The awards ceremony will be held at the Waterford in Springfield the morning of April 8.

Craig Parisot
McLean

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children's chapel and children's choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.


McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, holds a third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. which allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.




Vienna Christian Healing Rooms are open, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and children. 703-356-7100 or www.ChesterbrookUMC.org.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

FEBRUARY

2/10/2016.....HomeLifeStyle
2/10/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
2/17/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
2/24/2016.....Pet Connection

MARCH

3/2/2016.....Wellbeing
3/9/2016.....HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout
3/16/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
3/23/2016.....Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
FCPS Spring Break 3/21-3/25

APRIL

4/6/2016.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout
Easter Sunday is March 27
4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes
4/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
4/27/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout
4/27/2016.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

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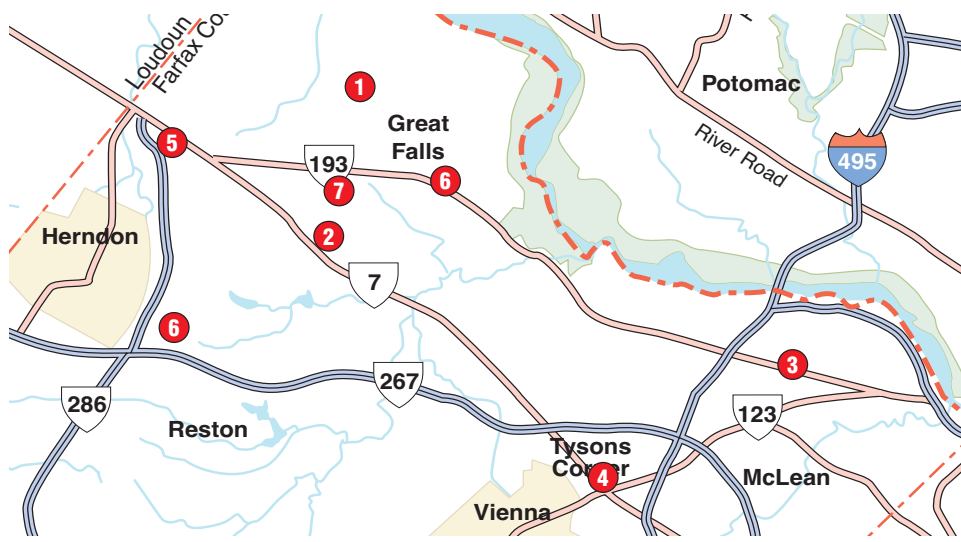
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OUTLOOK 2016



MAP BY LAURENCE FOONG/THE CONNECTION



Eric Knudsen, president of the Great Falls Citizens Association, reminded Planning Commissioners about Great Falls' role in protecting the health of the Potomac River as it decides an application on Brooks Farm.

Great Falls: What's Coming? In the pipeline for Great Falls ...

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Parkerhouse Drive
RZ 2014-DR-022

Several times a year, the Connection will map coming land use issues; to let us know about projects we're missing, email kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

❖ Brooks Farm, near Springvale Road/

The Planning Commission listened to public input until 2:02 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 22 on Basheer/Edgemoore-Brooks proposal to rezone the 51.9 acre Brooks Farm property from the R-A zoning district to R-E Cluster (Residential Estate). The applicant proposes to build 20 single family detached homes. Great Falls Citizens Association has

held numerous meetings on the proposal, touching on environmental questions including septic, well, stormwater and tree canopy. In May, GFCA voted for a resolution to oppose the cluster redevelopment plan.

The Planning Commission is scheduled to reconvene on Feb. 4 to make its decision and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the application.

See <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMMain.aspx?cde=RZ&seq=4194460>.

❖ Gulick Group
10500 Leesburg Pike
The Gulick Group submitted a pending application to rezone 10500 Leesburg Pike (portion of the Hills Nursery) to 10 lots on

SEE OUTLOOK, PAGE 15

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Outlook 2016

FROM PAGE 14

11 acres that have been zoned R-A since 1991. The property is located in an area east of Springvale Road and at the terminus of Challedon Road. The property is surrounded by the Lexington Estates and contains a significant environmentally sensitive area.

The Fairfax County Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing for April 14 at 8:15 p.m. Planning Commission staff is scheduled to complete its staff report and recommendation to the commission by the end of March. See ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=RZ&seq=4204807

❖ Langley High School Renovation

6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean
Langley High School continues to give updates on renovation progress on its website at fcps.edu/LangleyHS.

The auditorium and performing arts area, and administrative suite is on track to be completed soon. The new science wing in the rear of the building is scheduled to be completed in the spring. The construction at Langley High School will completely modernize the McLean/Great Falls school that was originally built in the 1960s. Fairfax County voters approved the \$68 million project in a 2013 bond referendum.

❖ Walker Road Bridge

VDOT has scheduled an informational meeting about its proposed \$4.1 million project to replace Walker Road Bridge over Piney Run on Feb. 3 at Forestville Elementary School, 1085 Utterback Store Road, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. If cancelled due to weather, the hearing will be held on Feb. 11, 2016. Walker Road Bridge was constructed in 1932, is 19 feet in length and 22-feet wide. It can accommodate alternating one-way traffic.



Great Falls Citizens Association wants to save the house on Turner Farm through the residential curatorship program. Turner Farm was saved from development by a public private partnership started in 1994 to "Save the Farm."

The new bridge will consist of a 50-foot-long single-span structure with a total width of 40 feet and will accommodate constant two-way traffic without the use of existing yield signs. The new bridge will include an attached 6-foot sidewalk on the west side of the road to accommodate future trails planned by the county.

Construction, at the same location as the existing bridge, is scheduled to begin and end in the summer of 2018, according to VDOT.

http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/walker_road_bridge.asp

❖ Trinity Land, SE 2014-DR-052 Woody's Golf

11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon
In June, The Board of Supervisors approved Trinity Land's application for a special exception to build 30 single family units using a cluster development configuration on the 28.9 acre property formerly known as Woody's Golf range. The site is zoned R-1 (one dwelling unit per acre) and is located in the Dranesville Tavern Historic Overlay District.

"Woody's Golf Range is now closed. We want to thank you for letting us be part of such a wonderful community. We have loved serving our customers for over three decades, and we will always cherish the memories of our great customers. We hope that you will continue to keep up with us to see

where we go next," according to Woody's website. See <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=SE&seq=4192058> and <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdfw/4498561.PDF> for details.

❖ Route 7 Widening

From Reston Avenue to Jarrett Valley Drive

VDOT cancelled two scheduled meetings for early in January, but will hold additional meetings this winter with HOAs by request regarding the ongoing \$265 million project to widen Route 7 from Reston to Jarrett Valley Drive. The project will widen Route 7 from four to six lanes from the intersection with Georgetown Pike to the Dulles Access Road, continuing the widening that is ongoing northwest of Georgetown Pike now. Since February 2012, a working group has met ten times and discussed topics including environmental impacts, land development along the corridor, bicycle and pedestrian needs, innovative intersection designs, high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane feasibility, mass transit and bus service, and preliminary stormwater management needs. Acquisition of rights-of-way is scheduled for 2017, and construction is scheduled to begin in 2021. See http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/route_7_widening_reston_ave_to_dtr.asp

❖ Turner Farm

925 Springvale Road, Great Falls
Turner Farm was saved from development by a public private partnership started in 1994 to "Save the Farm." Great Falls Citizens Association hopes for the Turner Farmhouse to be selected for the county's Residential Curator Program. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance that permits a Residential Curator Program for unused, publicly-owned historic properties to be leased to individuals or groups for little or no rent. This can provide the opportunity to preserve historic properties at a minimum cost to taxpayers and can put the property to practical use as residential, office or commercial space. Curators would be required to rehabilitate and maintain the properties at their own expense.

John Turner (1808-1892) bought the original farm in 1869 and his grandson Mark Turner (1889-1959) purchased the 163 acres from his grandfather. Mark Turner was the first Master of the Great Falls Grange, member of the Virginia Milk Commission and Fairfax County School Board Member and Board of Supervisor.

The Observatory Park on the land off Springvale Drive is open which provides four permanently mounted telescopes. The Analemna Society partnered with the Park Authority to develop recreational and educational astronomy programs at Turner Farm, including Friday night star-gazing with summer viewing hours from sunset to 10:30 p.m.

Observatory Park will be closed in the spring of 2016 so a Roll-Top observatory building can be constructed. The Analemna Society will hold observing programs on Friday nights at Baron Cameron Park in Reston from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 26, March 11, April 1 and April 8. See <http://analemna.org/>

Equestrian facilities are also available at Turner Park for general riding. Use of the facilities is

free and reservations are not required, but riders do need to bring their own horses.

❖ Grange Vision

Representatives from a dozen or so Great Falls organizations, coordinated by Jorge Adeler, have met monthly since October to plan making the Great Falls Grange the centerpiece of the community, as founding Great Falls farmers envisioned almost a century ago.

"It's gone through ups and downs, but through all its history it has always been the center of the community. It can become that again," said Phil Pifer, of the Great Falls Citizens Association.

"The potential is extraordinary," said Adeler. "The possible activities for community use, for youth, senior citizens, adults, artists, musicians, nonprofits and the entire community are endless."

The Great Falls Grange was the first grange hall built in Virginia and one of five granges built in Fairfax County, said Kathleen Murphy, president of the Great Falls Historical Society.

Last March, the community celebrated renovations to the 1929 Great Falls Grange Hall building that made it accessible to all.

"For far too long, it was not accessible to our residents with disabilities and to our senior citizens," said Supervisor John Foust, who helped secure \$350,000 for the \$503,000 project from County carry-over funds in 2013. The Fairfax County Park Authority funded the balance.

"A really impressive group of community organizations got together and signed a letter to me basically asking for more access to these facilities." Foust said. "The proposal was that I would get the Grange made ADA accessible and they would come forward with a proposal that community groups would take responsibility for these two buildings."

"If the community groups come together the way I think they might and the way it was initially proposed, I see something more grand here."

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WINTER FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTOS USED WITH PERMISSION

The Ninth Annual Chinese New Year Festival will be on Saturday, Feb. 6 at Luther Jackson Middle School. For the Year of the Monkey, this year's festival will focus on wisdom.



Cultural live performance including dragon and lion dance, Han Costume fashion show, delicious Asian foods, writing Chinese names, language, craft and business booths and a lunar new year dragon parade will be at the Ninth Annual Chinese New Year.

Winter Events and Activities to Keep You Warm

After the blizzard, dig yourself out and drive away that cabin fever. From foods to keep you warm to crisp and refreshing hikes, here is a sampling of winter activities that will tide you over till springtime. Spring begins Sunday, March 20.

Go

What's more inviting than a chocolate fountain? No golden tickets are needed to attend the **McLean Chocolate Festival** happening on Sunday, Jan. 31 at the McLean Community Center. Tickets are \$2 for all and free to children under six. The chocoholics' dream is from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The McLean Community Center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For information, visit www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH

Visitors enjoy a chocolate fountain from Capitol Chocolate Fountains in a past McLean Chocolate Festival. This year's festival will be Sunday, Jan. 31 at McLean Community Center.

It's a **Mardi Gras Party** at the American Legion Post 180 on Saturday, Feb. 6. Music by DJ Richard Cunningham, also known as Dr. Jazz. Enjoy a feast of jambalaya and hors d'oeuvre. Come in costume for a chance at a prize. Cost is \$25 at the door. The party will be at 330 Center St., N, Vienna. For information, call 703-938-9535.

Celebrate the Year of the Fire Monkey at the **Ninth Annual Chinese New Year Festival** on **Saturday, Feb. 6**. Monkeys are characterized by curiosity, mischievousness and cleverness. This year's event will promote wisdom. Legend has it a terrible monster called Nian would come once a year to eat crops, livestock and errant children. One day an old beggar man came and told the villagers that the monster is actually a scaredy cat but no one believed him. The villagers fled or hid. But the next day, they found that everything was alright. The

old man, who turned out to be deity, had chased Nian away and he left traces of how he had done it. The story varies but one thing remains the same, celebrating the triumph over the monster Nian. The Ninth Annual Chinese New Year festival will be held at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. Snow date is Feb. 13. For information, go to www.chinesenewyearfestival.org.

The Vienna Woman's Club presents a **Daddy Daughter Dance** on Friday, Feb. 5. Fathers, grandfathers, big brothers, godfathers and family members are welcome to mingle with special fairytale guests. The

cost is \$25 per couple. The event is for ages 3 years to those in sixth grade. The dance will be held at Marshall Road Elementary School, 730 Marshall Road, SW, Vienna. Get tickets at <https://vwcdaddydaughterdance.eventbrite.com>.

You know spring is almost here when Vienna holds its egg-hunt. The **Flashlight Egg Hunt** will be on Friday, March 18 at Glyndon Park, 300 Glyndon St., NE, Vienna. Enjoy a family evening searching for eggs and prizes in the dark. Please bring a flashlight so you can find the eggs. Jump like a bunny in the moon bounce and visit the Easter Bunny. The hunt starts at 7 p.m. Call 703-255-6360 for more information.

For something more traditional, there is also the **Old-Fashioned Egg Hunt and Roll** on Saturday, March 19 at the Freeman House, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna. Children 12 and under and their parents are welcome to participate in an egg roll and visit with Easter Bunny, presented by Historic Vienna, Inc. The event is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Call 703-938-5187 for more information.

Do

Take a Hike with a hiking group or club. Capital Hiking Club meets on Saturdays and has pick-up service at the Vienna Metro North Parking Lot, 9550 Saintsbury Drive, Fairfax. The club buses hikers to the hiking destination. Short and long hikes available for each hike. Snacks and beverages available after hike completion for a small fee. Hike fees are \$25 for member and \$28 for non-members. For more information, go to www.capitalhikingclub.org.

The Mid-Atlantic Hiking Group offers multiple hikes of varying degrees of difficulty every weekend. They have carpool options that meet at the Vienna Metro. Price for the hike is \$2 on average. For more information visit the group's Meetup page at <http://www.meetup.com/Mid-Atlantic-Hiking-Group/>.

Prefer the solitary tromp through the woods? Fairfax County has trails for hikers, walkers, bikers and horseback riders. Check out one near your at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trailsframe.htm>. If hiking alone, let someone know where you are going.

SEE WINTER FUN GUIDE, PAGE 17

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Winter Fun Guide

FROM PAGE 16

If learning a **musical instrument** is one of your New Year's resolutions, winter is the time to make it happen. Wolf Trap offers piano, guitar and voice lessons. Lessons are taught at the Center for Education, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

Or perhaps, it's art that moves you. Then, **take an art class** at the McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Learn a new skill or enhance that talent. Visit <http://www.mapaart.org/art-classes>, or call 703-790-1953.

Eat and Drink

One does not have to go to Canada or New England to enjoy a quintessential winter favorite—maple syrup. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, is holding a **Maple Syrup Boil Down** on Sunday, Feb. 7, 21 and March 6 from noon to 2 p.m.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

This year's American Legion Post 180 mardi gras party will be on Saturday, Feb. 6

The sap is rising and the maple trees are tapped. Now it's sugaring time. Bundle up, brave the weather, watch and learn as sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an open fire. Sample the delicious combination of maple syrup over fresh baked cornbread. While supplies last. This is an outdoor program, so please dress appropriately. Cost is \$5 per person. No reservations required. 703-759-2771.

Feeling fancy? At **Wine at Wolf Trap**, guests will enjoy a five-course dinner with perfect wine pairings and live entertainment by The Olivera Quintet, previewing Filene Center summer performances. This intimate evening of extraordinary wines and cuisine will be on Saturday, March 19 at the Barns, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna, at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$500-\$10,000. Reserve by Feb. 19. For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

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McLean Community Center
The Center of It All

Here's What's Happening at MCC

**Old Firehouse Teen Center
Friday Field Trip
The Cave**

Friday, Jan. 29, 3:30-10 p.m.
\$35/\$25 OFTC members

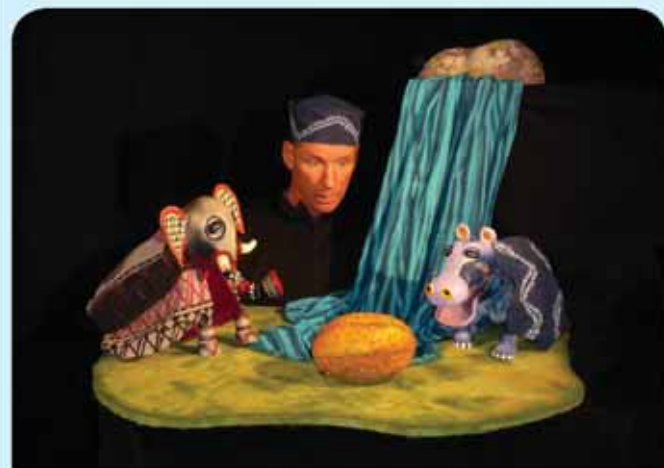
**Old Firehouse Teen Center
Teacher Work Day Trips
The Zone**

Friday, Feb. 5, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$55/\$45 MCC district residents



New! Better Than Bling

Jewelry and Fashion Accessories Show
Saturday, Feb. 6, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Admission \$5
Children age 12 or younger free.



Puppet Festival

Saturday, Feb. 20, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Featuring performances by
Crabgrass Puppets and Jim West Puppets
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

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

1234 Ingleside Ave.
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711



CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 27

AJ Smith "Brooklyn Nights" EP Release. 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. DC-area native AJ Smith left for New York to study music six years ago where he found his voice and grew into an award-winning songwriter and recording artist. On Jan. 27, 2016 AJ Smith is set to release his upcoming EP "Brooklyn Nights" to his hometown at Jammin Java in Vienna. \$15-\$25. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

Animals on the Move. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Meeting Room, Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Learn about migration, hibernation and active winter animals, through interactive activities, stories and songs. Presented by Riverbend Park and sponsored by the Friends of the Dolley Madison Library. Ages 3-5. 703-356-0770.

Pokemon League. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Meeting Room, Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play Pokemon with your friends! 703-757-8560.

THURSDAY/JAN. 28

Grant-Lee Phillips + Steve Poltz. 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Join the two singers as they take a stage together to share some of their songs. \$20. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

Genealogy Program. 7:30-9 p.m. Kilmer Middle School, 8100 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. Fairfax Genealogical Society monthly meeting and program. Speaker: Sharon Hodges on Expanding Research to Resources Not Available On Line. Free. 703-644-8185.

Starlight Storytime. 7-7:45 p.m. Meeting Room, Dolley Madison Library, 1455 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Come in your pajamas and join us for stories and songs. All ages. 703-356-0770.

Pasty and Wine Pairing. 6-8 p.m. The Vineyard, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. What's a Pasty? A pasty is a savoury meat and/or vegetable pie that's a complete meal in its own right (similar to an empanada). \$5 per person. www.thevineyardva.com. 703-288-2970.

Penny University Event. 7-8 p.m. Caffe Amouri, 1107 Church St., NE, Vienna. New Year, New You- Healthy Habits to Start the New Year" with Joann Meginley of Grass Roots Fitness. Space is limited. To sign-up, email Nicki at nicki@caffeamouri.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 29

The Cave. 3:30-10 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. All you gamers out there... get ready. This dynamic trip will provide the ability to spend time gaming with other like-minded individuals in a friendly and social environment. This new facility is sure to please, so join us and enjoy gaming like never before! Dinner will be provided. Tickets: \$35/\$25 members. <http://www.mcleancenter.org>. 703-790-0123.

Garland Jeffreys & The Coney Island Playboys. 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Brooklyn Native Garland Jeffreys' rock hits include "R.O.C.K." and "Wild In The Streets" plus his smash covers of "What Does It Take (To Win Your Love)" and "96 Tears." He released a dozen albums that featured an amazing list of guest artists like Lou Reed, Dr. John, Sly &



'Colors of the Winter' at Katie's Coffee

Great Falls Studios photographer Jim Diedrich (Jamesdiedrich.com) is the featured artist for February at Katie's Coffee. Diedrich enjoys photographing unique elements of each season. "Winter offers the best sunrises and sunsets of the year. I am never disappointed with the radiant colors of winter. An extra bonus of winter is that the sun rises at reasonable hour," Diedrich said. The name of the exhibit is "The Colors of Winter" and will be featured for the entire month of February.

Ongoing

Pigments of My Imagination. Jan. 4-March 31. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Long time Great Falls resident Donna Barnako, has created over a dozen colorful and whimsical small works. Her subjects are varied, from pigs to puppies and cowboy boots.

Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

53rd Annual James A. Bland Contest. Through Monday, Feb. 15. Vienna Lions Club invites elementary and high school vocalist and instrumentalists to present a song or piece for cash prizes. For information and application, contact Susan Stiles at sandcs89@yahoo.com or 703-938-1142.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase your flexibility, improve your breathing and health, reduce your stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

"Poetry in Motion" Exhibit. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. From Feb. 2-27. Exhibition of VAS members paintings with the theme "Poetry in Motion. Free.

Trail and Ales with Caboose Brewing and Grass Roots Fitness. Mondays through Jan. 31. Caboose Brewing Company, 520 Mill Street, NE Vienna. Come Run with us every Monday night. \$1 Off All Pints! All paces welcome. We will run between 3-5 miles with options to go shorter or longer. You can walk or run. Dog and stroller friendly. Contact Joann Meginley at joannandfrancine@grassrootsfitness.org.

Tai Chi Beginners' Practice. Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Weekly Tai Chi practice. Group has met for over 20 years. Free. FreeTaiChi.org. 703-759-9141.

Robbie, David Johansen, Phoebe Snow, Luther Vandross and Duncan Sheik. \$25. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

The Later Late Show: Main Stage Comedy Showcase. 10:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. The greatest and funniest comedy show of all time. \$5-\$8. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

Ted Alexandro. The Barnes, Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Come enjoy the comedy show. Ted Alexandro has been making audiences laugh for more than 20 years. As a New York native, he has performed multiple times on the late night shows of David Letterman, Conan O'Brien, Jimmy Kimmel, and on two half-hour Comedy Central specials. \$22. <http://www.wolftrap.org/> or 703-255-1900.

Art Making and Craft Beer. 7:30-9:30 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Led by artist, Arthur Kwon Lee, we will dive into an evening of abstract painting with a dynamic theme on human movement. Through a Jackson Pollock inspired style, we will explore mark-making with ink, paint, and alternative objects as we practice the many ways to capture movement, and manifest

it, through painting. \$25/\$45. www.mpaart.org/events-2/. 703-790-1953.

SATURDAY/JAN. 30

LEGO Skyline and Architecture Studio. 2 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851-L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Adults and teenagers (ages 14 and up) are invited to Barnes & Noble to help build our new LEGO Skyline in-store display and enjoy a LEGO Architecture build with Architecture Studio bricks. 703-506-6756.

Au Pair feat. Gary Louris (The Jayhawks) and Django Haskins. 7 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Au Pair strikes a balance between classic songcraft and cheeky experimentation on their debut album, One-Armed Candy Bear. The core of the album consists of the duo singing and playing into a single microphone like a Memphis Sun session. But then they take some strange turns: body percussion, feedback loops, avant guitar, Kraut rock touches, anything goes in the world of Au Pair. \$20. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

Back to the 90s. 10:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Good Time Boys and Maryjo Mattea collaborate and perform punk music. \$10-\$15. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

Rock Creek Singers / Potomac Fever. The Barnes, Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Come join Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C. as they celebrate their 35th season. With more than 250 singers, Gay Men's Chorus of Washington has performed for President and First Lady Obama, six consecutive years at Vice President and Dr. Biden's residence, at the historic Carnegie Library in honor of longtime gay rights activist Dr. Frank Kameny, at the first LGBT Pride Month at the White House, and as part of the concert We Are One. \$45. <http://www.wolftrap.org> or 703-255-1900.

Genealogy Education Workshop. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Fairfax Genealogical Society educational workshop featuring Sharon Hodges, "There's More to The Census Than What's On Line." Free. 703-644-8184.

Improvisational Quilting with Cindy Grisdela. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Arts of GF School on the Village Green, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Quilting workshop. Basic sewing skills and a machine in good, working order required. \$150. Register at <http://www.greatfallsart.org/quilting/>.

Mardi Gras Celebration. 5:30-10 p.m. St. John the Beloved Roman Catholic Church, 6420 Linway Terrace, McLean. Krewe Chef Brian Holoubek's Gumbo, Red Beans and Rice, King cake, music, masks and



Gail Péan, 'Vineyard Dance:' Péan's impasto oil paintings - 'Excellent Schoolmasters' - are on exhibit at Katie's Coffee House/Old Brogue in Great Falls, Jan. 1—31.

beads. Bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert. <http://www.stjohnscatholicmclean.org/events/mardi-gras-celebration/>. 703-356-7916.

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Relay-Palooza. 6:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Relay-Palooza is a variety show created to highlight the local talent of Northern Virginia and raise for the Beltway Relay For Life. Showcase of a variety of family-friendly genres, ranging from acoustic to comedy are available. A local cancer survivor as our keynote speaker on behalf of the American Cancer Society is featured.

\$13-\$15. <https://jamminjava.com>. 703-255-1566.

McLean Chocolate Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Rotary Club of McLean is hosting its 5th annual Chocolate Festival. \$2. Children under 6 free. www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org.

Friends of Music Benefit Concert. 3-4 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Performance will include excerpts from Mozart's "The Magic Flute," "The Stars and Stripes Forever," Uzun Hava, the Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C Major. www.stjohnsmclean.org. 703-356-4902.

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McLean Community Center

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The McLean Chocolate Festival is a fundraiser for McLean Rotary, with proceeds benefiting many local organizations.

Visit the website at: www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org

SPORTS

Snowstorm Q&A: Langley's Duenkel Watched Movies with Family

A snowstorm caused Fairfax County Public Schools to cancel classes and athletic events from Thursday, Jan. 21 through Tuesday, Jan. 26. Some areas received more than 20 inches of snow during the weekend, according to the National Weather Service, creating a break from competition for local high school athletes.

Langley senior lacrosse player and James Madison University signee Halle Duenkel shared her storm experience via email with The Connection.

Q: Where do you live?

A: Great Falls.

Q: How did the amount of snowfall in your neighborhood compare to what you thought would fall?

A: The news channels definitely gave me the perception of a lot of snow but I was still not completely sure we would be getting over two feet!

Q: What, if any, preparations did you and your family make for the storm?

A: My mom and I went to the grocery store to grab some of the essentials before the storm. Also, my brothers and I played outside all day on Friday because we were afraid it would be too much snow to play in later!

Q: What did you do to pass the time during the storm?

A: Recently, I picked painting back up so I was able to paint a few canvases during the free time. My mom and I baked cake pops and made some new dishes together



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Langley senior Halle Duenkel, seated in the middle, is signed to play lacrosse at James Madison University.

and then at night my family would pick a movie to watch together. The movie "Everest" did not go over so well with us!

Q: Did you play in the snow? If so, what did you do?

A: My family and I enjoyed the snow together. My two younger brothers and I had a few snowball fights and we also helped shovel out our driveway. My dog was over her head in the snow, but she managed to

jump through to get to us. My youngest brother, Ryan, was also challenged on my mom's Facebook page to a "snow jump challenge." He had to get into his underwear and jump in the snow. Then he could challenge someone else. It was hilarious.

Q: You suffered a knee injury during your winter lacrosse season. Where are you in terms of rehab?

A: I tore my ACL, MCL, and meniscus of

my right knee in the beginning of May. In June, Dr. Keith Lawhorn reconstructed my knee using a graft from my hamstring. I worked harder than I ever have to get myself back to playing again. I pre-habbed for a month before surgery and then rehabbed for six months. I was able to use an AlterG machine that takes your body weight off of your legs. It's a bit like a baby "bouncy-seat!" I am now fully cleared to play and have been able to participate in team practices and conditioning sessions to get ready for the season.

Q: Do you play a winter sport at Langley or are you training for lacrosse?

A: I played basketball and then winter track in the past for Langley. I took this winter off from a winter sport to train for lacrosse. My coach, Maggie Kovacs, is getting our team ready for the season with green day practices, hard conditioning sessions, and team yoga. I also go to Perfect Performance, where Leonard Stephens (former Redskin) helps me regain my foot speed and quickness. I think I am faster now than I was prior to the injury, so in reality it's been a blessing! I will play my first game for Langley on Feb. 13 in the Valentine's Day shoot out tournament.

Q: Were you able to exercise/practice during the storm? If so, what did you do?

A: I worked out in our basement, but I especially think that shoveling two feet of snow is exercise!

— JON ROETMAN

Snowstorm Q&A: McLean's Norton Went Sledding

A snowstorm caused Fairfax County Public Schools to cancel classes and athletic events from Thursday, Jan. 21 through Tuesday, Jan. 26. Some areas received more than 20 inches of snow during the weekend, according to the National Weather Service, creating a break from competition for local high school athletes.

McLean catcher and Indiana softball signee Bella Norton shared her storm experience via email with The Connection.

Q: In what city do you live?

A: I live in McLean.

Q: How did the amount of snowfall in your neighborhood compare to what you thought would fall?

A: I did not think it would go over 20 inches, but when I walked outside it was over my knees! It's pretty crazy. I won't be going out anytime soon (as of Sunday night).

Q: What, if any, preparations did you and your family make for the storm?

A: We stocked up on food BIG time,



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean catcher Bella Norton signed a letter of intent to play softball at Indiana University.

and did as much shopping as we possibly could. We have nine people in our household. It's a lot of mouths to feed. We also

got candles, lighters, flashlights and batteries in case the power went out.

Q: What did you do to pass the time dur-

ing the storm?

A: I went through old photos and videos of our family when we were young, and watched a whole lot of Netflix!

Q: Did you play in the snow? If so, what did you do?

A: Yes! My family and my friends went to our closest elementary school and went sledding.

Q: Do you play a winter sport at McLean?

A: No, I do not play a winter sport, but I am on a big lifting and training schedule (hitting and catching) to get myself prepared to play my last season as a Highlander.

Q: Were you able to exercise/practice during the storm? If so, what did you do?

A: I did softball drills in my house, as much as I could do given the circumstances! But my real workout was shoveling all the snow in our driveway.

— JON ROETMAN

OUTLOOK 2016

Positive 2015 Real Estate Market Spurs Upbeat Outlook for the New Year

Experts predict continuing positive trend.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The final figures are in, and it looks like the 2015 local housing market was a modest winner. Coming off a banner 2013, the 2014 market left buyers, sellers, agents, brokers and lenders all feeling a bit edgy when the previous year's successes did not spill over into the next year. But despite a bit of a rollercoaster ride, 2015 closed with annual regional sales 9.4 percent higher than 2014 – their highest since 2006. Data for the region, that includes the general Metro area, as well as specifics for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Fairfax, Falls Church and Alexandria, and the towns of Herndon, Vienna and Clifton is supplied by RealEstate Business Intelligence, L.L.C. (RBI), an arm of the local MLS system.

In the first half of the year the normal buying pattern was disrupted by a number of factors, not the least being the long and difficult winter which pushed the start of the spring market from late January or February to mid-March.

"The hottest real estate season lost a solid month of sales," said Reston-based Keller Williams agent Andy Krumholz. "Then it ended earlier than normal, as well," he added.

"Normally lasting until late June before the summer slowdown, this past year the market went to sleep in May and stayed that way through Labor Day."

TO EVERYONE'S RELIEF, the second half of the year saw a real pick up in real estate action. Virgil Frizzell, the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) chairman of the board noted "a strong fall market and sometimes a flurry of bidding wars" that helped overcome the slow start, even with the jitters that came as the world waited for the anticipated increase in the Fed Funds Rate by the Federal Reserve, and the adjustments to be made as new closing laws went into effect.

According to the RBI data, Fairfax County had the most closed sales in 2015, increasing 9.6 percent over 2014. Alexandria came in with a 9.4 percent increase, Fairfax City with 7.9 percent, Arlington with 3.9 percent and Falls Church with 3.8 percent.

Among the jurisdictions, Fairfax County also saw the highest increase in new listings, up 14.6 percent over the previous year, a trend that Anita Lasansky, CRB, managing broker-vice president Long and Foster Realtors in North Reston can attest to.



Andy Krumholz, Agent Keller Williams Reston: "The improving economic metrics have many pundits feeling optimistic about 2016. I expect

most areas to experience a 3-4 percent price improvement."

"We're a 60 percent/40 percent listing versus sales organization and it was a brisk year for us," she said, although at the moment "there's not a lot of inventory." Chairman Frizzell agrees that "our region could always benefit from affordably priced new homes that will help our renter population make the move to home ownership."

In terms of sales pricing, Lasansky's opinion is that it was an almost neutral market year. "Buyers couldn't 'steal' a house, but sellers couldn't easily sell a property not in good condition.

There was quite a bit of negotiating during many of the transactions." Krumholz agreed with that assessment. "Even as inventory increased and some sellers were adjusting their sales price expectations, buyers were remaining selective. Homes that needed repairs or improvements languished on the market."

The RBI numbers show that both Lasansky and Krumholz were right in their thoughts about pricing and the average days on the market (DOM) of a given property. The region saw only a 1.1 percent increase in the median sales price. Behind D.C., Arlington County and Alexandria City led the way, with increases over 4 percent. In Fairfax County median sales prices were 3.2



Anita Lasansky, CRB managing broker-vice president, Long and Foster North Reston: "The current stock market fluctuations could be a good

thing for the local real estate market. Housing is looking like a pretty good bet."

percent higher in 2015 than in 2014. Only Falls Church saw a year-over-year decrease, dropping 1.4 percent, but keeping the "most expensive location crown" among the Northern Virginia locales with a 2015 median sales price of \$690,000. At 22, days on the market increased slightly for all of the areas analyzed, but even those increases did not depress the overall sense of market health, since the two-day increase in the median DOM from 2014 is still an impressive 41 days less than the DOM high of 68 in 2008, and not far off the lowest DOM level recorded in the past decade of 15 days in 2013.

SO WHAT DO THE EXPERTS take from this plethora of information as they look to the 2016 market? NVAR CEO Ryan T. Conrad believes the positive trends will continue throughout the year. "Our region's sales pace last year reflected that there was homebuyer confidence," he stated in a recent NVAR press release, and "serious homebuyers will understand that their buying power will be strongest in the early part of the year" considering further expected rate hikes from the Federal Reserve.

Lasansky, with her 40 years of local experience, is looking at 2016 to be "as good,



Virgil Frizzell, Chairman of the Board Northern Virginia Association of Realtors: "The 2016 market is a dynamic situation, but I think all the indicators are

there for a positive year."

if not better, than 2015." Asked if she saw the current Wall Street woes as a challenge to the market, she replied the effect might just be the opposite. "With interest rates still so low, the volatility of the stock market might just steer people more toward real estate as the safer bet." Lasansky also feels that the recent easing of some of the regulations and requirements could make homebuying more of a possibility, especially for younger and first-time buyers.

Frizzell is equally positive about the 2016 outlook. "Millennials are starting to make the move," he stated. Several of his rental clients are now on the hunt for homes of their own.

Armed with the RBI data, his own expertise, and encouraging information provided from the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis, Frizzell thinks that continued employment growth and a more balanced economy in the region might make 2016 "one of the best years ever."

Links to data and analysis by locale can be found on the NVAR website, www.nvar.com. Readers interested in comprehensive data on the region including housing, job growth by sector and wages and more, can visit the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis website at www.cra.gmu.edu.

June Shea, Shea Studio Interiors, Recognized For Excellence in Customer Service

June Shea, Shea Studio Interiors of Fairfax Station, won "Best Of Customer Service" for 2016. This is the third year that Shea has been recognized for her outstanding work on her clients' behalf.

The Best Of Houzz Customer Service honors are based on several factors, including the number and quality of client reviews a professional received in 2015.

"We are honored that our customers have consistently given us five-star ratings for our work on their behalf. We love

helping our clients achieve the home of their dreams!" said Shea.

"Anyone building, remodeling or decorating looks to Houzz for the most talented and service-oriented professionals" said Liza Hausman, vice president of Industry Marketing for Houzz. "We're so pleased to recognize June Shea, Shea Studio Interiors, as one of our "Best of Houzz" professionals by our enormous community of homeowners and design enthusiasts actively remodeling and decorating their homes."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

June Shea wins customer service award.

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates 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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"Your Blood Pressure is a Little High, Mr. Lourie"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"You think? I'm a little nervous right now. I'm waiting for scan results from last week." (I mean, it's not as if my life depends on them or anything.) As much as my blood pressure, heart rate and temperature are vitally important, the CT Scan of my chest matters more. Although, I'm not so naive to think that those other readings couldn't indicate trouble/potential trouble. Nevertheless, I still feel, with the limited knowledge I have, that – and I don't want to get political here – my CT Scan trumps your vital signs. "If you need to get a reading, why don't you come back in 15 minutes after I've met with the doctor?"

Thankfully, the scan results were/continue to be, amazingly encouraging. When my oncologist came into the examining room where I was sitting and waiting – and trying to remain calm, with my life/immediate future hanging in the balance, he said, rather nonchalantly, that my "scan was great" and that I was his "miracle patient": surviving nearly seven years now since my stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) diagnosis in late February, 2009. He then sat at the computer and asked me the standard questions about pain, headaches, stroke-like symptoms, the neuropathy in my feet, need to reorder any prescriptions, new or worsening symptoms; all of which I answered in a non-complicating way: "No. No. No." He typed in my responses and then suggested, while smiling, that we were negotiating. Not completely understanding his reference, I asked what he meant. And what he meant was, given my "miracle" status, the possibility of extending, yet again, the interval between my chemotherapy infusions, from four weeks to five (see column dated 11/25/15 entitled "All Four It") and extending as well my every-three-month CT Scan to every four or even six months and likewise extending the interval for my PET Scan to yearly. All of which sounded wonderful, but we were still "negotiating."

My oncologist's concern/goal/intention in these discussions is, and always has been, the quality of my life (after all, I do have cancer). And when I've had a particularly difficult post-chemo week, as I experienced most recently, and told him as much, he feels as if it's a week of my life that he's sort of taken away and won't be able to ever give back. Extending the intervals is his way of trying to get me more good weeks and/or increasing the length of time between bad weeks.

However, there are no protocols, clinical studies or history even, for him to consult to determine how best to treat me: "me" being a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patient who's alive, reasonably well and still undergoing treatment SEVEN YEARS after originally being "prognosed" to die within "13 months to two years." At this point, he said, it's more common sense and patient preference that dictates how we proceed.

Ergo, these conversations are all about me. My doctor makes suggestions/considerations and listens to my concerns (make that anxieties) and DOES NOT direct/push/control the outcome/decisions that are ultimately made. Together, we attempt to sort through my objections/assumptions/presumptions/misunderstandings, etc., to figure out a way forward that balances the quality of my life with the effectiveness of my treatment.

Unfortunately, there's no patient handbook – that I know of – called "Cancer for Dummies." If there were, perhaps I wouldn't mind navigating this minefield of life-altering, death-defying – hopefully – choices, that constantly present themselves. Then again, at least I'm still alive to have choices – and normal blood pressure, most of the time.

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

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.

THURSDAY/JAN. 28

Genealogy Program. 7:30-9 p.m. Kilmer Middle School, 8100 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. Fairfax Genealogical Society monthly meeting and program. Speaker: Sharon Hodges on Expanding Research to Resources Not Available On Line. Free. 703-644-8185.

Great Falls Writer's Group. 11-12:30 p.m. Meeting Room, Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Support group for writers. Adults. 703-757-8560.

Davinchi Drone and Coder's Meet-Ups. 6:30-8 p.m. Meeting Room, Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Learn about building, maintaining, customizing, and coding drones. All levels welcome. All ages. 703-757-8560.

SATURDAY/JAN. 30

Genealogy Education Workshop. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Fairfax Genealogical Society educational workshop featuring Sharon Hodges, "There's More to The Census Than What's On Line." Free. 703-644-8184.

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Homeseller Seminar. 1-4 p.m. 774-A Walker Road, Great Falls. Are you an overwhelmed owner? Become a savvy seller. Offered by Lyons McGuire Homes and Estates of Keller Williams Realty. Speakers include stager, organizer, home inspector and more. Learn insider secrets to getting the most money for your home. Free. RSVP Gina@LyonsMcGuire.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 6

Fairfax County NAACP Open House. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Meet community leaders and members, discuss your pressing concerns, provide feedback, and enjoy food and music.

ONGOING

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/litombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs.** For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs a volunteer **Senior Center Marketing Coordinator** to assist the Friends of Fairfax County Senior Centers with marketing. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Lewinsville Senior Center** in McLean needs instructors for the following classes: Line Dance, Zumba Gold, Certified Arthritis Exercise, Square Dance, Basic Guitar, Art and Basic Spanish. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Food Drive for CHO. Places vary. Please help CHO to help others in our area. All food contributions greatly appreciated. CHO is making plans for the holidays. Please bring new unwrapped gifts for children and teens to Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE, Vienna, on Dec. 11 between 9 a.m. and noon. Questions? Contact at cho@cho-va.com.

The **Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna** has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. No long-term commitment and hours are flexible to fit your schedule. Visit www.scov.org or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email volunteer@scov.org.



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