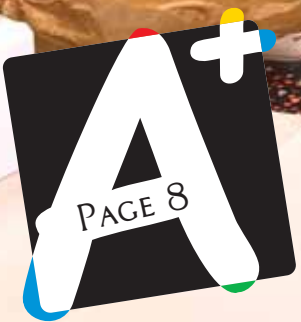


# Great Falls CONNECTION

## Eye Doctor Taps Out At 'Top Of Game'

NEWS, PAGE 3



### Search for Missing Woman in Great Falls National Park Called Off

NEWS, PAGE 3

### Evolving Land Use: Previous Classification

NEWS, PAGE 12

The Retina Group of Washington threw Manfred von Fricken of Great Falls a surprise retirement party.



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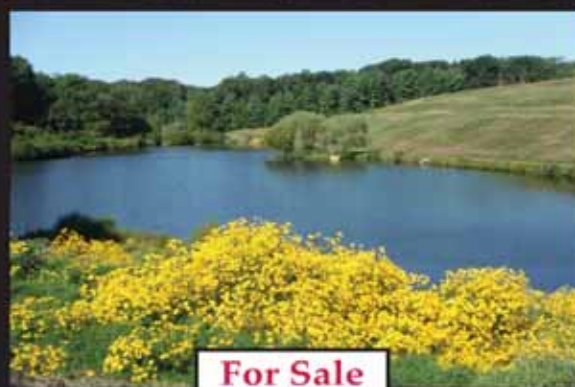
James Dodson

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774A Walker Road, Great Falls, VA 22066



**For Sale**

**FX9859062 - \$695,000 - Great Falls**  
**11430 Seneca View Way: 2.4 Acre Lot**  
Lot in Great Falls w/ Prior Approval for  
5 BR Home. Price to Sell Prior Perc Test had  
been for 5BR Home.



**For Sale**

**FX9853078 - \$9,000,000 - Great Falls**  
**UTTERBACK STORE RD: APPROXIMATELY 60 ACRES OF**  
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**BREATHTAKING VIEWS OF TYSONS CORNER,**  
**BETHESDA, & THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT**



**Coming Soon**

**Coming Soon - \$825,000 - Great Falls**  
**9105 Weant Dr: 5 BR, 3.5 BA**  
Home on Slightly Over 1/2 Acre Close to  
Potomac River & River Bend Park.



**Sold**

**FC9620280 - \$1,410,000 - Fairfax**  
**3516 Schuerman House Dr: 5BR, 4.5BA**  
Most Spacious/Dramatic Home in Pickets.  
Prime Location Backing to 15 Acre Park.  
Chef's Kitchen, Covered Porch, 1200 Sqft  
Deck, & 1000 Sqft Flagstone Patio.



**Sold**

**FX7553818 - \$2,000,000 - Great Falls**  
**938 Leigh Mill Rd: 6 BR, 5.5 BA**  
Beautiful Great Falls Custom Home on Over 4  
Acres w/ Newly Installed Pool. Amenities Incl:  
Hrdwd Flrs, Flagstone Patios, Marble & Granite  
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**Sold**

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Whole Home Audio. Exterior Landscaping w/  
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**Under Contract**

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Beautiful Colonial on 3+ Acres with Pond,  
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Chef's Kitchen Includes GE Appliances and  
everything you could possibly want.



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**FX9620068 - \$975,000 - Great Falls**  
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Join us on Monday, March 13th at our:  
**Military Appreciation Monday (MAM)**  
Event at The Old Brogue in Great Falls.  
We will be raising funds for the group:  
**CIA Officers Memorial Foundation**

And...

Wednesday, February 22nd for our new:  
**Law Appreciation Wednesday (LAW)**  
Event at Brx American Bistro in Great Falls.  
We will be raising funds for the group:  
**Virginia Public Safety Foundation**

**Bob Nelson**  
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## Eye Doctor Taps Out At 'Top Of Game'

**Doctor Manfred von Fricken of Great Falls has traded in his white coat for a pair of blue jeans.**

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**A** Great Falls doctor has traded in his white coat for a pair of blue jeans.

Doctor Manfred von Fricken is an ophthalmologist and retina specialist who pioneered research, treatment and surgical techniques as a founding member of the Retina Group of Washington before he chose to retire in December 2016.

Von Fricken graduated from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He continued his medical training with an internship in internal medicine at Shands Teaching Hospital at the University of Florida School of Medicine, a residency in ophthalmology at Georgetown Univer-



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

**Manfred von Fricken plans to spend much more time in his library when he isn't gardening or traveling with his wife.**

sity School of Medicine and a fellowship in vitreoretinal diseases at University Hospitals and Clinics at the University of Iowa College of Medicine.

After medical school, he thought he would live in Florida and planned to apply for an ophthalmology residency in Gainesville when the chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Georgetown University at the time, Peter Evans, called him to offer

him a spot at Georgetown.

He describes his acceptance of this offer as his proverbial fork in the road.

He met his wife Linda Galliher von Fricken in the cafeteria of the Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C., on the morning of St. Patrick's Day in 1977. He says he was eating donuts, drinking coffee and having a cigarette with a colleague who approached Linda to bum a light. She was

then invited to sit with them.

They have been together ever since.

**HE AND HIS WIFE** moved to Great Falls in 1986 and have been long-time members of the St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church on Springvale Road.

"I don't see us leaving," he said. "We're going to stay here."

He and his wife raised four grown children in their Great Falls home.

Their three sons Matthew, Alexander and Michael von Fricken all attended Gonzaga College High School in Washington, D.C., and live locally. His daughter Natalie Howard, who attended Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in D.C., now lives in Morocco with her husband who is a foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State. Together they are raising von Fricken's two grandchildren: Gracie, 3, and Vivienne, 1.

"My wife and I plan to go to Morocco, or wherever they are posted, to visit the grandchildren for a number of weeks," he said.

He started telling his patients about his plans a year in advance.

SEE EYE DOCTOR, PAGE 9

## Search for Missing Woman in National Park Called Off

**Park police spent three days searching Great Falls by land and helicopter.**

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he United States Park Police stopped searching for Becky M. McCleskey, 56, who was reported missing on Monday, Feb. 6.

"Right now we're not actively searching the area for her," Timothy Wallace, park police spokesperson, said on Friday, Feb. 10.

The park police spent three days searching the 800-acre, mostly forested Great Falls Virginia National Park by land and helicopter after McCleskey's car was found parked in its north parking area on Monday. Her car entered the park at 4:36 p.m. that evening.

The park was closed for two hours the following morning because of the investigation.

At 7:38 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 7, the Great Falls Park Facebook account posted a status informing the public that it was closed and warned visitors to call the visitor center before attempting to enter the park. By 9:47 a.m., the park posted a new status saying, "Great Falls Park is now back open!"



COURTESY OF THE UNITED STATES PARK POLICE  
**Becky M. McCleskey, 56, has been missing since Monday, Feb. 6, and was last seen leaving her home at 8 a.m. that day.**

"Essentially, we wanted to close the park to ensure visitor safety and to ensure that visitors didn't impact the crime scene,"



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETE PIRINGER

**The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service's River Rescue and Tactical Services Team deployed five boats to search the Potomac River on the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 7.**

Aaron LaRocca, National Park Service spokesperson, said.

The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service in Maryland joined the U.S. Park Police's search, combing the Potomac River along the Great Falls and Chesapeake and Ohio Canal parks.

"Maryland has jurisdiction in the river," Pete Piringer, MCFRS spokesperson, said. "They called us Monday night."

The swift water search was suspended

because of stormy weather at midnight on Feb. 7, but resumed hours later that morning. The team also searched on Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Search and rescue spokespeople were unwilling to provide details about the ongoing investigation, but the U.S. Park Police is asking anyone with information about McCleskey's whereabouts to call 202-610-7500 and refer to case No. 17-010649.





PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Nysmith "MATHCOUNTS" team, from left: Whitman Ochiai, Anand Advani, Anuraag Kaashyap, Kaien Yang and coach JoMarie Broccoli.

## Nysmith School Students Excel in Competitions

The most recent accomplishments of individual students and student teams from The Nysmith School for the Gifted continue a string of competitive achievements.

Here are a few of the activities/results:

**A total of 10 of Nysmith students** have advanced to the National History Bee Regional Finals, April 24 in Richmond, where the top middle schoolers in the region compete head-to-head answering questions split evenly between United States and non-U.S. history. Coached by Philip Baselice of Fairfax, the team includes:

- ❖ Anuraag Kaashyap (eighth grader from Herndon)
- ❖ Andrew Chen (eighth/Fairfax)
- ❖ Justin Ward (eighth/Vienna)
- ❖ Vance Kreider (eighth/Herndon)
- ❖ Misha Brancato (seventh/Alexandria)
- ❖ Quinn Griffith (seventh/Oak Hill)
- ❖ Neal Gupta (seventh/Vienna)
- ❖ Elise Bejtlich (sixth/Manassas)
- ❖ Aaron Joy (sixth/Herndon)
- ❖ Irene Zhao (sixth/Fairfax)

**The Nysmith "MATHCOUNTS" team** finished second in its Chapter last weekend and will be participating in the Virginia State event on April 4 in Glen Allen, Va.

MATHCOUNTS is a national middle school competitive program that promotes mathematics achievement through a series of engaging "bee-style" events. The Nysmith team is coached by JoMarie Broccoli of Herndon and the advancing students include:

- ❖ Whitman Ochiai, top score on team (eighth grader from Great Falls)
- ❖ Kaien Yang (eighth/Chantilly)
- ❖ Anuraag Kaashyap (eighth/Herndon)
- ❖ Anand Advani (seventh/Herndon)

**Several Nysmith debaters** scored impressive results in recent competitions.

❖ Among the students competing in this past weekend's DC Urban Debate League Tournament, coached by Marlene Laro of McLean: Alex Joel (eighth grader from McLean) and Caroline Huber (eighth /Great Falls), placed first in the Varsity Division. Two sixth graders, Aaron Joy of Herndon and Ben Joel of McLean, emerged victorious in the Novice Division.

Another group of Nysmith debaters took third place in the Holy Trinity Public Forum Debate Tournament. Under the direction of coach Maria-Theresa Dragg of Herndon, the winning team includes McKenzie Hiek (seventh grader from Great Falls), Sarang Arun (seventh/Fairfax) and Emma Jing (seventh/Oak Hill).



Nysmith School debaters, from left: Aaron Joy, Caroline Huber, Alex Joel and Ben Joel.



## We're Hosting an Open House at The Kensington Falls Church And you're invited!

Saturday, February 18, 2017 from 2pm-4pm  
at 700 West Broad Street

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**A**fter many months of planning and construction, our beautiful senior living residence at 700 West Broad Street is now open. Please join us for an open house to celebrate this milestone. Meet our team, mingle with families and guests, take a personalized tour and enjoy refreshments.

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# OBITUARY

## Richard J. Hesse, Colonel, US Army (Ret.) and Long-time Great Falls Resident, Dies at 95

Richard J. "Doc" Hesse, 95, died January 22, 2017, in Northern Virginia. One of 11 children, he was born in Bow Valley, Neb., to Joseph and Mary (Wortmann) Hesse and grew up on a farm homesteaded by his grandfather, Anton Hesse. Young Richard attended a one-room schoolhouse in his early years and was an active parishioner of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Bow Valley. He was always grateful for the scholarship he received which allowed him to attend Wayne State College. A subsequent appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point (Class of 1945) launched his military career.

Col. Hesse served 30 years in the US Army Corps of Engineers. He received a Masters in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University in 1949 where he met his beloved wife and partner of 42 years, Ellen. During his career, Col. Hesse had assignments and commands in the United States, Germany, Italy and the Philippines. He served in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. His distinguished career after the military included establishing the West Coast Regional Water Supply Authority in Florida and serving as a consulting engineer for over 20 years at internationally preeminent engineering firms. He was Chair of the US International Engineering Committee and served eight times as the US delegate to the Inter-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED  
**Richard J. Hesse**

national Federation of Consulting Engineers, and for many years on the Board of Governors of the Army and Navy Club of Washington, D.C.

He was a supportive and loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, godfather and friend, devoted to his church, his family, and to his many friends and USMA classmates. He was also an avid gardener, competitive tennis player and superior bridge partner. He is survived by his five children, Katherine of Milton, Mass., Dan (Diane) of Kansas City, Mo., Maria (Sharon) of Gilbert, Ariz., Trish (Dennis) of Madison

Township, Ohio, and Jeanne (David) of Great Falls, Va., three grandchildren, Kate, Ryan, and Evan, his brother Bud Hesse of Gravette, Ark., and his sisters, Betty Foxhoven of Wynot, Neb. and Elsie Lauer of Hartington, Neb.

Visiting hours will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 25, 2017 at the Murphy Funeral Home, 1102 W. Broad Street, Falls Church. A funeral mass will be held on June 26, 2017, at the Old Post Chapel at Fort Myer followed by interment with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Richard Hesse Scholarship Fund at the Wynot Education Foundation, P.O. Box 2, Wynot, NE 68792 ([www.wynotpublicschools.org](http://www.wynotpublicschools.org)) or to The Long Gray Line Fund at [www.westpointaog.org](http://www.westpointaog.org).

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## Ending Gerrymandering Important to Region

Efforts appear dead for this session, but elections later this year provide new opportunities.

While three bills that could have reined in the runaway gerrymandering in Virginia made it through the Virginia Senate to crossover, they died on Tuesday morning in a House subcommittee, despite some vocal Republican support.

In Virginia, Democrats have won every statewide election since 2010, and notably Barack Obama won the state in 2008 by more than 52 percent of the vote. Many of these victories have been narrow. In 2009, Republicans won Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General by strong margins.

It is reasonable, given these results, to expect that representation at the state level would be approximately even, with either Republicans or Democrats holding a small advantage. Instead, Republicans control the House of Delegates 66 to 34, and the Virginia Senate 21 to 19.

There is little competition for these seats as a result.

According to OneVirginia2021, an advocacy group for ending gerrymandering, 56 candi-

dates in the House of Delegates faced no real competition in the last general election in 2013, with 22 Democrats and 34 Republicans facing no major-party challenger. In the end, only two seats changed parties.

These same lawmakers are set to redraw the the boundaries for state legislative and congressional districts after the 2020 census, and the just-killed proposed constitutional amendments would have required that these not be motivated by partisan politics. By far the best approach would be to turn the process over to a non-partisan commission to draw boundaries in the best interests of Virginia citizens.

One of the proposals, cosponsored by Sen. Jill Vogel (R) and Sen. Janet Howell (D), passed the Senate 31-9, but died in the House subcommittee on a 5-2 vote.

It matters more here in Northern Virginia. Virginia is a Dillon Rule state, which means that localities have only the power specifically given to them by the General Assembly. It means that the economic engines of the state in Northern Virginia provide most of the financial wherewithal but citizens in Alexandria,

Arlington and Fairfax County are often unable to govern themselves as they wish because of control by a far more conservative General Assembly.

Real change starts locally. Anyone seeking change should tune in for this year's elections in Virginia, including all the seats in the General Assembly, plus Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. Every voter will choose one Virginia Senator and one member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Nonpartisan redistricting could support the best interests of the population, not the politicians.

**In 2016**  
Hillary Clinton (D) 1,981,473 (49.75%);  
Donald Trump (R) 1,769,443 (44.43%)

**In 2013:**  
McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789;  
Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389  
Northam (D) 1,213,155;  
Jackson (R) 980,257  
Herring (D) 1,103,777;  
Obenshain (R) 1,103,612

**In 2012:**  
Obama (D) 1,971,820;  
Romney (R) 1,822,522  
Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The Human Cost of Repealing ACA

To the Editor:

Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) recently voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act as well as make cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. The ACA provides subsidized private health insurance for those who cannot afford the incredibly high prices, including a healthy profit margin, that private providers charge. That is why the ACA came into existence in the first place. People were without health care because they could be turned down for pre-existing conditions and/or charged exorbitant monthly rates with incredibly high deductibles that they could not afford. Many have health care bankruptcy and debt stories to tell. The ACA now provides healthcare for millions who did not have it before. It also provides one-stop shopping for part time workers or freelancers who do not have job provided health care as well as for the self-employed.

What is this magical plan that the Republicans say will cover everyone at a lower cost? The answer, of course, is unsubsidized private, for-profit health insurance since they are vehemently against

a logical single payer system. It would definitely take magic for that to work this time since it didn't before! Remember the "death panel" scare—well that is what you can look forward to if you don't have affordable health insurance. They may try to dupe us with remedies such as Health Savings Accounts, but the catch is that you need money to put into such an account. If you don't have money for insurance how would you have money for an HSA? How would you be able to save enough in an HSA to afford a major operation and hospital stay or pay for extended cancer treatments.

They may say that you could buy health insurance across state lines. With only a few large health insurance providers operating in our country, it would not matter which state you bought a policy in. They say you can shop around for the best price which would lower health care costs. How many doctors must you have on speed dial so you can check prices while you are being rushed to a hospital in an ambulance? What if your appendix just burst or you had a stroke or a heart attack etc., etc. How will you be able to find the best deal if you are unconscious?

Our disjointed system of medical insurance, preventive care and prescription drug costs is the most expensive in the world. Why don't

we start treating this subject with some common sense and decency? Every person needs health insurance. We get sick, have accidents and injuries, give birth, age and die — it is the human condition. We all deserve care and compassion in this life.

In two years, we will be able to use our vote to elect someone who truly wants people to have affordable health insurance as well as someone who does not want to tear Medicare and Social Security apart.

**Rebecca Horahan**  
McLean

## Moms Demand Action Against Gun Violence

To the Editor:

This past weekend our quiet McLean community received the awful news of the murder-suicide of the Chen-Zhou family. Fairfax County Police reported that Hong Chen killed his wife, Shirley (48), and 16-year-old son, before shooting himself. We hear of awful stories like this one happening elsewhere, but this time it's our town. We know that the tentacles of this single act of gun violence reach far and wide.

As we offer thoughts and prayers to the family, friends, and all in the community whose lives were forever changed by this horrendous act, we must also direct our thoughts to our elected officials. The prayers they offer must be matched with their commitment to action. Demand their courage; demand they stand up to the gun lobby. Domestic violence ending in a fatal shooting is not rare. In America, most fatal domestic violence is committed with firearms. Fifty-two percent of American women killed with guns are killed by intimate partners or family members. Despite impressions from media coverage, 57 percent of mass shootings (defined as shootings in which four or more people are killed with a gun) are acts of domestic or family violence. While these numbers may sound overwhelming, there is something that can be done. First, readers should know that our current gun laws in Virginia are porous. Domestic abusers can purchase firearms without a background check (through loopholes at gun shows and online through classified ads like *Armslist.com*). Moreover, many abusers can keep their existing guns because not all protective orders result in a court ordered surrender of the firearm.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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## NEWS

# Job Fairs Match Teens, Employees

Supervisor Pat Herrity's (R-Springfield) office, along with a variety of business and community organizations, hosted two teen job fairs and resume building workshops last year. These events focused on students and younger job seekers looking for a variety of employment opportunities; full time, after-school, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, and volunteer positions. These two job fairs provided hundreds of teenagers the opportunity to get in front of employers and for employers to find talented Fairfax County students to fill their positions. More than 600 students and more than 70 employers attended both events combined.

This year, Herrity is teaming up with the Supervisors Kathy Smith (D-Sully District), Linda Smyth (D-Providence), and Daniel Storck (D-Mount Vernon) to bring our community four Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Resume Building Workshops. It is open to all teens in Fairfax County looking for employment or tips to build their resume. Free booth space

will be provided to any business or organization to advertise their available positions. Both teenagers and businesses/organizations may register to attend by visiting <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm>

## 2017 Schedule

- ❖ Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Chantilly High School. Co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathy Smith, Chantilly HS STEM Academy, and Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Saturday, March 18, 1 to 3 p.m., Oakton High School. Co-sponsored by Supervisor Linda Smyth and Oakton HS Marketing Department
- ❖ Saturday, April 1, 12 to 2 p.m., West Springfield High School. Co-sponsored by West Springfield HS Student Government Association and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Saturday, April 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., South County Secondary School. Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County Secondary School

## FAITH NOTES

*Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday at noon.*

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including an 8 a.m. worship service without music and a 10 a.m. worship service with nursery care available during the summer. 703-759-

2082.

**Passages DivorceCare** If you are experiencing the pain of separation or divorce, the caring community at Vienna Presbyterian Church invites you to attend Passages DivorceCare. This program offers a path toward healing. The next 15-week DivorceCare series will be held Tuesdays from 6:45 to 9 p.m. beginning on Feb. 21. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna. Cost

to cover materials is \$20, scholarships available. For more information or to register call 703-938-9050, go to [www.viennapres.org](http://www.viennapres.org), or send an email to [Passages@ViennaPres.org](mailto:Passages@ViennaPres.org).

**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, 450 Orchard St., NW Vienna.

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## OUR BEST OFFER ever



# Celebrating Black History Month

**Educators say these lessons are urgently needed in current racial climate.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**E**ven though Elavie Ndura knows that it is a daunting challenge to help children grasp the entirety of the African American experience in the shortest month of the year, each February she and other educators give it their best effort. This year, they feel it's more important than ever.

"With all of the racial experiences we're having these days, it's critical that children know their history and are not basing their knowledge on only what they see on television or what they hear from their friends," said Elavie Ndura, Ed.D., professor of education at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Research shows that children who understand their histories do better in school and in society, so it's critical that families teach their children about their history."

Ndura believes that the current racial climate in the U.S. gives this year's Black History Month additional significance. A study released last month by the Pew Research Center shows that among Americans, 61 percent of blacks, 58 percent of Hispanics and 45 percent of whites say that race relations in the United States are generally bad. Local educators say Black History Month offers opportunities to address issues of race by allowing the past to inform the present.

"We have seen for more than a year how people from different political viewpoints, but also races, sexes, cultures, religions, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic statuses related to each other in the present political climate, and it was troublesome," said Mika'il A. Petin, Ph.D., associate director of African and African American Studies at George Mason University. "Teaching the history of Black or African-heritage peoples in this month ... is necessary to starting difficult conversations about ... current race relations ... and social inequalities."

Race relations in our society have been deeply strained during the election and as America adjusts to a new presidential ad-

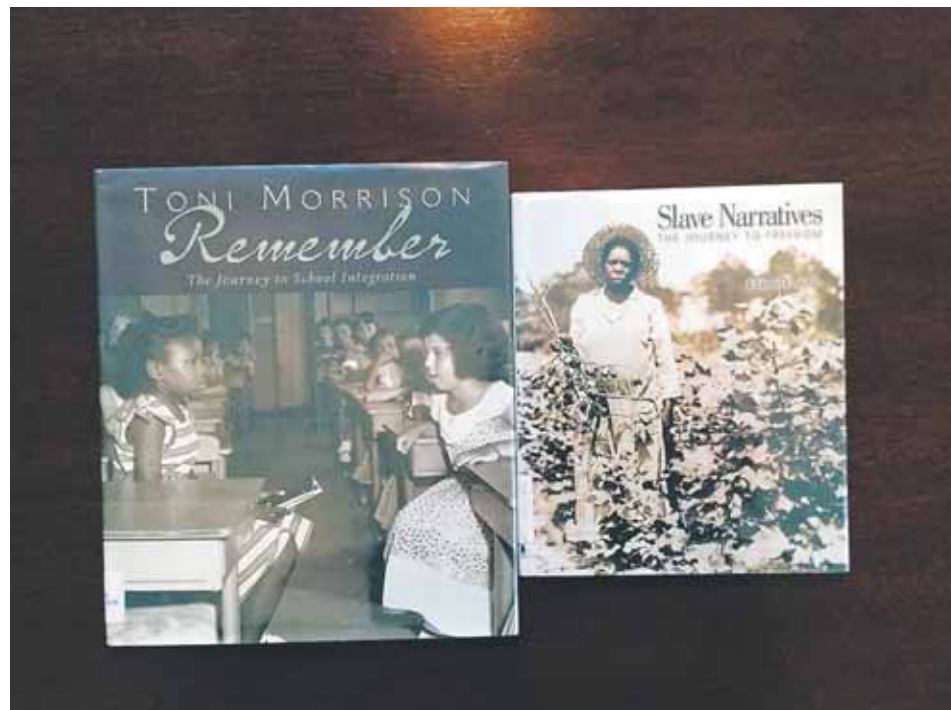


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

**Books that explore African American experiences are on display at libraries and bookstores during Black History Month.**

ministration. These divisions make African American history lessons critical for all children, but particularly for black children, says Ndura. "As African American parents we have a serious duty to educate our own youth," she said. "Knowing your history grounds and anchors you firmly so that you are not wavered in the wrong direction because of whatever feelings might be caused by what you're seeing on the news."

Black history lessons work best when they're intentional and creative, advises Jessica Lewis, Ed.D., assistant professor of education and human services at Marymount University in Arlington. "Children benefit when they are exposed to a variety of perspectives, ideas and stories because it helps expand their view of the world and people living in it," she said. "The ability to understand and identify with others and their experiences is a powerful, life-long lesson."

Lewis advises making a trip to a local bookstore or library to find books that offer a glimpse of African American history and suggests that parents begin with books on subjects that interest their children. "[Parents] may start with readings on sports, or science, or biographies of the accomplishments and hardships of individuals who persisted throughout history to make a difference," she said. "Parents can ... select books by black authors

and illustrators and then take the time to read the story together, discuss the pictures, and ask questions about what the characters are feeling and experiencing."

Other ideas include exploring music with roots in African American history such as ragtime, jazz, gospel and blues, making a timeline of major events that occurred during the Civil Rights Movement, and reading speeches from civil rights leaders and then helping children write their own speech about what they are inspired to change in the world. Such activities can open a natural discussion and need not be complicated to be effective, says Lewis.

"Parents are their children's first educators," said Lewis. "It is important for parents to help their children understand the experiences of other children who are not like them because it builds empathy and a deeper sense of community."

One roadblock to such honest conversations, cautions Petin, is a discomfort with discussions of racial differences.

"Let's be frank, some white Americans who are politically and socially conservative become noticeably uncomfortable with the topic of race, and therefore find difficulty with Black History Month," he said. "Yet, Black History Month — similar to the Black Lives Matter movement — does not express superiority over others. Both the month of celebration and sociopolitical movement are forms of resistance to deliberate attempts to conceal the worthiness of Black or African-heritage people in this country."

Some people "may attack Black History Month and Black Lives Matter as political correctness and identity politics, but I would argue that they are not seeing the humanity in both efforts," continued Petin. He emphasized the importance of taking a purposeful approach to teaching children about black history. "I think that all parents must intentionally search for, study, and celebrate those who are on the margins, living in the shadows, perceived as voiceless, and regarded as invisible. Too often, black Americans were those marginal, shadowed, voiceless, and invisible people. All parents should be honest about that, and should have confidence in the U.S. only being great when they and their children educate themselves on this country's history in more inclusive terms."

Schools often play a significant role in the month's activities. Students at the Bullis School in Potomac, Md., for example, attend a Black History Month assembly each February. This year's event was led by several students who shared their thoughts, essays and other projects on a variety of topics. "Diverse literature is always a great idea," added Allison Ewing, chair of the social studies department at Bullis.

"Twenty-eight days of teachable moments" is one way that Petin characterizes Black History Month. "It is never too early to start preparing your kids for a world that is increasingly more connected and shrinking," he said. "When all parents teach their children how to develop skill sets to understand, value, empathize, and celebrate those who may be different than them, the children are better prepared to function in the world."



**Bullis School fifth graders Elizabeth Martin and Will Simpson look on as their documentaries about the civil rights movement were presented to the school.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLIS SCHOOL



# Doctor Take on ‘Other Projects’

FROM PAGE 3

“It was really difficult telling all of these patients that I was going to retire,” he said. “I see some of them once a month.”

But he was looking forward to a slower pace of life. Working on retinas meant he was constantly on call.

“It involved operating a lot of nights because you had someone come in with a detached retina and you had to get them in the operating room,” he said. “Well, the operating room is full all day long. So, all of these operations were done as add-ons.”

Retinal detachments can happen to people of all ages and requires emergency surgery to avoid permanent damage, according to von Fricken.

“All of a sudden, when the jelly pulls away, you tear holes in the retina,” he explains. “And as the retina detaches, you suddenly have a curtain coming across your field of vision. With total retina detachment, you become totally blind in that eye.”

In von Fricken’s words, retinal surgery was the “Wild West of ophthalmology,” where he and his peers made it up as they went along.

While he was a fellow at the University of Iowa in 1979 and 1980, most retinal detachments were repaired with a scleral buckle, an invasive procedure of placing a large belt of silicone around the outside of the eye, then cinching it tight, necessitating post-operative positioning and often days of inpatient hospitalization with very swollen and painful eyes, he said.

During his career, this evolved into an outpatient surgery.

His main contribution to his field was the concept of retinal detachment repair with vitrectomy alone, without the scleral buckle, he said. A vitrectomy is a surgery to remove the vitreous gel from the middle of the eye.

This evolution in thinking and technique began in the mid 1990s and today has become mainstream, he said.

His practice then began a specialty of treating diabetics who face higher risk of damage to blood vessels in the retina of the eye, which is called diabetic retinopathy. Over time, this can lead to diabetic macular edema, which is the swelling of an area of the retina called the macula.

Mark Thompson, 64, of Kensington, Md., is a Type 1 diabetic who started seeing von Fricken in 1984. The doctor diagnosed him with retinopathy in one of his eyes.

Blindness can occur if this condition is ignored.

Thompson underwent several laser treatments with von Fricken where he used the heat from a laser to seal or destroy his abnormal and leaking blood vessels in the affected retina.

“You sit in the chair, you remain totally conscience and he has ... this little laser gun and he is basically looking at where those blockages are bleeding and he zaps them,” Thompson said. “It’s not really painful, but it’s tiring.”

After those treatments, Thompson’s problems stopped.

“I never got it in my other eye,” he said.

But Thompson would see von Fricken annually just to make sure his eyes were healthy.

Thompson is also a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter who wrote for Time before he retired in December—the same month as von Fricken.

“I was a reporter for many years and a reporter is an observer,” he said. “An observer, generally speaking, needs his or her eyes.”

He credits von Fricken’s skills for the preservation of his vision.

“I’ve spent a lot of time over the last 40 years looking at computer screens and typewriters, and I’m just grateful for the work he was able to do,” he said.

The last time he saw von Fricken was last fall when he was told about his long-time doctor’s retirement. He had been a patient of von Fricken for more than 30 years at that point.

Though von Fricken’s practice had multiple locations in Maryland, Thompson felt it was worth the trip to see von Fricken in Tysons.

“I felt he was worth it to make the longer trip,” he said.

Now that von Fricken has retired, he plans on going to an office location that is closer.

Von Fricken’s practice also sees many people who suffer from the leading cause of vision loss for people over the age of 60, which also affects the macula of the retina: macular degeneration.

Macular degeneration affects more than 10 million Americans – more than cataracts and glaucoma combined, according to the American Macular Degeneration Foundation.

“Everybody in their 80s and 90s, there’s a huge population of people who are being treated,” von Fricken said.

Von Fricken’s practice was involved in the original trial for a drug called Lucentis, a blood vessel growth inhibitor that treats macular degeneration.

He would administer this or similar drugs as outpatient procedures by numbing the eye and directly injecting it with a very fine needle.

“You had to talk some people off the ledge,” he said.

But the fear of getting a needle to the eye was worth the panic because of the results, which wear off if discontinued.

“People who would have inevitably lost a huge amount of vision were able to stabilize,” he said. “The stuff worked and tens of thousands of these injections are now given at the practice every year.”

**NOW IN RETIREMENT**, von Fricken has replaced his daily eye examines and injections with other projects that he hasn’t had time to do.

He is currently working on organizing family photos and letters and doing a couple crossword puzzles in his library. He also wants to get more involved in gardening.

He enjoys reading eclectic nonfiction and history and is currently reading “I, Claudius” by Robert Graves.

“The day fills up,” he said. “I’ll probably be as busy as I always was.”

His retirement was thoroughly planned. When he decided to inform his patients a year prior, he also decided to stop operating.

“I did my last four cases and I told my surgical staff that I was going to clean out my locker,” he said. “They were in shock.”

He wanted to go out at the “top of his game.”


“You want to stop these very fine micro surgeries while they’re still applauding,” he said. “I didn’t want to leave a trail of problems.”

He also used his final year with patients as a way to get advice about retirement. He had a wealth of patients who had gone through the process already.

“I had a lot of conversations about what people do in retirement and nine out of 10 had no regrets,” he said.

After being an expert in retinas for so many years, he is getting used to no longer being the expert in the room.

“Going forward, I don’t feel like I have to walk around with a white coat on, I’m just Manfred,” he said.



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**Find more information about submissions online at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets).**

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## Letter to our Great Falls Residents and Business Community

Our State Farm Insurance Agency was established in Great Falls in June, 1979. (37 years ago) We have advertised in the Connection Newspapers for the best part of that time...developing a tremendous marketing partnership.

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Our Agency will continue to support the Connection Newspapers throughout our career....which will be for many more years to come!

Sincerely,  
**Stephen**



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 MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM**

# CALENDAR

Send announcements to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia**, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. Visit [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org).

**McLean Community Players "Company."** Fridays-Sundays/Feb. 3-19 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. A 1970 musical comedy based on a book by George Furth with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The original production was nominated for a record-setting fourteen Tony Awards and won seven. \$25/\$23 MCC tax district residents. Visit <http://www.mcleanplayers.org/>.

**The Freeman Store & Museum** Wednesday through Sunday noon - 4 p.m. 131 Church Street NE Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. [Historicviennainc.org](http://Historicviennainc.org)

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

**Bingo Night.** Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. [www.vvfd.org/bingo.html](http://www.vvfd.org/bingo.html).

**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 flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. [www.edimprovement.org](http://www.edimprovement.org). 571-213-3192.

**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](http://FreeTaiChi.org). 703-759-9141.

**Fishing Rod Rentals** 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental

(2hr max). Valid driver's license required. Our rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for persons 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/)

**Colvin Run Mill** open 11-4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Winter Hours: January & February, 11am-4pm, last tour 3pm. Admission to park is FREE except for some special events.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 16

**Live Music.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East Vienna. Fred Eaglesmith will be performing. Visit [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## FRIDAY/FEB. 17

**Mayor's Walk.** 9:30 a.m. at Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. Meet Mayor Laurie DiRocco in front of Town Hall for a stroll through Town as well as conversation and camaraderie. Free. Call 703-255-6304 for more.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 18

**1964 Beatles Tribute Band.** 8 p.m. at the Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road. Recreates the Fab Four's early '60s concerts, complete with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles, and onstage banter. \$38-42. Visit [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/) for more.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 18

**Cars & Coffee.** 6-9 a.m. at Katie's Coffee House, Village Centre, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Antique, classic, and new cars are on display, share stories over morning coffee with car owners, neighbors, and friends. Visit [katiecarsandcoffee.com/](http://katiecarsandcoffee.com/) for more.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

**Concert: The Daraja Ensemble** 4 - 6 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. This fellowship woodwind quintet from the University of Maryland takes its name from the Swahili word for "bridge." Coming together from around the country and abroad, their wide-ranging performances include ongoing outreach to Tanzania. \$30 at the door or season pass \$150. Visit [amadeusconcerts.com/](http://amadeusconcerts.com/)

## MONDAY/FEB. 20

**Contacts Create Cash** 9:45-11 a.m. Potbelly Sandwich Shop, 1577 Spring Hill Road #100, Tysons. Contacts Create Cash is an OPEN networking group for professional salespeople, business owners, and networking marketing professionals who wish to build a referral based business. Our meeting format is as follows: 1/3 sales/marketing/business training, 1/3 discussion/learning exercise, 1/3 60 second attendee introductions with open networking before the meeting and after the meeting. Cost: Free. Contact discussion moderator David Hillelsohn at [david@dhilfinancial.com](mailto:david@dhilfinancial.com). RSVP to Marie Benoit at [Marie@DrMarieBenoit.com](mailto:Marie@DrMarieBenoit.com).

## TUESDAY/FEB. 21

**Gardening with Native Plants.** 10 a.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE. David Roos will provide insights on plants and gardening. Free. Visit [viennapres.org/](http://viennapres.org/) for more.

**Discussing C&O Canal Companion.** 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Dranesville Church of the Brethren, 11500 Leesburg Pike. Guest speaker at the The Great Falls Senior Center event, author Mike High, has cycled in many places around the world but the trail along the C&O Canal is his favorite. Contact Polly Fitzgerald at [pollyfitz1@verizon.net](mailto:pollyfitz1@verizon.net) or call 703-759-4345. Visit [gfseniors.org](http://gfseniors.org).

## FRIDAY/FEB. 24

**Unruly Theater Project.** 7-9 p.m. at the The Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Professional teen improvisation company offers a night of comedy, and more. Free. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org/teens](http://www.mcleancenter.org/teens).

## FEB. 24-25

**Scrapbooking Weekend.** 6 p.m.-midnight at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, 400 Center St. S., Vienna. Snacks included, vendors on-site so you can purchase supplies or get expert advice. \$60. Contact Lisa Emerson at [lisaemerson3@verizon.net](mailto:lisaemerson3@verizon.net) or 703-981-4504.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 25

**Cars & Coffee.** 6-9 a.m. at Katie's Coffee House, Village Centre, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Antique, classic, and new cars are on display, share stories over morning coffee with car owners, neighbors, and friends Visit [katiecarsandcoffee.com/](http://katiecarsandcoffee.com/) for more.  
**Meet Me in Paris.** 8 p.m. at The Alden

## Call for Candidates McLean Community Center 2017 Governing Board Election

### Qualification:

Must be a resident of Small Tax District 1A-Dranesville.

### Petition to Become A Candidate:

- Candidate must pick up own petition packet at the Center, and return own petition.
- Adult candidate must have ten (10) signatures of adult tax district residents on petition.
- Teen candidate must be 15-17 years old as of McLean Day (May 20) and have ten (10) signatures of teens also 15-17 years old who live in the tax district and in the candidate's high school boundary area.

### Positions:

- Three (3) Adult Seats - Three-year terms.
- Two (2) Youth Seats - One-year terms. One (1) each for the Langley and McLean High School boundary areas.

### Key Petition Dates:

- **January 23:** Petition Packets are available at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA.
- **March 17:** Completed Petitions are due at the Center by 5 p.m.

For more information visit the Center at:  
 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101  
 call: 703-790-0123, TTY: 411  
 email: [elections@mcleancenter.org](mailto:elections@mcleancenter.org)  
 or visit: [www.mcleancenter.org/about/candidates](http://www.mcleancenter.org/about/candidates)



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# CALENDAR



## Live Music

On Saturday, Feb. 25, the Hot Club of San Francisco's "Meet Me in Paris" brings an evening of gypsy jazz to The Alden in McLean, 1234 Ingleside Ave. Showtime 8 p.m., \$35 for the general public; \$20 for McLean tax district residents. Visit [mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre](http://mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre) or call 703-790-9223 for more.

in McLean, 1234 Ingleside Ave. The Hot Club of San Francisco's "Meet Me in Paris" brings an evening of gypsy jazz. \$35 for the general public; \$20 for McLean tax district residents. Visit [mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre](http://mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre) or call 703-790-9223 for more.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 26

**Southern Avenue Concert.** 8 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E. \$12-\$20. Go to [www.southernavenueband.com](http://www.southernavenueband.com) for more.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 4

**Wine Tasting River Bend Country**

**Club** 7-10 p.m. There will be a selection of Hors d'oeuvres, cheeses and fine wines and mingling with long-time and new neighbors.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 12

**Chantilly Egg Hunt.** Saturdays and Sundays. 26469 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly. Join the Easter Bunny and search for candy and toy-filled eggs. Visit [www.ticonderoga.com/about](http://www.ticonderoga.com/about).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 16

**Vietnam Veterans Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D

Cedar Lane. Volko Ruhnke will discuss the development of his successful board game, "Fire in the Lake, Insurgency in Vietnam." Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 19

**Old-Fashioned Egg Hunt & Roll** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at 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, hosted by Historic Vienna, Inc. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).



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## Here's What's Happening at MCC

### The Old Firehouse



### Unruly Theatre Project

Friday, Feb. 24, 7-9 p.m.

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### Concerts @ The Alden

### Young Soloists Recital

Sunday, Feb. 26, 3 p.m.

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### Old Firehouse Family Movie Night

### "The Secret Life of Pets"



Friday, March 3, 7-9 p.m.

\$3 per person; pre-registration recommended.



### An Alden Production

### "The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales"

Saturday & Sunday, March 11-12 & 18-19, 3 p.m.

\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

### McLean Traveler Day Trip

### 2017 Philadelphia Flower Show

Wednesday, March 15

6:45 a.m.- 8 p.m.

\$136 per person/\$131 MCC district residents



### Closing Notice



MCC and The Old Firehouse will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, for the George Washington's Day holiday. The centers will reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21.



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Alden Theatre • McLean Community Center

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The McLean Community Players, Inc. is funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

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# Evolving Land Use: Previous Classification

**Board approves plan for nine homes on 11 wooded acres in Great Falls.**

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

Sandra Cappiello made one last attempt to prevent the felling of 11 acres of trees near her property on land that used to be the Hill Nursery.

“Gulick Group’s proposal would remove hundreds, if not, we believe, thousands, of trees in environmentally sensitive land,” said Cappiello.

“There are very large trees on this property and the density is approximately 100 trees per acre. We’re talking about 11 acres, that’s a lot of trees,” said Dranesville Tree Commissioner Robert Vickers, speaking to the Board of Supervisors as a Great Falls resident.

The Supervisors granted The Gulick Group’s application to build a nine-lot cluster subdivision on the 11 acres of land in Lexington Estates at its Board Meeting on Jan. 24. Originally, Gulick proposed 10 houses.

The average lot size will be 32,425 square feet, according to planner Bob Katai.

“Gulick has done a lot to preserve the number of trees. I give them a lot of credit for that,” said Vickers.

“I just wish that they could somehow reduce the footprint of clear cutting,” he said. “There is a lot of concern about storm runoff due to the clear cutting. The whole thing is going to require a lot of grading and grading means tree loss.”

Vickers offered to assist by advising on the development process, an offer accepted by Gulick’s representative Gregory Riegler, to identify more trees that could potentially

be saved.

Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust called word use of “clear cutting” a misnomer since The Gulick Group plan more than doubles the tree preservation and tree canopy required under land use zoning requirements.

“[Clearcutting] is not what is happening here,” said Foust.

“This application dramatically exceeds minimum requirements,” said Foust. “The community worked hard and the applicant worked cooperatively with us.”

Riegler, representing The Gulick Group,

**“There is a lot of concern about storm runoff due to the clear cutting. The whole thing is going to require a lot of grading and grading means tree loss.”**

— Robert Vickers, Great Falls

said final tree canopy coverages are 73 percent greater than the minimum amount required and the overall tree preservation commitment is 66 percent greater than the required targets.

“I think you have a tree preservation success story,” said Riegler.

**THE GULICK GROUP** applied to rezone the property from R-A (Residential Agricul-

tural) to R-1 in order to permit development of a nine-lot cluster single family subdivision at a density of 0.82 dwelling units per acre.

The area, part of Lexington Estates, is currently an undeveloped, forested, 11-acre parcel that is composed of moderate slopes that steepen towards the Piney Run floodplain.

The application was originally heard by the Planning Commission in July, which recommended approval of the application in December.

“The history that’s brought us to this afternoon is interesting on a lot of levels,” said Riegler.

“To start,...the existing RA zoning was an existing agricultural use for a planned nursery. What this application practically does

**“[Clearcutting] is not what is happening here.”**

— Supervisor John Foust, praising tree preservation in Gulick plan

“My Planning Commissioner at the Planning Commission hearing recognized this wasn’t something we could be comfortable with and it has evolved,” said Foust.

Because of this case and Brooks Farm development, Great Falls Citizens Association formed a stormwater task force.

“For more than a half year, the Great Falls Citizens Association and Lexington Estates homeowners advocated for enhanced stormwater management, preservation for trees in the Piney Run floodplain and sediment and erosion control,” Dranesville Planning Commissioner John Ulfelder said at the Planning Commission’s decision-only hearing in December. “Overall, it allows for further improvement in both water quantity and quality for the proposed site.”

The Gulick Group committed to the installation of alternative septic systems that “require more attention and care” but “significantly reduce potential impact of residential sewage on the environment,” said Ulfelder. And, during construction, Gulick Group will also use “super silt fencing” along clearing and grading to “maximize erosion and sediment control during the construction phase of the proposed subdivision.”

Riegler, of McGuireWoods, said he and the Gulick Group “owe GFCA thanks for their efforts to try constructively make this application better.”

“In the weeks and months that led to this public hearing, there were considerable community discussions and the results of that were significant and include: a reduction in density in the proposal, the strategic reorientation of the development to reduce impacts, an increase in the peripheral buffers on the northern and eastern lot lines, and a voluntary expansion of the required Environmental Quality Corridor that almost doubles it,” he said.

## TD Bank Embraces Historic Roots of Great Falls

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY  
PRESIDENT, GREAT FALLS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When you enter the new TD Bank for the first time this coming Saturday, Feb. 18, their opening day celebration, you will immediately connect with another opening day from long ago — the opening day of the Great Falls Grange, No. 738, on May 4, 1929 — the first Grange Hall built in Virginia — which is now a huge mural on one wall of the bank.

It is a custom of TD Bank to choose a photograph of significance to the local community and blow it up and colorize it, converting it to a wall mural at each one of their bank locations. The choice of the Grange on opening day captures a special moment in our community’s history when local dairy farmers and others joined together to cooperate and work together to

manage alarming local challenges. Refrigerated trucks were changing the face of their industry, suddenly making it possible for competitors from further away to sell dairy in D.C., putting severe pressure on milk prices.

The Grange members were local. While all members were involved in agricultural pursuits in some way, this Grange was one of five across the country that were largely focused on dairy farming, the predominant local business at the time.

The Grange had the intent to influence the community in reaching its highest potential. The movement began in the 1880s as way to teach farming techniques and to build leadership and trust in a nation riddled with distrust and poor farming practices after the Civil War. The Great Falls Grange was the first Grange Hall built in



**The Beautiful \$12,000 Home of the Great Falls Grange, No. 738 in the article “The First Grange Hall Built in Virginia: Its Dedication on May 4<sup>th</sup> Marks a New Forward Step in Grange Progress” (The National Grange Monthly, Vol xxvi, No. 6, Springfield, Mass. June 1929, Page 1.)**



**Medal on the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Patrons of Husbandry.**

SEE TD BANK, PAGE 13



## ENTERTAINMENT

# Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Coming to Great Falls

Washington Post editor David Hoffman to visit Writer's Group Feb. 23.

David Hoffman, contributing editor to the Washington Post and New York Times best-selling author, will visit the Great Falls Writer's Group on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 11 a.m. at the Great Falls Library.

Hoffman, who covered the White House for the Post during the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, formerly served as the newspaper's Moscow Bureau Chief, Jerusalem Bureau Chief, foreign editor and assistant managing editor for foreign news. During his visit with the Great Falls Writer's Group, he will discuss his writing life as both journalist and author.

Hoffman's book, "The Dead Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race and its Dangerous Legacy," won the Pulitzer Prize in 2010 and was described by novelist John LaCarre as, "A stunning feat of research and narrative." His 2015 book, "The Billion Dollar Spy," tells the true story of Cold War es-

pionage and offers a penetrating glimpse inside the CIA's Moscow station.

Clarence Ashley, a founding member of the Great Falls Writer's Group and himself the author of "CIA Spymaster, a biography of George Kisevalter," the most highly-decorated case officer in the history of the CIA, helped spearhead Hoffman's upcoming visit. Of Hoffman's book, "The Dead Hand," Ashley says, "I was more moved by this work than any other I have held — short of the Bible."

Though seating will be limited (first come, first served) and maximum capacity is expected, the public is invited to attend. Early arrival (10:30 a.m.) is strongly recommended. No reservations will be taken.

Copies of Hoffman's newest book, "The Billion Dollar Spy," will be available for purchase and signing.

— KRISTIN CLARK TAYLOR

## Neighbors Meet at Farmers Market

TD Bank supports the Great Falls Farmers Market.

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY  
MARKET MANAGER

TD Bank reached out to the farmers' market to see if they could have a booth to present information about their bank. As they explained their mission to support customers, small businesses and the community, it made sense for them to support the market, as it is full of very small, micro-businesses in the process of being launched or strengthened.

It is always a struggle for the farmer's market through the winter. We keep it going because it is a source of income for our farmers and other vendors who depend on having an income during the cold winter months. As a sponsor, their contribution has gone toward paying the Park Authority rental fees, thus reducing the cost of winter participation, and every week three vendors are pulled in a lottery to have a no-fee day. With rental fees taken care of, we have opened the remaining space at the indoor Grange to anyone with a talent that they would like to share, becoming a vendor for the day. We have



TD Bank set up a Kid's Zone full of games and toys.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

had people who have never revealed their hobbies and crafts, to those who have given it a try, to more experienced vendors who have never shown in Great Falls before.

TD Bank also set up a Kid's Zone full of games and toys, and have staffed it full of TD people, to play with children while their parents shop or listen to music.

During the winter months, when land is barren, the weather is cold, and the sky dark, local farmers are known to have done their woodworking, knitting, crocheting, and other crafts and hobbies. Having a craft is like having an anchor, a root, for your spirit, to fill open spaces with the joy of making something beautiful. In issuing a call to you to come forward and show your talents, the farmers market, with TD Bank support, encourages everyone to cultivate that special something you do very well — let your light shine!

## TD Bank Embraces Great Falls

FROM PAGE 12

Virginia in 1929. Members were co-owners of the Grange and held shares in the organization and the building.

The Grange movement continues today and is known for its cultivation of leaders through a focus on core principles centered around the virtues needed

to hold a right disposition at each season of the year. Members advance from local community level to state to national-level leadership.

We welcome TD Bank to Great Falls and applaud their mission to deliver value to residents, small businesses and community groups, echoing the joy and hope that filled the opening day of the Great Falls Grange more than 90 years ago.



PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY 1ST STAGE

Doug Wilder and Amanda Forstrom in "Trevor" at 1st Stage in Tysons.

## Edgy, Unconventional Dark Comedy: 'Trevor'

1st Stage at Tysons presents 'Trevor.'

### Where & When

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

A rewarding tale about miscommunications in a family generating plenty of laughs before a heart-wrenching turn of events makes "Trevor" at 1st Stage a moving exploration of one family's unusual bonds.

Inspired by true events, "Trevor" was written by Nick Jones, who wrote for the initial season of the television series, "Orange is the New Black." Directed by Alex Levy, "Trevor" is a sharp production opening layers of sentiments. Levy has a keen touch with the boisterous, then to steer the production into taut, tense events.

"Trevor" examines how a family of two individuals living in a small town can depend on each other mightily. They have many misunderstandings since they don't fully understand one another's language.

After all, Trevor is a 200-pound chimpanzee (played with a rambunctious, rowdy gusto by Doug Wilder). The audience listens in as he remembers being a celebrity performing with Morgan Fairchild (appearing as an apparition from a come-hither Amanda Forster) when he was younger. Trevor's owner is the middle-aged, widowed Sandra (Leigh Jameson completely losing herself in the role as a resolute, protective, conflicted woman). As Trevor's owner, Sandra presents as a forgiving "mommy." When Trevor acts out early on, she forgives him saying "he is just having a

1st Stage presents "Trevor" at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Performances through Feb. 26. Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Friday at 8 p.m. Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$15-\$30. Call 703-854-1856 or visit [www.1ststageattysons.org](http://www.1ststageattysons.org) Note: Venue is wheelchair accessible

bad day." Later, just having a bad day is an understatement for Trevor's behavior.

Beyond Sandra and Trevor, the show's characters include a terrified neighbor who fears for her baby's life, as well as one of Sandra's few human friends and a local animal control officer. Each tests the tight connections between Trevor and Sandra. Trevor also has a jaunty, imaginary, Chimp friend named Oliver (Aaron Bliden), who appears from time-to-time, to commiserate with.

The production take place in a set designed by Kathryn Kaweck with a worn, rustic look and well-used props from Cindy Landrum Jacobs. Collin Ranney's costume design also gives off a worn-down essence.

"Trevor's" sound design by Sarah O'Halloran is mood-setting, beginning with pre-show music of melancholy banjo tunes from Abigail Washburn and Bela Fleck. Titles included "Nobody's Fault But Mine," and "What's You Gonna Do."

For those open to it, 1st Stage's "Trevor" is an empathetic production about human and animal intersections. It will test an audience for their sympathies with its final heartbreaking images and words. Who bears responsibility is left to the audience.



## "Idiot" No More; Well, Sort Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For over two and a half years now, since June '14 — according to my most recent invoice, "idiot" lights on the dashboard of my model year 2000, Honda Accord have warned me that all was not right with our back-up car. But due to intermittent use, amazing self-discipline on my part and little new evidence to the contrary, the Honda has maintained its performance, if you can even call it that. Soon after this last visit to my local mechanic had cleared the pre-2014 dashboard indicators, the "SRS" (seat belt restraint system) came on suggesting that something was once again rotten in Denmark, and Burtonsville, too. Nevertheless, with the ink barely dry on my credit card receipt, and with our second car not being a priority, I decided to let it live and let live and hope for the best. Approximately 32 months later, my hope has been realized. No repairs have been required in the interim. However, over that same time, multiple additional "warning" lights have come on: "brake lamp," "maintenance due," and just recently, the infamous/scourge "check-engine" light to where four lights are now illuminated. And though, to my credit, I have been able to endure and ignore their constant reminders; but when that fourth light, the "check-engine" light came on, I feared my benign neglect had finally come home to roost. So I bucked up, called my local mechanic, and made the arrangements to drop off the Honda. Then I waited for a more detailed assessment of the damage done. A few days later, I got the call. I'll spare you the details since I can't explain them anyway; but the repairs were going to cost around \$1000, as good as could be expected for a 17 year-old car with 95,000 miles on the odometer.

However, what I am most excited about concerning this outcome is — yes 'excited' is the right word — that for the first time in years I won't have to face down warning lights in my car and alarm bells in my head about what potential car trouble and expense I've been putting off and likely making worse. And most importantly, no longer having to exercise the inordinate self-control required to ignore these warning lights and not to be corrupted by their relentless — literally and figuratively — reminders. It's almost as if I can face reality again, breathe normally and not feel under siege.

Having only driven the car barely two miles home since I picked it up from "Tony's," I can't yet say driving is fun. However, I can admit that driving will be less irritating, will require less mental discipline and when I look down at my car's dashboard, I will not long for a bygone era of dashboard neutrality. Once again, as if the Honda is under dealer warranty, I will not see any indicators/lights of something I've neglected to do or of repairs I'm unable to afford.

As much as I'd like to think I'm fairly well-adjusted and know how to process and prioritize things in my life, having cancer does seem to alter these processes and priorities. And when something simple and/or unexpected happens in your life which allows you to regain your composure and equilibrium, it helps that much more to assimilate the cancer-related conditions, effects and challenges you've come to expect. Not that I thought much about this eventuality when I dropped off the car at "Tony's," but now, having not seen any lights, I feel unburdened, as if a weight has been taken off my shoulders and out of my head. Moreover, when you're living in the cancer bubble, burdens expected — and otherwise — tend to pile up — and on — and when one is able to catch a break/brake along the way, the positive effect is disproportionate to reality. It means so much even though it may seem like so little. Whether it's regaining some control, solving a non-cancer-related problem or crossing an item off a to-do list; living one's life with as few distractions as possible, generally speaking, will likely result in some comfort and joy; not the movie, but the peace of mind.

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

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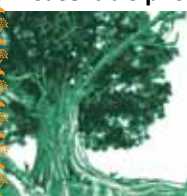
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Public Notice:  
Proposal to Voluntarily Remediate a Property

There is contamination from Petroleum impacted soil on site at Gilliam Place, 3507 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working with Gilliam Place LLC c/o Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) to develop a Remedial Action Plan to address cleanup of petroleum hydrocarbons at the site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup please contact Vincent Maiden, P.G., Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Northern Regional Office, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23218, Vincent.Maiden@deq.virginia.gov or Jason Beck, C.P.G, Senior Environmental Project Manager, ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC, 703-471-8400, jbeck@ecslimited.com

As part of the remedial action process a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was submitted to the Northern Regional Office of DEQ on January 10, 2017, which allows for corrective action at the property to begin immediately. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed RAP with the staff of DEQ, please feel free to contact the Corrective Action Project Manager, Vincent Maiden, whose contact information is listed above. You may also contact Jason Beck, the environmental consultant for Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, whose contact information is listed above. DEQ will consider written comments regarding the proposed Remedial Action Plan until February 24, 2017 and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is a significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to DEQ at the address listed above. DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; VRP Case # 00664.

Respectfully submitted,

ECS MID-ATLANTIC, LLC on behalf of ARLINGTON PARTNERSHIP FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.  
-William Van Horne

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ZONES

- Zone 1:** The Reston Connection  
The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection  
**Zone 2:** The Springfield Connection  
The Burke Connection  
The Fairfax Connection  
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection  
**Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet  
The Mount Vernon Gazette

- Zone 4:** Centre View North  
Centre View South  
**Zone 5:** The Potomac Almanac  
**Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection  
The Vienna/Oakton Connection  
The McLean Connection  
The Great Falls Connection

To have community events listed in the Connection, visit connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

FEBRUARY

Free public service seminars

- ♦ Downsizing: Feb. 14, Marshall H.S. 7731 Leesburg Pk., Falls Church.
  - ♦ Retirement Communities Feb. 22, Madison H.S., 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna.
- For more information and seminar registration go to RetireeRealEstate.org, or call 703-772-3033.

TUESDAY, FEB. 21

**Public Art Commission Meeting.** 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. Advises and assists Town Council on matters relating to the advancement of public art in Town. Go to www.viennava.gov for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25

**Community Tax Assistance Day.** Deloitte presents its 10th annual Community Tax Assistance Day or Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Day (VITA) to serve qualified individuals and families. Deloitte employee/volunteers will assist families with 2016 Federal and state tax returns for households with a total income of \$54,000 or less. Translations services in Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese will be provided. In addition, American Sign Language interpreters will be available. Location is Fairfax SkillSource Center, Heritage Center, 7611 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Appointments are recommended: e-mail taxday@volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3896. Walk ins are welcome. Visit www.nvacash.org. On tax preparation day, clients should bring all pertinent documentation. For a complete list, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 27

**Town Council Meeting.** 8-10:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. Individuals are invited to attend and provide their input. Go to www.viennava.gov for more.

**The U.S. Small Business Administration** is reminding businesses in Virginia that working capital loans are still available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and private nonprofit organizations affected by the severe storms and tornadoes on Feb. 24, 2016. Deadline to file is March 7, 2017. https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela. www.sba.gov/disaster. disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church,** 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmafc.org. The Center's website is www.scmafc.org

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 2-4

**Friends of the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library Quarterly Book Sale.** Books and media for all interests and ages, Thursday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Adult bag sale \$10/bag; Saturday, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Kids

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

Research shows that common-sense gun laws improve women's safety from gun violence. In states that require background checks for all handgun sales, 47 percent fewer women are killed with a gun by intimate partners. And state laws ensuring that convicted abusers or those subject to domestic violence restraining orders are separated from their firearms are also associ-

ated with reductions in gun violence against women.

THROUGHOUT MARCH 2017

**Free Public Service Seminars.** March 1, 8, 15, 21, 29, at 7 p.m. on Selling Your Home, Aging in Place, Downsizing, Retirement Communities Seminars. Free public service seminars on Selling Your Home (March 1, McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Rd., McLean), Working With Builders (March 8, Falls Church HS, 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church), Financing Your Retirement (March 15, Marshall HS, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church), Tax & Estate Planning (March 21, Madison HS, 2500 James Madison Dr., Vienna), and Decluttering & Organizing (March 29, Oakton HS, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna). For more information and seminar registration go to RetireeRealEstate.org, or call 703-772-3033.

ONGOING

**The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia,** a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. The games are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, visit www.goldengirls.org  
**Passages DivorceCare** If you are experiencing the pain of separation or divorce, the caring community at Vienna Presbyterian Church invites you to attend Passages DivorceCare. This program offers a path toward healing. The next 15-week DivorceCare series will be held Tuesdays from 6:45 to 9 p.m. beginning on Feb. 21. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna. Cost to cover materials is \$20, scholarships available. For more information or to register call 703-938-9050, go to www.viennapres.org, or send an email to Passages@ViennaPres.org.

**Are You A Caregiver? Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna Caregivers' Support Group** takes place first & third Thursday of each month. February 2nd and 16th, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838 jtarr5@verizon.net.

**Volunteers Needed.** PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: https://prsinc.org/caring-volunteering/. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org.

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/ltcombudsmen/.

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.

The **Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean** needs a **Certified Arthritis Exercise Instructor.** For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

Michelle Sandler  
McLean

The writer is McLean/Falls Church Leader, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.





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