# Great Falls

Caroline Ralston gives presentation on Wednesday, Jan. 11 on how to find and use historical records to discover more about the lives of the players featured in an 1890 photograph of the local Forestville baseball team.

# Exploring Baseball History in Great Falls

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CONTRIB

PHOTO

January 18-24, 2017

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# NEWS Mission: Inauguration

# Officer with Vienna, Langley High roots leads inaugural military ceremonial activities.

By Andrea Worker The Connection

Response of the price of the pr

The JTF-NCR is tasked with all components of the ceremonial aspects of the event, from the planning, coordination and execution, through the final moments of an inauguration period that runs from Jan. 15 to Jan. 24, "and all of the moving parts in between," reported Degnon during a phone interview.

U.S. Armed Forces personnel provide musical units, color guards, honor cordons, marching elements, and more, all designed to honor the incoming Commander-In-Chief and to demonstrate control of the military by our civilian populace. Those personnel form a true "integrated Total Force" meaning Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, and Coast Guard will all be participating and representing their branch of service. Brigadier Gen. Degnon and his team – about 820 strong - will be at the helm, coordinating that integrated effort of more than 5,000 service members.

**THEIR ROLE** may be strictly ceremonial, but just like all of the military who will be in attendance in a variety of roles, the men and women

under Degnon's command for the Inaugural events are always on hand to "about face" and perform as what is termed as "quick reaction forces" in case of emergency.

Civilian law enforcement officers are the ones responsible for the safety and security of all personnel during the proceedings, according to the JFT-NCR's 58<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration Fact Sheet. The United States Secret Service is the primary Federal agency for security purposes, FEMA the primary for "consequence management operations," and the FBI leading the way for crisis management operations.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED Brigadier General George M. Degnon

#### The military has been contributing to the inaugural process since April 30, 1789, when members of the Continental Army and veterans were among those who escorted General George Washington to Federal Hall in New York City for his swearing-in as the nation's first president. The JTF-NCR (formerly the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee) first supported a modern-day Inaugural Pa-

Degnon rade for President Eisenhower in 1953. A quick check of the JTF-NCR archives will tell you

that Eisenhower's parade lasted more than five hours – the longest to date. No one knows how long the parade marking the inauguration of Donald J. Trump as the  $45^{\rm th}$ president of the United States will be, but Degnon says they are prepared for any and all eventualities.

At the time of the interview with the General, there were no specific requests from the Inaugural Committee or from the President-Elect or others of his representatives that were cause for anything other than the normal concern associated with such a major moment in our democratic activities. "Much of what takes place on the actual Inauguration day is done according to Constitutional requirements," said Degnon. "That aids in the planning and execution, but we are prepared to handle changes and requests wherever possible."

If those ceremonial obligations weren't duties enough, the JTF-NCR also serves as the official Department of Defense liaison to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inauguration Ceremonies and the Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC). They are also tasked with collecting, compiling, organizing and offering their analysis and historical perspective concerning the applications submitted to the PIC for parade participation. "Good thing we have a great team to get us through," said the Brigadier General.

**DEGNON** has been involved in previous inaugurations as part of his military duties, but "not at this level." Any length of conversation with the Brigadier General and the listener is convinced that he and the team really do have their bases covered, and that a local boy will make his hometown and the country proud when doing his part toward the peaceful transition of power.

# Share: Poverty is Not Seasonal

By Fallon Forbush The Connection

D onations received during the holidays enabled Share to help more people from Great Falls, McLean, Pimmit Hills and Vienna area than it has ever helped before.

Share's Holiday Program, which served 590 people in 2015, provided food and gifts to 790 people last month.

But the nonprofit's work goes on yearround. This is because poverty is not a seasonal need, but an ongoing concern for the community.

Those involved in the all-volunteer organization celebrated their holiday successes, but were reminded of the need still to come during its general meeting on Thursday, Jan. 12.

"Donations are generous during the holidays," says Kellen Leister, the organization's treasurer.

The community was so generous that Chris Wilbur, Share's holiday program coordinator, had to send some donated food to other food banks because Share's pantry at the McLean Baptist Church was overcrowded.

"I hate to turn donations away or tell people not to donate when we're going to need it later," Wilbur said during the



Photo by Stew Lingley

Those interested in volunteering with Share's Furniture Program can contact Stew Lingley by calling 703-556-0144 or emailing slingley@aol.com.

meeting. "It sends a bad message that we don't need it and we do."

She said that by July, people will be "begging for food." The organization will be looking for ways to engage the community to participate in mid-year food drives.

More immediately, the organization is

looking for a new home for its Furniture Program, which provides gently-used furniture free of charge to individuals and families struggling to furnish their homes because of poverty or significant life challenges.

The Chesterbrook United Methodist Church, which currently houses the program, has given Share until the end of the month to vacate the space that it has been using.

Many clients that rely on the program have moved from homeless shelters to subsidized apartments and need basic furnishings such as beds, mattresses, tables and chairs.

"People are sleeping on cardboard boxes in empty apartments," says Vick Kimm, who has been volunteering with Share for more than 20 years. "It's an eye-opener for some of our suburban kids [who volunteer]."

While Share looks for a new place to store the trucks and furniture, it also needs more volunteers to help transport the merchandise to those in need.

"We have an aging moving force," Kimm says. "We're always looking for help."

Those interested in helping with Share's Furniture Program can contact Stew Lingley by calling 703-556-0144 or emailing slingley@aol.com.

# THE GREAT FALLS TEAM

R









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Great Falls Connection & January 18-24, 2017 & 3

## NEWS Exploring Baseball History in Great Falls

A call to young historians: Join 'The 1890s Baseball Team: What History Reveals' project.

By Caroline Ralston

y experience with the Great Falls Historical Society (GFHS) began the summer of 2015. I had just finished my first year at the University of Mary Washington and was looking for an internship to gain experience in my field of study. My love of history and archives led me to the Society, where I began an internship researching the history of Colvin Run, as well as some of the area's historic homes for a National Register of Historic Places application. Completing my internship with GFHS not only made me feel more connected with Great Falls (I've lived here my entire life), it also exposed me to deed research, working with microfiche, and working with primary source documents. These skills were invaluable in my classes the next fall and truly strengthened my research skills. Getting real-world experience through this internship provided me with the confidence to apply for scholarships, and the connections I made while interning have really made a difference for me. When it came time for department scholarship applications in the spring, I applied for and received the Milton Grigg Northern Virginia APVA Scholarship by the NoVA Chapter of Preservation Virginia. I believe that the time I spent interning with GFHS the summer before was an important factor in my application that helped me stand out from others.

Fast forward to summer 2016, when I was invited to join the GFHS Board of Directors as their Co-Chair of Communications, Pub-



lic Relations, and Website. My time on the board has given me an inside look at how historical societies, and boards in general, operate. As Co-Chair of my committee division, I've worked with a webmaster to learn how to develop and maintain our website, and now, I keep the site up- to- date with our latest events, news, and research links. Our latest program, a research challenge

called "The 1890s Baseball Team: What

Caroline **Ralston**, Great **Falls Historical Society Board Member and** University of **Mary Washing**ton Junior majoring in **Historic Pres**ervation, presenting an introduction to historic research at Wednesday, Jan. 11 GFHS Program.

Photo contributed

History Reveals," has allowed me to share all of the skills I've acquired from my internship and from my classes in college with individuals who are interested in history too. On Jan. 11, 2017, I gave a presentation explaining how to find and use historical records to discover more about the lives of the players featured in an 1890 photograph of the local Forestville baseball team.

This program, while open to anyone, is tar-

geted towards middle and high school students to engage young people in history and introduce them to what GFHS is all about. It has been very fulfilling to engage in the community through programs like our baseball research challenge. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to intern with and sit on the Board of Directors for the Great Falls Historical Society. I look forward to continuing my work with the society and seeing what the future brings for our community. This 1890s Baseball Team challenge to

This 1890s Baseball Team challenge to make a player come alive through research program, while open to anyone, is targeted towards middle and high school students who have a genuine love of history. Four students have signed up so far - one from Whitman High School in Maryland who has been doing genealogy research since he was 6 years old; a, gifted one young man in sixth grade who loves history and baseball; and two others. We are reaching out to our community to identify six more gifted young historians who could benefit from a history challenge that will connect him with good research techniques and a lot of support from GFHS members and others devoted to local history. I know that participants will feel what I have felt - that engaging in the community through programs like our baseball team research challenge is a great learning experience that is fun and insightful. The young man who has been doing genealogy for years actually found some sources that he did not know about that will make his research much more productive in the years ahead.

Caroline Ralston attends University of Mary Washington, Class of '2018, and is a member of the Great Falls Historical Society Board.

## Time to Register for Great Falls Youth Writing Contest

Sixth-graders have a few more days to register for the 2017 Great Falls Writers **Group Youth Writing Contest on Satur**day, Jan. 21, at the Great Falls Library. Rules and registration are at http:// www.signupgenius.com/go/ 30e0845a4a82ba4fa7-great. Walk-ins who can prove residency in Great Falls are welcome to participate, too. Winners will be announced and receive cash prizes at a celebration of reading and writing sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Library on April 29. Cecilia O'Sullivan, 2016's GFWG contest winner, is seated in the front row of this picture as she contemplates what to write about last year's prompt "shoes."

Photo by Christina Tyler Wenks





Photo by Maryann Hwang

Churchill Road sixth graders Angelica Carlos, Pranav Anumandla, Mack Koopmen, Joseph Racich and Jake Loadwick with the scarves they made for a local homeless shelter.

## Knitting for a Cause

Churchill Road sixth graders learned a new skill and put it to good use. Maryann Hwang, one of the school's Spanish language teachers, taught a group of her students to knit. The students made colorful infinity scarves and donated them to a local homeless shelter.

## Week in Great Falls

## Secret of Getting Most for Your Home

Home Seller Seminar: Become A Savvy Seller! Will be held on Sunday, Jan. 29, 1-4 p.m. at Keller Williams, 774-A Walker Rd., Great Falls. This free, no obligation seminar, is offered by Lyons McGuire Homes & Estates of Keller Williams Realty. Speakers include a professional stager, organizer and photographer. Learn insider secrets to getting the most money for your home. RSVP: LyonsMcGuire@LyonsMcGuire.com

## Faith Notes

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

**The S.P.O.T for Youth Wednesday's at 7 p.m.** A place where youth can come together and pray, ask questions about the faith and receive mentorship. The spot is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Vienna located at 450 Orchard Street, NW Vienna.

**First Baptist Church of Vienna** located at 450 Orchard Street, NW Vienna. Sunday services are held at 7:45 and 10 a.m. weekly. Wednesday Night with the Family service is held at 6 p.m. followed by corporate singing at 7 p.m. Bible studies take place Tuesday's at noon.

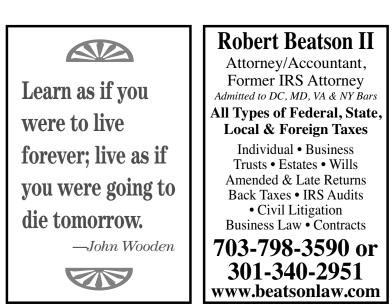
Wesley United Methodist Church located at 711 Spring Street SE, Vienna, Virginia 22180, at the corner of Spring Street and Moore Avenue. 10:30 a.m. –Fellowship time in the *fellowship hall*, 11 a.m. Traditional family worship in sanctuary. If you are seeking a church home which encourages: caring and supportive fellowship, an active and devoted prayer life and study of scripture, support for local and world missions, an open, responsive awareness to the presence and power of God's Holy Spirit.

Youth Activities at Wesley United Methodist Church Activities are open to all 6th-12th graders. Youth Sunday School meets every Sunday at 10:00am in the Upper room.

Youth Bible Study will meet every Sunday at 4:30pm off-site. Following bible study we will ride together over to the church for youth group. Email the Youth Ministry Staff for the address if interested! The Anchor meets every Sunday from 6pm-8pm in the fellowship hall. Join us for dinner, games, worship, and diving deeper into the Word!

During the summer, Youth Sunday School meets most Sundays at 9:00am in the Upper room. To receive the newsletter or for more information contact youth@wesleyvienna.org.

**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church** at the intersection of Lewinsville and Brook Roads in McLean, just a mile west of Tysons, invites you for a casual Saturday Service at 5 p.m., followed by conversation and fellowship or for Sunday Services at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Sunday School for Youth and Children takes place during the 10 a.m. Service. Look for our Pumpkin Patch this October, and check www.stthomasmcleanva.org for Special Events and Services through the year. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, 703-442-0330.





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www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org

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700 West Broad Street, Falls Church, VA | 703.992.9868 | www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com

# OPINION Counting on Our Reps in Congress

## Sound the call to action; resist changes that are against the values and beliefs of most Virginia voters.

hile most voters in the United States did not vote for Donald Trump for president, it was all the more so here in Northern Virginia. Hillary Clinton won the popular vote nationwide by 2.9 million votes.

In Virginia, Clinton won 49.75 percent to 44.43 percent over Trump; 1,981,473 votes for Clinton to 1,769,443 votes for Trump.

In the City of Alexandria, Clinton Editorial

won 75.56 percent of the vote, with 17.54 percent voting for Trump; 57,242 to 13,285 votes.

In Arlington, Clinton won 75.83 percent of the vote, with 16.64 percent voting for Trump; 92,016 to 20,186 votes.

In Fairfax County, Clinton won 64.43 percent of the vote, with 28.61 percent voting for Trump; 355,133 to 157,710 votes.

Most people in this area didn't vote for the

## Letters to the Editor

## An Apology to LGBTQ Community

#### To the Editor:

My community involvement began in 1989 with my opposition to Family Life Education (FLE). Among the reasons I opposed FLE were that it promoted the acceptance of homosexuality and said that gays cannot change. For 25 years I have made public statements that homosexuality was a choice and that it could be "prayed away." I was very wrong.

Feelings are generally not a choice, as is recognized by my church's website, mormonandgay.org. For my past statements, I apologize to the LGBTQ community.

I wish my social conservative friends would be more understandkind of changes that might be coming with this change of administration and party. They didn't vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They didn't vote to give massive tax breaks to the nation's wealthiest families, in many cases millions of dollars per family. Certainly they didn't vote for broadside attacks on Medicare, or to undo progress on climate change. This list could go on for some time.

With all of this and much more under consideration, we rely on our members of Congress, including our two

U.S. senators, to fight, to stand up and resist changes that are against the values and beliefs of most Virginia voters, to sound the call to action in every case it is needed.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer says he will not attend the inauguration.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner rallied with thousands in Alexandria

last weekend to oppose the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Even the one Republican member of Congress from the region, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10), spoke out

against Trump during the election. Comstock could play an important role standing up for the values of voters in her district, and will play an important role in representing the interests of the region.

Call your representatives and tell them what matters to you. Every Virginia resident is represented by Virginia's two U.S. senators and one member of Congress. Of course this pertains to those who supported Trump as well.

Beyer: 202-225-4376 Connolly: 202-225-1492

Comstock: 202-225-5136

Warner: 202-224-2023

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine: 202-224-4024

We welcome your letters to the editor; submit at http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/ contact/letter/

— Mary Kimm MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

transgender persons did not choose to have the feelings they have. Often these feelings begin at a very young age. A family member should

Bicycle Advocacy Workshop Feb. 4

Are you interested in making Fairfax County

more bike-friendly? On Feb. 4, 2017, Fairfax Alli-

ance for Better Bicycling (FABB) is hosting a free

workshop that will provide attendees the basic

tools and strategies needed to help make bicycling

conditions better in Fairfax County. The workshop

will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017, from 9:30

a.m. to 3 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,

8304 Old Keene Mill Rd in Springfield (across the

street from the Springfield Golf and Country Club).

participants are asked to pre-register before Jan.

29, 2017 (www.fabb-bikes.org). Lunch will be

provided. Topics include: components of a suc-

cessful advocacy campaign, developing an advo-

There is no charge for the workshop; however,

be able to acknowledge same-sex attraction or gender preference without fear of rejection, loss of employment or opportunity. When we social conservatives ask gays to live celibate or ask transgender persons to use bathrooms for their biological gender, we should understand that we are asking a lot. We have not walked in their shoes.

ing that probably most gay and

I do not believe that most gay and transgender persons want to undermine Christian values; they want to be able to act on powerful feelings they did not ask to have. I do believe though that some who are promoting LGBTQ rights do oppose Christian values and advocate an androgynous society. For example a lawyer for

Gavin Grimm, whose bathroom case is before the Supreme Court, is the Secular Society Women's Rights Legal Fellow at the ACLU.

Eroding the standards of modestv between male and female makes society more dangerous for women. What may now seem to be a casual act for a man may be regarded as rape by a woman. The casualness we have introduced over recent decades I think is responsible for the well-publicized statistic that 20 percent of college coeds are sexually assaulted.

While I therefore believe bathroom use should be based on biological gender, I understand that this imposes a great hardship on transgender persons. I would hope that other social conservatives would understand this too.

> **Arthur Purves** Vienna

## Stopping Gerrymandering in Virginia

To the Editor:

As the new legislative year begins in Richmond, I hope more voters will join the effort to stop gerrymandering in Virginia. An overwhelming majority of us (as well as Presidents Reagan and Kennedy in the past and Clinton, G.H.W. Bush, G. Bush, and Obama now) favor this cause.

To stop gerrymandering, we must change Virginia's constitution. And as long as our legislators can make law in back rooms and with voice votes (that record yea or nay but not individual legislator's votes), that won't happen. We'll all have to step up. To learn how, visit OneVirginia2021.org and look up "Delegate Jerry Mandering" on Facebook.

> **Dianne Thomas** Fairfax

## Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor The Connection 1606 King St. Alexandria VA 22314 Call: 703-917-6444. By e-mail: north@connectionnewspapers.com



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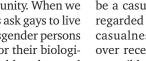
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cacy plan, online advocacy tools, and why citizen advocates make a difference. Attendees will have time to develop their own campaigns. Presenters are local citizens with a proven record of leading advocacy campaigns: FABB members Sonya Breehey, Bruce Wright, and Alan Young, and Fionnuala Quinn of The Bureau of Good Roads. FABB is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization

dedicated to improving conditions for bicyclists of all ages, nationalities, and walks of life. Over the past decade FABB has played a key role in advancing bicycling in Fairfax County. More information about the organization and workshop can be found at www.fabb-bikes.org or by contacting Bruce Wright at info@fabb-bikes.org or 703-328-9619.





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#### Great Falls Connection & January 18-24, 2017 & 7



## Education Learning Fun



The Kids4Peace Interfaith Summer Camp is aimed at helping to break down religious stereotypes.

## Planning for Summer Camp Local camp fairs help families navigate

Local camp fairs help families navigate the maze of summer camp offerings.

By Marilyn Campbell The Connection

n an effort to confront religious intolerance, a group of local middle school students will attend a camp aimed at

bringing together children from different religions and giving them the chance to come together, make new friendships, visit houses of worship, learn about other traditions and practice dialogue to confront Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism.

"Campers will get experiences in synagogues, mosques and churches," said Shoshana Abrams of Kids4Peace. "They'll see how others pray, how they celebrate and what they believe. It's helping to break down stereotypes. A lot of interfaith action is needed to combat Islamophobia and bring together people of different faiths."

Kids4Peace's Interfaith Day Camp is one of a diverse variety of summer camps available to local children. From performing arts, wilderness adventures and sports to language immersion, standardized test prep and community service, the summer offerings in the Washington region are plentiful. Though warm weather is months away, this is the time to start planning for camp and finding the best fit, say child development experts. "You want to include your child from the beginning of the process," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D , professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. "Explore options by following their interests. I like to ask kids 'What problem would you like to solve?' For instance, would they like to learn how to play basketball, how to make a rocket, how

to see other galaxies, how to paint with acrylics, how to star in a play? These [questions] will point you in a direction that is good for both you and your child."

Local camps fairs such as the Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo, offer access to a variety of both day and overnight options in one location. "We want parents to know that there are many different options out there, and they're going to find out all the specifics about many camps," said Jacky Dooly, of Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo and Washington Parent in Bethesda, Maryland. "There will be specific sports camps like swimming and martial arts. Maybe child has academic issues and they need to get caught up. If so, there are academic programs."

Before attending a camp fair,



Face painting will be one of the activities available at the Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com





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Camp fairs, such as the Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo, give families an opportunity to see the variety of summer camps available.

Dooly suggests that families prepare themselves, and there are questions that she recommends parents ask prospective camp officials. "Does the camp offer early morning care as well as later evening care?" she asks. "Find out information about the food that is offered at the camp. How much activity will your child get during the day? If you're interested in a particular camp, find out if it fits within your budget."

"I'd also want to know how they are going to keep your child safe, how they encourage participation, and the percentage of returning camp counselors and campers," added Lorente. "If you have a camp with high return rates that indicates that it is a place where people want to be."

Mandarin immersion, public speaking and science exploration are among the choices that will be available this summer at BA-SIS Independent Summer McLean. Noting that this will be the camp's inaugural summer, Asha Bruot, spokeswoman for

## For More Information

#### 2017 CAMP & SUMMER FUN EXPOS

 Sunday, Jan. 29: The Montgomery County Camp & Summer Fun Expo/ Hilton Hotel & Executive Meeting Center/Rockville, Md.
Saturday & Sunday, Feb, 25-26: The Northern Virginia Camp &

Summer Fun Expo/Dulles Town Center Mall, Dulles, VA. www.washingtonparent.com/

Kids4Peace Camp: http:// www.k4p.org/chapters/washingtondc/

**Tips on Trips and Camps:** (Feb. 12, 1-3:30 p.m.(, Walt Whitman High School(, 7100 Whittier Blvd. Bethesda, Md., 301-881-0547 or http://tipsontripsandcamps.com/dc/

McLean BASIS, says that there will also be "a traditional day camp for students in first through fifth [grades] with thematicallylinked activities, classroom projects, outdoor games, drama, music, and art."

"Summer camp should be a place for your child to explore, play [and] become," said Lorente. "The school year has become so structured. I would want a camp that has embedded in it time for child-directed exploration [and] free-time."





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News



Fairfax County Public Schools interim superintendent Steve Lockard spoke at the FCPS school board regular business meeting, announcing the budget, on Jan. 12.

"We wanted to advocate

have, but we need to be

- Steve Lockard,

Interim Superintendent,

**Fairfax County Public Schools** 

for the needs that we

prepared should the

funding not occur."

## Lockard Channels Garza, Proposes \$2.8 Billion FCPS Budget

FY2018 focuses on employee compensation and classroom resources.

> By Tim Peterson The Connection

airfax County Public Schools interim superintendent Steve Lockard is asking for \$130.4 million more for the school system's

FY2018 operating budget than the previous year, a 4.9 percent increase, to a total of \$2.8 billion.

Lockard spoke at the school board's regular business meeting, announcing the budget, on Jan. 12.

"This really is a basic needs budget," Lockard said in an interview. He stressed that two key priorities

of the proposed budget are employee compensation and classroom resources.

"Our programs are what separate Fairfax County from other school systems," he said. "We're only as good as the people we have leading them."

Fairfax County Public Schools' population has eclipsed 188,000 students at around 200 schools and centers. The staff is nearly 28,000 employees, 90 percent based in the schools.

In 2016, former superintendent Dr. Karen Garza and an advertised transfer from the supervisors, led a charge for increasing teacher salaries, which Lockard has already reconvened a budget task force she said have been lagging behind the market aver- that spent six months combing through the budget age and are causing Fairfax County to lose teachers to surrounding jurisdictions as well as fail to attract high quality new instructors.

Last year's approved budget managed a step increase for employees and began a four-year plan for bringing salaries to the market average.

"We really started in earnest last year," Lockard

said, "the biggest part of the budget proposal continues that work."

The FY2018 proposed budget includes \$44 million for an average step increase of 2.5 percent for all eligible employees, including teachers and nonteachers. As part of that multi-year market averagematching plan, there's also a \$33.2 million investment for teacher pay.

Another \$41.2 million covers "anticipated increases in health insurance and contributions to the retirement systems," according to a release from FCPS.

Kimberly Adams is president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs. She's also a librarian at Mantua Elementary School.

"The most encouraging thing is the superintendent kept class size and teacher compensation at the forefront," she said.

But getting a 5.7 percent raise over FY2017 in the transfer from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors "is going to be a struggle," said Adams.

Lockard said the FCPS budget requires 72.2 percent of the total revenue from the county.

"We're so appreciative of our funding partners at the Board of Supervisors for the collaborative work last year," he said. "We wanted to advocate for the needs that we have, but we need to be prepared should the funding not occur. We recognize the challenging fiscal times."

Pre-empting the school board's adoption of this budget

last year looking for inefficiencies and opportunities to trim.

"The group will examine work from last year, but also, any additional things we haven't considered," Lockard said, adding that the group is already at work.

SEE FCPS BUDGET. PAGE 15

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

## News Let Horses Play Piano, Too

By Ken Moore The Connection

reat Falls resident Kim Karanik navigated a three-and-a-halfyear obstacle course to make riding activities and equestrian lessons more accessible and available to county children.

"I stand by the strength children gain from riding," she testified before the Planning Commission on Thursday, Jan. 12.

Dranesville Supervisor John Foust served as a course judge of sorts, Karanik said, helping her navigate county policy along the way. The county created an Equestrian Task Force which published a report in March 2012 that claimed "zoning regulations act as obstacles in providing equestrian opportunities for private horse owners as well as commercial equestrian-related providers."

The Planning Commission held a public hearing Thursday, Jan. 12, to discuss a change to zoning ordinance that will allow "small scale horseback riding lessons as a home occupation subject to specific limitations designed to minimize the impact of the lessons on surrounding properties," according to Planning Commission documents.

THE BOARD of Supervisors will hold its public hearing on Feb. 14.

Specifically, the proposed ordinance would allow residents to conduct riding lessons at home like piano lessons, tutoring, or other private instruction activities.

According to Planning Commission documents, hours of operation would be limited from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to minimize impact on surrounding neighbors; and all horses for riding must be kept on the property and can't be transported or ridden to the property for lessons. On lots between two and five acres, the maximum amount of instruction is eight students in one day and no more than two students can be given lessons at any given time. On lots five acres or more, a maximum of four students can be taught at any given time.

"This has garnered so much support from the riding and equestrian community," said at-large Planning Commissioner Janyce Hedetniemi. "It has been encouraging to those of us who love horses here in Fairfax County."

About six equestrian supporters testified in support after another Great Falls resident highlighted impacts that the proposed ordinance could have on surrounding neighbors.

"This type of applicant needs to be given public scrutiny. There's a huge difference between indoor piano lessons and outdoor

See Horse Riding, Page 13





## Announcing Group Interviews for The Kensington Falls Church Interview with Us at

700 West Broad Street in Falls Church Thursdays from January 19-March 2 at 11am & 4pm Saturdays from January 21-March 4 at 11am

r ave you been searching for an organization with heart? Where you can make a difference in many lives? Where you can grow professionally and personally? Kensington Senior Living has been built upon two key values: a Love for Seniors and a Spirit to Serve. We are looking for individuals who share these values and would like to join our team in Falls Church, where we will love and care for our residents as we do our own families.

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Great Falls Connection 🔹 January 18-24, 2017 🔹 11

## Calendar

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

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 18

**McLean Newcomers and Neighbors Monthly Luncheon** 11:30 a.m. Duangrat's Thai, 5878 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA. Patrick Lucas of the Fairfax County. Police Crime Prevention Unit will speak. Cost of the luncheon: \$22. To R.S.V.P. for the luncheon, e-mail Gloria Cohan,

gloriacohan@gmail.com by January 12. Prospective members are invited. www.McleanNewcomers.org

### SATURDAY/JAN. 21

Shakespeare's "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" 2 p.m.; Live music at 1:30 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. When longdistance love tangles the heartstrings

of the play's title characters, it takes two clever women, a pair of devoted servants and a dog to make things right. Shakespeare tries out some of his most popular ideas for the first time in this early comedy. \$35/\$25 MCC tax district residents.

Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" 7:30 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. With its ravishing language and uproarious comedy, "Romeo and Juliet" celebrates love's triumph and its trivialities. Verona's walls embrace the volatility of youth as well as the wisdom and restraint that often escape young and old alike. Admission: \$35/\$25 MCC tax district

residents



## 'Poema de Andalucía' at The Alden on Saturday, Jan. 28

New York City's Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana, one of the nation's premier flamenco and Spanish dance companies, comes to The Alden at the McLean Community Center (MCC) for a single performance at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28. Tickets are \$35 for the general public, \$20 for MCC tax district residents. The theatre is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue. Tickets are on sale now. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit:www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 22

Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" 2 p.m.; Live music at 1:30 p.m. The Ålden 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. A moving look at life in the

small town of Grover's Corners, "Our Town" examines what it means to grow up. Through three acts: "Daily Life," "Love and Marriage" and "Death and Eternity," Thornton Wilder studies the deeply personal

yet remarkably universal lives of the Webb and Gibbs families. This poignant American tale explores friendship, love and death, but most importantly, what it truly means to live. Admission: \$35/\$25 MCC tax

district residents. ASC Ticket Package: Purchase tickets to all three plays and a pre-performance seminar, 'Brush Up Your Shakespeare" on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. for \$88/\$60 MCC tax district residents.

#### THURSDAY/JAN. 26

"Arts Night Out" 6:30 - 9 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. MPA Exhibitions Director, Nancy Sausser, will guide us through the artwork on exhibit with an insightful Art Talk at 7:45 p.m. All proceeds from this benefit will be donated to local charities. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. For more information and to order tickets visit www.ndwc.org.

#### FRIDAY, JAN.27

McLean Art Society Meeting with Oil Painter Pattie Hipscher 10 noon McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. Ms. Hipscher teaches at the Washington Art League and is a recent recipient of an award from The Arlington Artist's Alliance for a portrait of her son. 703-790-0123

Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips Bazooka Ball Sports 3:30 - 10 p.m. Join the staff at The Old Firehouse as they go to Bazooka Ball Sports to play two versions of indoor, paint-less paintball, using Nerf and airsoft balls instead of actual paintballs. Pizza, arcade tokens and two hours of Bazooka Ball are included in the fee. A signed waiver is required by Bazooka Ball for participation. \$40/\$30 MCC district residents

See Calendar, Page 13

## Always protect yourself by hiring a licensed contractor for your remodeling project!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Enforced by Federal law all states must have a transparent website that clearly shows all contractors licenses. If they've ever paid taxes in VA, they're in there. Easily validate your contractor by going to http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/ LicenseLookup/

Contractors are validated through their Class License and Specialty Licenses. Class C contractors can only perform jobs of a monetary value up to \$10,000.00 and ONLY \$150,000 yr. Class B contractors up to \$120,000.00, and no more than \$750,000 per yr. Class A there is no monetary limit.

For Bathroom or Kitchen remodels a number of different Specialty Licenses are required. BLD License covers framing, drywall, tile work. PLB covers all plumbing such as the replacement of shower and kitchen faucets. ELE covers electrical work such as the replacement of lighting. HVA covers the replacement of ventilation fans and range hoods.

#### How do I submit a complaint about my Unlicensed **Contractor?**

Due to code limitations in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, complaints regarding construction activity more than two years old cannot be accepted.

• If a person identifies him/herself as a licensed contractor and it is discovered the person is not licensed, it is a violation of State and County Code. Complaints/violations may be reported using the online complaint form; or

• Call the Department of Code Compliance at 703-324-1300, TTY 711, to start the complaint process and an investigator from the Code Enforcement Branch will contact you; or · Call the Virginia State Department of Professional and

Occupational Regulation at 804-367-8500, TTY 711. What are the risks of Unlicensed Contractors?

## In most circumstances, unlicensed contractors offer lower

quotes because they do not pay a licensing fee, or obtain a oond to protect their work, and in many cases, don't purchase liability or workers compensation insurance. Without these

expenses, the unlicensed contractor can offer a lower rate.

Many things can go wrong on a construction site, from injuries to shoddy workmanship to destruction of power, sewer or water lines. Ultimately, all issues are the responsibility of the general contractor. The general contractor and their insurance carriers are the primary payers in the event something goes awry on the job.

What most people don't know is that if you don't hire a licensed and insured contractor to handle your project, you're the general contractor! If your unlicensed contractor breaks a sewer line, you're responsible. If a worker gets hurt and can't work for two years, and there's no workers compensation coverage in place, you are on the hook for that workers' medical bills and lost wages

The implications of using an unlicensed contractor go beyond the risks associated with the property worked on and injury to the workers. A homeowner or association that hires an unlicensed contractor can also be liable for the negligence of the contractor.

A neighboring property, a passerby or other property that is negligently damaged by the contractor can lead to liability to the person that hired the contractor. As the contractor's employer the hiring party is responsible for the contractor's actions during the course of that employment.

When a general contractor takes on a job they have overall responsibility for legal compliance, safety, quality of workmanship and just about everything else that happens on the job site. What's more, your homeowners insurance or landlord liability insurance isn't going to cover you for these events.

All policies exempt damage caused by the use of illegal or unlicensed contractors. Fire and water damage can be... expensive. If an unlicensed contractor improperly installs an appliance, such as a water heater that leaks and in rare instances explodes, your insurance will not cover it. If an unlicensed contractor installs an appliance, such as a dishwasher. and so on, the product warranty will be voided.

> Fully Insured & **Class A Licensed** Since 1999

If you knowingly enter into a contract with an unlicensed contractor, you are not allowed to use the fact that the contractor is unlicensed as a defense for non-payment. Note that an unlicensed contractor can still file suit for fraud and deceit.

Those who are caught contracting without a license likely will have to appear before a District Court Judge and DPOR investigator to answer to misdemeanor charges that can carry a potential sentence of up to six months in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine, as well as an administrative fine of \$200 to \$15,000.

If illegal contracting continues, the penalties become more severe. A second offense results in a mandatory 90-day jail sentence and a fine of 20 percent of the contract price or \$5,000. https://vacode.org/54.1-1115/

Felony charges are filed against anyone who illegally uses another person's contractor license or who tries to mislead consumers into believing that he or she is a licensed contractor. Anyone who contracts for work in a state or federal natural disaster area without an active state contractor license also could face felony charges. If convicted of a felony, a person may have to serve time in state prison.

Furthermore, your state contractor board will not "typically" help you to make a warranty claim "Contractor Recovery Fund" against an unlicensed contractor. So if you are trying to recover at all, you will need to go to civil court. Even if you win in civil court, without a bond, there's a good chance the unlicensed contractor will not be able to pay your damages

Recently, Fairfax County has been using sites like Zillow and Realtor.com to see if improvements have been done when selling ones home! AGAIN, the days of hiring an unlicensed "Friend", or "Neighbor" to work for monetary purposes is strictly prohibited and is easily verified through

http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup/. All in all, it's not worth it! Always protect yourself by hiring a licensed contractor for your remodeling project.

Free Estimates: 703-999-2928

Visit our Website: www.twopoorteachers.com

## Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling

TWO POOR TEACHERS

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From Page 12

#### FRIDAY & SATURDAY/JAN. 27 & 28 The Art of Marriage

Friday 6:45 - 9 p.m. Saturday 9 - 3 p.m. When you were standing at the altar reciting your marriage vows, did you have any idea that marriage would be so complex? It probably didn't take you long to understand that your spouse is not as much like you as you thought. But figuring them out is more than just an equation. Marriage is more than a science; it's an art. And like any art form, requires an investment of time, focused study and the right tools. If you need to soften some of the edges in your relationship, or want to brighten the landscape of your marriage, The Art of Marriage is for you. \$60 Early Registration by January 12. viennapres.org/ strengthen-your-marriage

## SATURDAY, JAN. 28

"Flamenco 101: An Overview of Flamenco History and Styles" 6:30 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. A lecture and Q&A session with Flamenco educator Estela Vélez de Paredez that will deepen your understanding of flamenco dance and make your experience watching Flamenco Vivo/Carlota Santana much richer. \$5/\$3 MCC tax district residents

Flamenco Vivo/Carlota Santana 8 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. You'll forget all about the winter weather outside when Flamenco Vivo/Carlota Santana heats up The Alden. Flamenco Vivo brings an exciting evening of flamenco to the stage featuring accomplished artists from the U.S. and Spain. \$35/\$20 MCC tax district residents.



Photo by Michael Bailey/Courtesy of McLean Community Center Romeo and Juliet in American Shakespeare Center's production of 'Romeo and Juliet.'

## 'Hungry Hearts Tour' Comes to McLean

American Shakespeare Center's "Hungry Hearts Tour" performing William Shakespeare's "Two Gentlemen of Verona," "Romeo and Juliet" and Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Performances are Jan. 21 & 22, 2017. "Romeo and Juliet," on Saturday, Jan. 21, 8 p.m. "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m. and "Our Town" on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2 p.m. For each performance the doors open and pre-show music starts 30 minutes before the performance. Tickets \$35/\$25MCC tax district residents. Tickets: visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123.

## Horse Riding Lessons Discussed

From Page 11

horseback riding instruction," she said, asking who will monitor care of the horses and the amount of activity that takes place.

No special events will be permitted. "Good luck enforcing that," said the Great Falls resident.

The zoning ordinance passed unanimously, but Mount Vernon Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan urged all to stay involved so the county can monitor the effectiveness of the ordinance, if passed by the supervisors, as well as "fine-tune" necessary specifications.

**CURRENTLY, A SPECIAL PERMIT** to teach riding lessons requires a \$8,180 application fee, just to start

#### the process.

"While evidence is anecdotal, the equestrian community has seen a long-term decline in the number of riding programs available in Fairfax County, as property owners and horse trainers are concerned about the consequences of potential zoning violations associated with the board of more than three horses or with offering any riding lessons," according to the staff reports.

Before last week's zoning ordinance hearing, Karanik said zoning regulations go "against one group of children that don't always fit into the soccer group or the basketball group.

"Every other sport, you're allowed to do at your home," said Karanik.







## Here's What's Happening at MCC

American Shakespeare Center Shakespeare Weekend @ The Alden



## Shakespeare's "The Two Gentlemen of Verona"

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m. Live music at 1:30 p.m. \$35/\$25 MCC district residents

## Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"

Saturday, Jan. 21, 8 p.m. Live music at 7:30 p.m. \$35/\$25 MCC district residents





## Thornton Wilder's "Our Town"

Sunday, Jan. 22, 2 p.m. Live music at 1:30 p.m. \$35/\$25 MCC district residents

## Onstage @ The Alden Flamenco Vivo/ Carlota Santana

Saturday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m. \$35/\$20 MCC district residents





## Just in Time for Valentine's Day! Better Than Bling Jewelry & Fashion Accessories Show

Saturday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$5; Free, children age 12 or younger



## I Think Therefore I'm Not

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As much as I write a good game, and talk a good game, I don't think as good a game as I write and talk. As I sit and write this column, on Saturday, January 14, I am four days away from my regular, recurring, quarterly CT Scan, scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, followed up almost immediately by my normal post-scan, face-to-face appointment (I have had telephone appointments) with my oncologist two days later on Friday, January 20. As you all are reading this column, it's almost like real time, except you only know my feelings and some dates. but not the results/facts.

Nor do I, of course, as of this column's publication and of your reading it, and therein lies the reason for this column. Waiting, wondering, worrying and hoping is what I/Team Lourie will be doing for the next six days. And though we've all been through it before (nearly eight years of 'it'), enduring 'it' never gets any easier. In fact, it gets more difficult in a way. Partially because, given my original "13 month to two-year prognosis, this waiting for scan results shouldn't be happening. I can't help thinking that I'm borrowing time. I wasn't diagnosed as "terminal" for nothing. I was/am a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, meaning the cancer had (1) metastasized (spread) which is never good and (2) was inoperable, which is self-explanatory. Both of which determine a stage IV diagnosis thereby minimizing one's options. Ergo, my prognosis. Yet here l am, nearly eight years later, anticipating the results of my next CT Scan to learn whether I've been given another reprieve or another reminder of why I was diagnosed stage IV in the first place: tumor growth and/or movement

Somehow, I must ignore the facts and the statistics, ignore the reality; and as Andy Dufresne said to "Red" in "The Shawshank Redemption:" Get busy living or get busy dying." Which as you regular readers know is what I try to do, or at least write like I try to do. And to friends and family, it appears to be what I'm doing. However, in my head, six days away from learning my fate (at least for the next three months until my next CT Scan/brain MRI), I am not exactly 'living' it. I'm stuck, more or less, between "why worry" and "what if?" As a consequence, I can't get out of my own way, sort of; heck, I can barely get out of other people's way.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not moping around "woeing-is-me;" that's not my nature. But I am having some difficulty deluding myself into thinking (living) that the next few days are somehow a random-type meaningless occurrence that will have no bearing on my life. Quite the contrary, it's everything. There's no more important time in my life than waiting for the results of the varying diagnostic tests that I have. And though I remain mostly asymptomatic now, (last week's column: "Slippery Hope" notwithstanding), I was also asymptomatic (generally speaking) when I was first diagnosed in February 2009. Consequently, feeling nothing does not provide the same comfort and joy as you might think. Granted, feeling symptoms would  $\bar{\mathrm{b}}\mathrm{e}$ worse. But considering that over the years feeling/not feeling symptoms have both lead to encouraging and discouraging results, I'm not comforted by anything until after my oncologist tells me if my warranty has been extended.

Feeling something, feeling nothing; I never know what to feel except fear — of the unknown, and for the next few days, my future is what's unknown. Living through that is always a challenge. If I've convinced readers and friends and family otherwise, all the better. Personally speaking, it's only easy writing and talking about it. Living it is another story entirely.

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





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Great Falls Connection & January 18-24, 2017 & 15





Jan & Dan Laytham Dianne Van Volkenburg

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