



Great Falls

CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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Soccer Field to Get Facelift

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Andrew Ji (right) tries to outsmart his opponent in a challenge for the ball. The Great Falls Soccer Club will be renovating a grass field at the Great Falls Nike Park, thanks to help from the county.

Great Falls Woman Runs for Lieutenant Governor

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Great Falls Bald Eagles Move Upriver

BY DONALD SWEIG
THE CONNECTION

The pair of Bald Eagles that in prior years has nested on the southern end of Conn Island, the large tree-covered island in the middle of the Potomac just upriver from the Great Falls, has apparently built a new nest on an island in the middle of the Potomac about two miles upriver.

Bald Eagles, although surely not the same two birds, had been nesting on Conn Island, for at least 20 years or more. The original nest was in a large sycamore tree on the northern or Maryland side of Conn Island. Bald Eagles tend to use the same nest year after year, adding more sticks and branches each year until the nest can become quite large: as much as 8-feet in diameter, up to 10-12-feet deep, and weighing well over 1,000 pounds.

Then, in about 2008, one of the supporting limbs of the original nest tree broke, and the nest collapsed to the ground and into the Potomac. Obliging, the eagles soon built another nest, but this time on the southern end of Conn Island where it was easily viewable from both sides of the river. The eagles successfully raised and fledged one-to-three chicks from this nest each year for four years, until that nest was destroyed in the great Derecho windstorm on June 29, 2012.

Very soon after, the eagles built yet another nest in a large tree, also at the south end of Conn Island. That nest, which fledged three young eagles in 2014, was also blown down by a strong wind storm in

the late spring 2014.

Then, in early November 2014, the eagles were seen constructing a new nest higher up in the same tree from which the former nest had been blown down. In June, 2015, the adult pair fledged two-or-three young eagles from this nest, although by the time the last eaglet had left, the nest had mostly fallen apart. The adults were later seen adding sticks to repair this old nest, but they apparently did not nest successfully in 2016.

Then in the summer and fall of 2016, a pair of adult Bald Eagles, apparently the same two birds that had formerly nested on Conn Island, were observed building a new nest in a large Sycamore tree on Minnehaha Island in the Potomac River, just upriver from the visitor center at Fairfax County's Riverbend Park. The eagles had been seen perching on this tree for much of the winter and spring of 2016, before they began building the nest.

BALD EAGLES, in the mid-Atlantic/Chesapeake region usually mate and lay eggs in mid-February. They incubate the eggs for about a month (34 to 36 days) and then it takes about 10 to 12 weeks before the young, juvenile eagles are ready to fledge and leave the nest. In late December and in January, or especially early February, adult Bald Eagles can sometimes be seeing mating/copulating on a branch or snag near a nest.

Thus it was apparent that the Riverbend eagles intended to use their new nest for the upcoming breeding season as they were observed and photographed mating/copulating on the limb beside the nest on Dec.



Female adult eagle (on left) and young hatchling eagle (on right) in Riverbend nest on April 27, 2017.

30, 2016, and on later occasions. In early February, the female adult eagle was apparently incubating eggs. By mid-March, the female appeared to be feeding and tending to new hatchlings.

Because an eagle nest is so large and deep and high, and the newly hatched chicks are so small, it is nearly impossible to determine exactly when hatching occurs, by observation from the ground. However, by the third week of April, the head of an eagle chick could be seen above the edge of the Riverbend nest. There were earlier reports were of two possible chicks in the nest, although only one young bird now appears to be on the nest.

The young eagle chick is constantly fed by its parents and is growing very fast. It is already flexing and flapping its wings to build strength. By June, the young juvenile eagle will be nearly fully grown and will probably be seen walking and bounding around in the nest, and energetically flapping its wings, although at this point it will still be fed by its parents. By mid-to-late-June it should be fledged and have left the nest. Young Bald Eagles are almost entirely brown when they first leave the nest; by the end of the first and during second year they begin to get some transient white on

SEE BALD EAGLES, PAGE 7

Soccer Club, County Team Up To Renovate Field This Summer

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Soccer Club will be renovating a grass field at the Great Falls Nike Park, thanks to help from the county.

Construction will begin on the rectangular field No. 7 in the park in late June and is expected to be complete in early September in time for the club's fall season.

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board approved a \$20,000 grant for the soccer club during its meeting on Wednesday, April 26. The grant funds will be used to help convert the Bermuda grass of the field to synthetic turf as well as adding lighting.

This is only a small portion of the \$1.25 million project.

This grant will be combined with an \$855,000 contribution from the soccer club itself and \$125,000 from the Neigh-



borhood and Community Services Synthetic Turf Development Mini-Grant Program, and \$250,000 from the 2012 Park Bond.

"We realized that it was a great field to play on, but the problem was the cost to maintain the field," said Ashi Chaturvedula,

who manages the finances for the soccer club.

Chaturvedula quickly discovered where a great portion of the club's money was being spent when he took his position: field maintenance.

GFSC has been a participant in the county's Adopt-A-Field program for several years and has contributed funds toward maintenance and improvements for fields at Great Falls Nike Park, as well as many other park and school athletic fields.

The GFSC was paying \$80,000 a year in fees to maintain the grass fields it used and the fields often became unusable, according to Chaturvedula.

"In the spring, it was rained out for most of the games so we were paying something that we couldn't use at all," he said.

That's when he and other members of

SEE SOCCER FIELD, PAGE 12

Aiming To Be First Female Lieutenant Governor

Democrat Susan Platt, a 22-year resident of Great Falls, starts '50 days of action' effort.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Virginia has never elected a female lieutenant governor or governor. Susan Platt intends to be the first.

A dual primary election will be held June 13 to select nominees in the race for both lieutenant governor and governor before the general election this fall on Nov. 7. Democrat Susan Platt, a 22-year resident of Great Falls, has her first hurdle to clear to be Virginia's first female lieutenant governor: Her political party's summer primary.

Democrats Justin Fairfax, a former federal prosecutor; Gene Rossi, an assistant U.S. Attorney; and Platt are seeking their party's nomination in the lieutenant governor race. Three Republican candidates are also vying for the position, including one other woman, Virginia Sen. Jill Holtzman Vogel (R-27).

Democrat Terry McAuliffe has been the governor since 2014. He will not run for re-election since consecutive terms are not allowed for the commonwealth's highest state office.

Voters must elect new leadership into the executive branch. So far, Platt is leading the Democratic field in her primary, according to a March 28 poll by the Judy Ford Wason Center for Public Policy at the Christopher Newport University.

Platt has 20 percent of the vote to Fairfax's 11 percent and Rossi's 6 percent. However, most voters are undecided which candidate they support for lieutenant governor, according to the poll.

Platt and her campaign started a "50 days of action" effort two weeks ago.

"We're phoning all across the commonwealth to our people that we've identified or we believe to be strong Democrats and we have done some door knocking in different places," she said. "And of course, I travel all over the state."

HER CAMPAIGN is reaching out to people through social media, an advancement that wasn't available to her when she ran races 20 years ago when, "you had to send things by snail mail," she said.

In the mid-1990s, Platt was one of the only women managing a U.S. Senate campaign and one of the only women serving as chief of staff in a U.S. Senate office. She also co-founded the Farm Team and Emerge Virginia, which help and encourage women to run for office.

As an experienced political consultant and lobbyist, this election is not her first go-round at a political campaign, but she is still adapting and learning.

"It is so much easier to be in touch with people, by either Facebook or tweets, any of the different media, we're all over it," she said.

Endorsements have started to roll in.

"The EMILY's List community ... is excited to support her history-making candidacy to become the next lieutenant governor of Vir-



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION
Susan Platt and her labradoodle named Twix, one of her five dogs, at her home in Great Falls just days before absentee voting began for the June 13 primary elections.

ginia," Lucinda Guinn, a spokesperson for the organization, which supports women in politics, said in a press release.

In addition to EMILY's List, many government officials have come to support her first campaign where she herself is the candidate for the first time.

"I've known Susan probably for at least 15 years," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). "She has a track record of pretty deep involvement in the legislative process."

Platt was the chief of staff for former Vice President Joe Biden when he was a U.S. senator. She also ran the campaigns for former Democratic Virginia Gov. Chuck Robb and U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, D-8.

"I think the role of the lieutenant governor is largely focused on the operations of the senate," said Foust. "She's also demonstrated skill in economic development and I think that's a very significant function for the lieutenant governor to focus on across the state."

This experience includes lobbying for the tobacco industry, including Philip Morris and Altria, one of the world's largest producers and marketers of tobacco, cigarettes, e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, which is headquartered in Henrico County, Va.

Though the industry has bankrolled her since 2002, Platt is proud of the work she has done for tobacco companies, including her time representing the industry when the Tobacco Oversight Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act was being debated in Congress, which gave the U.S. Food and Drug Administration more control and oversight of the industry.

"They knew they needed to change the way they did business, and I helped them make that change," she said. "Philip Morris is responsible for nearly 100,000 people's

livelihoods in the commonwealth and I'm glad I was able to help them make the change to be more socially responsive."

The 2016 election motivated her to go through the revolving door and back into politics. Donald Trump's triumph over Hillary Clinton was a wakeup call for her.

"Like a lot of people, I was a little bit in shock," she said. "Then I decided to stand up and just roar. There are no women running. I tried to get a number of women to run and no one was willing to take it on ... this was just something that I had to do."

She marched on Washington for the 2017 Women's March the day after Trump's inauguration.

"It was important to me to march from Virginia across the bridge to D.C.," she said. "In my mind, it was symbolic and I intend to march through the primary all the way to Nov. 7, I hope, to try to fight what I believe are the divisive tactics against families and women and anyone who is not a billionaire in the commonwealth."

LIVING IN GREAT FALLS with a large fenced-in backyard makes it easier for Platt to take care of her five dogs: Two Portuguese water dogs, one party poodle, one labradoodle and a mixed breed that she calls her "cow dog."

"That was not our intention," she said. "My step-son came to stay with us for a while and he had a dog. His wife took him back, but not the dog. We were like, 'No, no, you can't drop dogs off at the pound. Not from this house.' So, we kept her."

Her father, whom she refers to as her pop, also had two dogs. Before his recent death from Alzheimer's disease, he moved into an assisted living facility.

"I can't turn any dog into the shelter, but my dad's two; I couldn't let them go some-

place else," she said.

He had heart surgery 10 years ago and when he came out of the operation, he was experiencing dementia and didn't recognize anyone for days, according to Platt.

"I thought, 'You know, let me bring in a picture of his dog that we bought together,'" she said. "Sure enough, I bring that picture in and he looks and said, 'That's my dog Miguel!' And he came back to us, so how could I not keep his dogs for him?"

In politics, she has learned a lot about people, particularly the importance of family members.

"One thing that I learned a lot from [Biden] — it's something I always knew, but he lived it every day — is love of family. The only things that are important in life is being able to support your family and your loved ones ... giving the next generation the opportunities that you didn't have and more benefits that you didn't have."

Her family has kept her and her husband Ron out of political life for the past two years. Along with the death of her father, her step-daughter also died less than two years ago from her substance abuse, according to Platt.

"I tried to get a number of women to run and no one was willing to take it on ... this was just something that I had to do."

— Great Falls resident Susan Platt

IF ELECTED, Platt plans to establish a cabinet-level position to advocate for children. The advocate would help parents navigate the seven different state agencies that provide services for children in need.

"When I talk to people across the commonwealth, they tell me they don't know where to go for help," she said. "I think, what we need to do in this era of Internet, is condense everything into one entity."

"We need to do something to change the dynamics and the first thing you do is make services available and make people accountable for making sure they know about what they can do and where they can find help," she said.

In addition to lieutenant governor, candidates for governor and two seats in the House of Delegates in districts

SEE PLATT, PAGE 5

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Platt Runs for Lieutenant Governor

FROM PAGE 4

42 and 67 are on the ballot for the primary elections on June 13.

Absentee voting began on Friday, April 28. The deadline to request an absentee ballot to be mailed is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6.

In-Person absentee voting can be done until June 10 at the Fairfax County Government Center in Conference Rooms 2 and 3 every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voting will also be available on Saturday, June 3 and 10, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN PLATT

Susan Platt wants to be the first female in Virginia to hold the office of lieutenant governor.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/MAY 18

Membership Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S. The North East Vienna Citizens Association (NEVCA) will hold a general membership meeting, and Dr. Gerald Gordon, president and

CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, will speak about issues related to Tysons and future plans. Visit NEVCA.org

FRIDAY/MAY 19

Great Decisions Discussion Group. 9-11 a.m. at the Vienna Seventh-day Adventist Church, 344 Courthouse Road SW. Designed by the Foreign Policy Association to bring people together in study groups to discuss, debate and learn about important

global challenges of our time. Call 703-281-0538 or visit www.scov.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 20

Scream Free Saturday. 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Screamfree Parenting gives you the tools to stay cool during life's challenging moments. Lunch will be provided. Call 703-204-3941.

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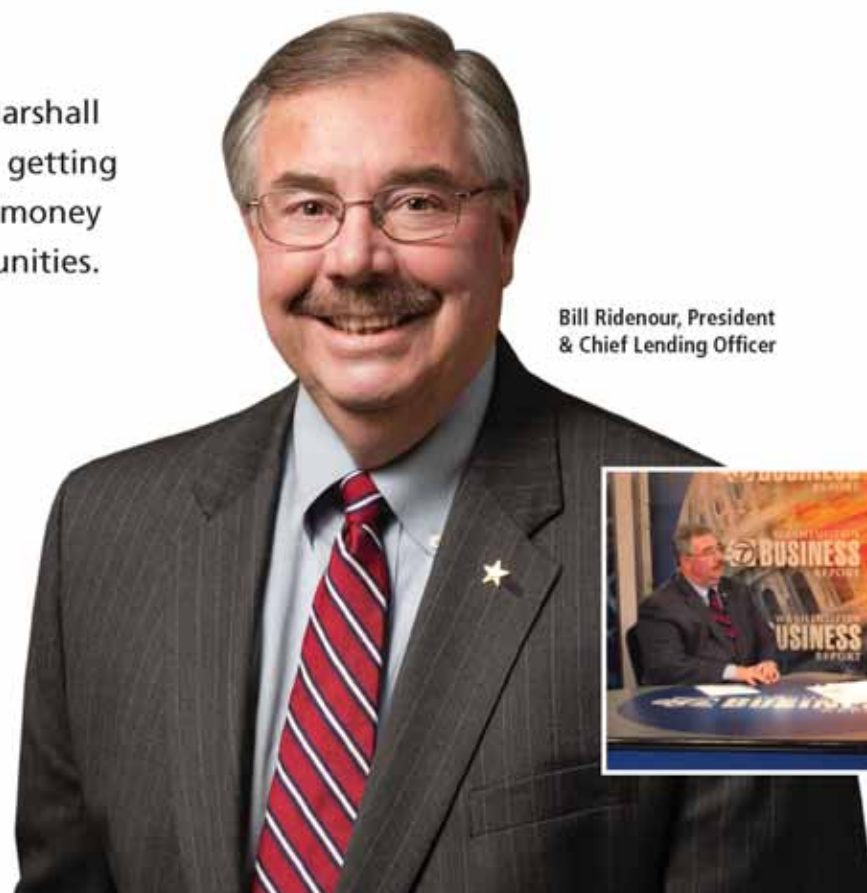
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OPINION

Save Our Schools

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

Among the many institutions that seem to be under attack these days, the federal Department of Education and public schools are of great concern. Public education predates the federal Department of Education, but the Department has played an important role in raising standards and expanding access for all children. Left to their own devices, state and local school boards would go in many different directions that may leave quality and access more to chance than legal requirements.

I am reminded regularly by my constituents of their support for quality public schools, but last week I was reminded also of the range of controversy surrounding public education. A postcard I received in the mail had a picture of a yellow school bus on it with a caption: "The humanist machine." The card was from a group called Deconstructing the Coliseum whose stated purpose is "to eliminate humanist political policies, eliminate the machine (the civil government school system) that produces humanist politicians." The text of the card goes on to explain that "The civil government is



COMMENTARY

using force and coercion to advance its version of truth (humanism), under the guise of 'public education.' Thus, civil government schools must be abolished." Although this group has a Virginia address, I do not think that it would have many supporters in our community. Their ultraconservative views are likely to get the attention of some downstate legislators.

As concerning are the views that are being espoused by the current federal Secretary of Education. As I understand her plan, public schools would be replaced by charter schools. Charter schools are held up by some as a panacea to cure ills real and concocted about public schools, but their results have been very mixed in the places where they have been opened. The main issue for the proponents seems to be control. Rather than having elected or appointed school boards set school policy there are proposals that groups of parents would control the charter school curriculum,

In this season of teacher appreciation we need to thank the teachers for the exceptional work that they do.

standards, and requirements without further supervision. There is a real concern that charter schools could lead to renewed segregation of the schools along racial and class lines.

Even with all their critics and those who remember wistfully how schools were when they attended, today's public schools do an excellent job. Open to all students they bring out the best in our children. They attempt to prepare our children for an unknown future. The school boards struggle every year with meeting needs that are greater than the resources available to them.

Whatever the perceived needs are in educating our children, there are none so great that would require the getting rid of "government schools" or replacing them with charter schools. We need to look at paying teachers more to attract the best and the brightest to teaching as a career; the current deficit of \$4,000 under the national average that exists in Virginia is not defensible. And we need in this season of teacher appreciation to thank the teachers for the exceptional work that they do.

Celebrating Great Falls History

The Great Falls Historical Society's 40th Anniversary – A festive celebration of community.

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY
PRESIDENT,
GREAT FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 40th Anniversary of GFHS was a delightful gathering of members old and new who shared memories and hopes for the future as they enjoyed an exquisite cuisine, served impeccably in a classically decorated dining room at L'Auberge Chez Francois.

The Past Presidents who attended the celebration spanned the decades and included Genevieve Chadwick, wife of Bill Chadwick (1984-1986), Susan Cochran (1996-1998), Jacque Olin (2000-2002) and (2008-2011), and Calvin Follin (2003-2005). We received a thoughtful donation from Chris Osbourne (1994-1996) in honor of his mentor, Burt Brittin (1982-1984).

Members of the 2016-2017 Board present included Greg Haymans, Vice President; Betty Swartz, Corresponding Secretary; Doug Cobb, Treasurer; Sondra Taylor, 2013-2016 Director; and Jan Schar, 2016-2018 Director.

Tibbetts Award Honorees present included Lucie Garrett, wife of Bill Garrett (2010), and Betty Swartz (2016).

It was touching to see Calvin and Jennifer Follin exchange memories with Peter and Jen-



PHOTOS BY TR COOK

Friends gathered at the Great Falls Historical Society 40th anniversary gala, enjoying fine dining as each recalled their interest in history.

nifer Falcone, both of whom had young children when they were initially involved with GFHS. At their table was Paul Jimenez and Elizabeth Wiley, parents of four young children, whose interest in history has just awoken. Our Society's future depends on engaging young families in a love of local history. These lovely social occasions invigorate connections across the decades and inspire renewed participation.

We are grateful to Doug Cobb, who chaired the Anniversary Celebration Committee and made all the arrangements.

Alex Brudno did a remarkable job reaching out to local businesses to invite them to

become supporters of our anniversary event. Twenty-five local businesses responded and showered our Society with thoughtful gift certificates and/or products and services they offer and/or even cash donations. As each gift was raffled off, the donor was mentioned and their products and services were highlighted.

We celebrate the story of our village and its continuing spirit of cooperation and caring. We are touched by the generosity of our local business community and sincerely appreciate their spontaneous giving to our society on the occasion of our 40th anniversary.

Great Falls
CONNECTION

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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NEWS

Bald Eagles Move to New Nest

FROM PAGE 3

the body or under the wings. Late in their third year, and during their fourth year they become sexually mature and get the white heads and tails that are so characteristic and charismatic of our National Bird.

THE NEW NEST on Minnehaha Island is an excellent opportunity to see and watch a young eagle grow and develop and finally leave its nest. If you want to see the nest and the chick, go to Riverbend Park (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/), walk upriver on the river trail for about a third of a mile, and look for the large nest in the tree on the island in the middle of the river. If one looks to the right, across the river, just at the point where the park trail from the Nature Center comes in from the



Male adult Bald eagle brings a stick to add to new Riverbend nest on Jan. 25, 2017, as female eagle looks on.

left, the nest is right there. One may well see the chick and an adult on the nest, or even see an adult bring in a fish for dinner. A pair of binoculars, a spotting scope, or a camera with a telephoto lens will provide an even better view of the nest and its occupants. Go see for yourself. It's well worth the trip.

Donald Sweig is a local birder, naturalist, and photographer, who is an occasional contributor to the Connection.

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1 1886 Massachusetts Avenue, McLean — \$3,395,000



7 1100 Delf Drive, McLean — \$1,875,000



6 1029 Savile Lane, McLean — \$2,395,000



9 7209 Davis Court, McLean — \$1,720,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City	...	Sold Price	....	Type	.....	Lot AC	PostalCode	.....	Subdivision	.....	Date Sold		
1 1886 MASSACHUSETTS AVE ..	6	..	6	..	3	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$3,395,000	.....	Detached	....	0.71	.....	22101	.....	FRANKLIN PARK	.....	03/21/17
2 10211 AKHTAMAR DR	7	..	7	..	1	...	GREAT FALLS	..	\$2,800,000	....	Detached	....	6.02	.....	22066	.....	GREAT FALLS	.....	03/31/17
3 925 MACKALL AVE	6	..	6	..	2	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,573,800	.....	Detached	....	0.66	.....	22101	.....	LANGLEY FOREST	.....	03/13/17
4 700 RIVER BEND RD	6	..	6	..	1	...	GREAT FALLS	..	\$2,570,000	....	Detached	....	3.31	.....	22066	.....	THREE SWALLOWS FARM	....	03/17/17
5 10477 SPRINGVALE MEADOW LN ..	5	..	6	..	2	...	GREAT FALLS	..	\$2,500,000	.....	Detached	....	1.72	.....	22066	.....	SPRINGVALE ESTATES	.....	03/17/17
6 1029 SAVILE LN	5	..	6	..	2	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,395,000	.....	Detached	....	1.29	.....	22101	.....	BASIL COURT	.....	03/06/17
7 1100 DELF DR	6	..	5	..	1	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$1,875,000	.....	Detached	....	0.55	.....	22101	.....	WEST LANGLEY	.....	03/30/17
8 2038 STEPHANIE MARRIE DR. ...	6	..	6	..	1	...	FALLS CHURCH	..	\$1,721,290	.....	Detached	....	0.00	.....	22043	.....	MCLEAN PRESERVE	.....	03/15/17
9 7209 DAVIS CT	7	..	6	..	1	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$1,720,000	.....	Detached	....	0.51	.....	22101	.....	SUNNY SIDE	.....	03/17/17
10 10917 SHALLOW CREEK DR ...	5	..	4	..	1	...	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,610,000	Detached	0.96	22066	ESTATES AT LONGWOOD	03/10/17

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Walk-In Closet Design Ideas

From chandeliers to luxury seating, the options are plentiful.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

When an Old Town Alexandria couple decided to remodel their master bedroom suite, they wanted to pay particular attention to the room's two walk-in closets. Designer Gene Delgado of Hopkins & Porter Construction, Inc., in Potomac, Md. was tasked with overhauling the spaces to give the couple the maximum amount of storage for their clothing and accessories.

"We ordered a storage system from Poliform, an Italian luxury modern furniture brand, that does exquisite closet systems," said Delgado. "The closet spaces are very modern with lots of built-in lighting. Because of the angled ceilings ... we are designing a cabinet for shoe storage and some shelving for purses and luggage. I'm doing a chandelier for the wife's closet to make it warmer and more feminine."

With available accessories ranging from elaborate lighting to luxury seating areas, there's no need to settle for a closet that

looks like a cross between a laundry room and a landfill. When it comes to walk-in closets, the options for creating a dream space are plentiful say designers.

"Closets are no longer utilitarian spaces for your clothes. People want their closets to be beautiful," said Delgado. "The trend is that they are bigger, more beautiful and more luxurious. Those with large spaces can have everything from coffee makers to seating areas."

When beginning the design of a closet space, Julia Walter, showroom manager at Italian design firm Boffi, advises clients to make an inventory list of items that will go inside such as long-hanging clothing foldable clothing and shoes.

"What plays into the inventory list is how the client prefers to use their closets," she said. "For example, do they mostly hang or do they fold clothes. It's helpful to see what the client's closet looks like currently [and] works and what doesn't."

A combination of small and large drawers is important for the different items to store, says Walter. For example, small drawers can hold items like jewelry, underwear and socks while larger drawers can hold items like scarves or exercise clothes."

"I like to use the upper most shelves in closets for bulky storage like luggage, hat

cases [and] for items that are either not used too much or are seasonal," said Walter. "Open shelves are great for display of shoes and handbags."

Invest in a full-length mirror and install it behind the door or on an open space that won't take away from storage, advises Allie Mann, designer, senior interiors specialist with Case Design/Remodeling, Inc.

"Use every inch of a closet space for storage. There may be small niches that are perfect for scarves, handbags [and] belts," she said. "Build in shoe shelving if possible. Keeping shoes off the floor gives a more organized look to the space. If you want to keep shoe boxes, be sure to label them with photos of the shoes inside so you don't have to open every box to find the pair you're looking for."

For those with a generous budget, Interior Designer Todd Martz, co-owner of Home on Cameron in Old Town Alexandria advises investing in a lighting system for viewing clothing and distinguishing colors.

"Add pullout shelves and rods to organize outfits. [Add] drawers with glass inserts to see contents," he said. "Group accessories [like] belts and purses by color for easy access."

Accessories that Walter recommends adding to a walk-in closet include belt hang-

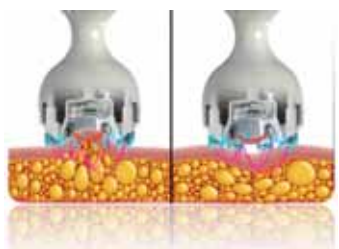


PHOTO ANGIE SECKINGER/BOFFI GEORGETOWN

Open shelving for storing shoes and handbags are among the features that designer Julia Walter recommends for walk-in closets.

ers, tie hangers, jewelry drawers and safes. "If space allows, a center island is a great feature for getting dressed and showcasing certain items," she said. "Before a night out, [for example] a gown and shoes can be displayed."

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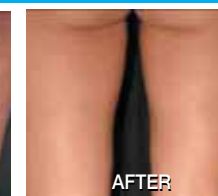
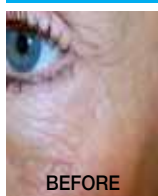
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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Artists Show. Various times through May 31 at the Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. "Levels of Abstraction," show featuring the works of Hiromi Ashlin, Genna Gurvich, Sandi Ritchie Miller, and Buck Nelligan. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net or call 703-450-8005 for more.

Artists Show. Various times through May 31 at Katie's Coffee House, Village Center, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Joyce Lee. Call 703-759-2759 for more.

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

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.

First Sunday Jazz Brunch 11-2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at Bazin's on Church 111 Church St N.W., Vienna. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/

The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. 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

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.

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. 571-213-3192.

Fishing Rod Rentals 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Colvin Run Mill open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational



"Three Amigos" by Coty Dickson.

'All Creatures Great and Small' on Exhibit at Library

Great Falls Studios presents "All Creatures Great and Small," a 24-member exhibit at the Great Falls Library in the newly named Marge Toni Gersic Community Room. Creatures, from the smallest bee to the mighty tiger, were created in a variety of media to include, oil, watercolor, pastel, acrylic, mixed media, stoneware, fiber, photography, lithography, jewelry, stained glass mosaic, and gelatin silver print from film. This menagerie will hang for the month of May and consists of 29 wall hangings and 14 smaller items in the display case. Ten percent of all sales are donated to The Friends of the Great Falls Library.

activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

Fundamentals of Watercolors.

Mondays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Lorrie Herman will help students get comfortable working with watercolors and understanding this medium. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Still Life Painting. Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Still life provides a great tool to hone skills. Recommended for students of all levels. Visit www.greatfallsart.org.

Evening Painting. Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks focuses on oil painting fundamentals with two sessions each of still life, landscapes, and portrait/clothed figure from a live model. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Intro to Jewelry Design. Tuesdays 9 a.m.-noon at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. JJ Singh teaches a class for anyone interested in exploring the world of metal clay and its design possibilities. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 11

Breakfast Lecture. 8-10:30 a.m. at Valo Park, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Breakfast series "Community Wealth Building - A New, Inclusive Systems Approach to Economic Development." www.cfnova.org/innovationbreakfast.

FRIDAY, MAY 12

Road to Independence Gala. 6-10 p.m. at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. The Road to Independence Gala celebrates Northern Virginia

Family Service as the leading resource for Northern Virginia families in need. This prestigious event features live and silent auctions, and draws 600 business and community leaders invested in local families. This year's honorees are Karen Cleveland and former U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf. \$300. Call 571-748-2502, or email scrosley@nvfs.org for more.

Artists Reception. 7-9 p.m. at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Artist of the Year Ken Frye with the "Trees," exhibition. Visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org or call 703-319-3971 for more.

Big Screen on the Green. 8 p.m. at the Town Green, 144 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Officials will inflate the "walk-in" theater on the Town Green for a viewing of Disney-Pixar's "Cars." In addition, the Town will be serve cake and award giveaways in celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Town Green's dedication at approximately 7:30. For more call parks and recreation at 703-255-6360.

SATURDAY/MAY 13

Love Your Baby Day. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Beloved Yoga, 1137 Walker Road, Suite 2, Great Falls. Learn about the many aspects of the prenatal and postnatal journey and support available to have a healthy pregnancy, and raise a healthy and happy baby and family. Visit www.belovedyoga.com for more.

Teens on the Green. 11 a.m. at the Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Town officials will host of local talent will perform on the Town Green stage. For more call parks and recreation at 703-255-6360.

THURSDAY/MAY 18

MPA Spring Art Benefit. The McLean

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15



Great Falls Soccer Club

Travel Team Tryout Registration is now open!

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www.GreatFallsSoccer.com

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Soccer Field Gets Facelift

FROM PAGE 3

the club approached the county to talk about changing the field to a synthetic turf. This was two years ago.

"It takes a lot of time because you have to shepherd every aspect of this process through," Chaturvedula said.

For the club's financial contribution, it is putting about 10 percent down, taking on a loan and will be fundraising to raise the rest of the money, according to Chaturvedula.

Since the field will be closed during the entire summer season, the club will have to double up on using other fields. But club members think their efforts will be worthwhile.

"The county fields are already in high demand from soccer clubs," he said.

In addition to reducing maintenance costs, the club hopes the turf and lighting will allow the field to be available more often for its 1,200 players.

The \$20,000 grant from the park authority is from its Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program. The program comprises bond-funded grants that provide matching funds for projects in Fairfax County parks.

In 1998, John Mastenbrook, a 21-year veteran of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, suggested a grant program be established to encourage public and private ventures that would improve parks and park facilities. The program fills a gap between limited bond funding and the community's desire for new neighborhood park facilities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREAT FALLS SOCCER CLUB

Alex Martin shows off his ball-handling skills during team practice.

Since 1999, there have been more than 150 Mastenbrook Grant projects with awards of approximately \$1.3 million. The grants have gone toward projects in Fairfax County valued at more than \$9.2 million.



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NEWS

Pouring Hearts Onto Pages

Great Falls writers launch third anthology.

BY CHRISTINA TYLER WENKS

Dozens of writers from various writing backgrounds combined their experiences in the latest Great Falls Writer's Group Anthology, called "And This I Give to You." The book release is at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 13, at the Great Falls Library.

"In this volume, we talk about holding on to time, to not let that which we cherish slip by without marking its meaning, to grasp what we deem precious and not allow it to be erased by the forward movement of our lives," said editor Myrna Stuart. Each page contains a story about memories, words of wisdom, or family keepsakes that may be meaningful for future generations. This year's book evolved from the group's previous publications.

GFWG often uses prompts to get outside of writing comfort zones and grow. In 2015, members started exploring relationships with time. Members combined their works into the organization's first publication, "Passages On Time," a project that inspired last year's book, "Two Minutes."

Writers show their magnitude of gratitude by dedicating the third anthology to its oldest GFWG members, who demonstrate their commitment to the craft, how to carve daily time for writing, and stay mentally and physically active.

Catherine Mathews, age 91, self-published her memoir before she joined the writing group more than five years ago. Since joining GFWG, Mathews ventured into fiction writing and has won a number of online writing competitions.

Mary Dacoba, age 96 and a charter member of the group, will unveil her first published book at the event, too.

Local artists contributed artwork for consideration for the anthology's cover, and writer Gail Pèan's painting won.

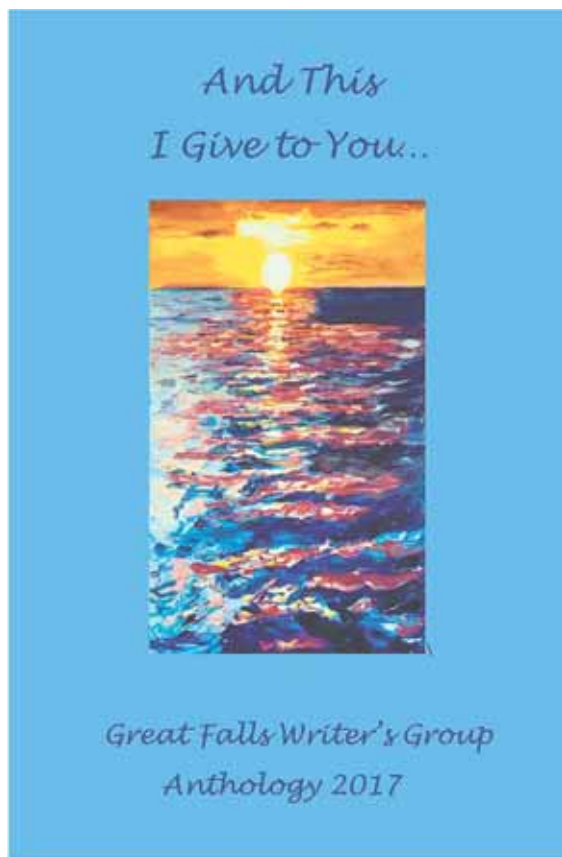


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Local artists contributed artwork for consideration for the anthology's cover, and writer Gail Pèan's painting won.

"I'm so excited about this upcoming event. Whenever we can come together under one roof to showcase and celebrate the talent of our writing family with the larger Great Falls community, it makes my soul smile," said Kristin Clark Taylor, GFWG founder. "This is creative convergence at its best. It doesn't get any better than this!"

"And This I Give to You" is available for \$10 at the event. The public is invited to attend this free event.

FAITH NOTES

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

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Sunday worship services are at

8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for young adults follows the 10:30 a.m. worship services and for children at 9:30 a.m. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 5 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at noon. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.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 located at 450 Orchard Street, NW Vienna.

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Announcements

Jolie Hair Academy is applying to become a candidate for accreditation with the Commission of the Council on Occupational Education. Persons wishing to make comments should either write to the Executive Director of the Commission, Council on Occupational Education, 7840 Roswell Road, Bldg. 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, GA 30350, or submit comments on the Council's website (www.council.org). Persons making comments must provide their names and mailing addresses.

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THE CONNECTION
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Announcements

NEWS

**The Wine Outlet Opens
Great Falls Location**

The Wine Outlet officially launched its third location in Northern Virginia last week, with the Grand Opening of its newest store at the intersection of Walker and Colvin Run roads in Great Falls. The Company has planned a month of wine and wine pairing events throughout May to celebrate the expansion.

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) attended the grand opening. The Wine Outlet is the D.C. metro area's fast-growing place for wine, beer and gourmet foods, including cheeses, boutique olive oils and other culinary delights. With the expansion, The Wine Outlet brings its model of "Big Box Prices with Small Store Service" to the residents of Great Falls and Northern Vienna area.

Cutting the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of the Wine Outlet's third location in Northern Virginia, Comstock celebrated the growth and expansion of small business in Northern Virginia's 10th Congressional District, noting in her remarks that small businesses like The Wine Outlet bring jobs and vibrancy to the local economy.

Rob Kelly, Wine Outlet spokesperson, said, "We are excited to launch our third location in this fantastic area where we can reach not just Great Falls, but the underserved areas of Northern Vienna and West Tysons. The reception from these communities has been amazing, and we look forward to proving here, like we have in McLean and Vienna, that small store service does not require consumers to pay high prices, and competitive wine prices do not need to come at



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock participates in ribbon-cutting at the grand opening of the Wine Outlet in Great Falls last week.

the expense of hands-on service by knowledgeable wine sales people."

All of The Wine Outlet's stores feature complimentary wine tastings every Friday and Saturday, in addition to the special events held regularly. Louis Cinelli, the company's Chief Wine Officer announced a schedule of events for May at the Great Falls location. Find more at www.wine-outlet.com.

**Art Comes to Life
at Brightview
Great Falls**

"Elbow Cay," a watercolor, "Empire Twilight," a mixed media collage with acrylic paint, and "Star of the Outback," in fiber and bead, are just a few of the exquisite art pieces currently on display at Brightview Great Falls.

A total of fifteen pieces in a variety of mediums – watercolors, acrylics, photography, fabric arts, and quilt – adorn the walls around the billiards room turned art gallery, drawing residents, families, artists, and visitors alike to the community.

A gallery opening was held on Sunday, April 23 to officially kick off the artistic collaboration between Brightview Great Falls and Great Falls Studios, an organization of more than 100 independent artists working in Great Falls.

"We are proud to host this exceptional art, and offer residents as well as the community the opportunity to experience and engage with the art and artists," said Carolyn Pennington, Community Sales Director.

"It was exciting to have access to view the talents of our local Great Falls' artists," said resident Midge T. "Everyone enjoyed the gallery opening immensely and appreciated how gifted these folks are!"

The exhibits will rotate every two months, and each show will have a theme. The current theme is based on Louis Armstrong's song, "What a Wonderful World."

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Great Falls Studios," said Josh Graf, Vibrant Living Director. "Their network of members, artists, is incredible. Take one look around you and you can see for yourself just how extraordinary they are. We are so grateful to them and look forward to future installations."

"Since our consortium of artists was started in 2003, one of the missions of Great Falls Studios is to



A total of fifteen pieces of art are currently on display at Brightview Great Falls.

work within Great Falls to create an artful community," explains Linda Jones, President of Great Falls Studios. "Working with Brightview is a perfect way for us to meet this important goal. We are particularly excited to be bringing art to the public and to those who perhaps can no longer venture out to see it in other, more typical art venues."

"We are also delighted to make these exhibits interactive to encourage everyone to look at the art more deeply, and recollect stories and special times in their lives," concluded Jones.

Brightview Great Falls features Assisted Living and Wellspring Village, Brightview's specialized program and environment for people living with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. The community, located at 10200 Colvin Run Road, opened in September 2014.

For more information about Great Falls Studios, visit www.greatfallsstudios.com. For more information about Brightview Great Falls, visit www.BrightviewGreatFalls.com or contact Carolyn Pennington at 703-759-2513.

ENTERTAINMENT



'Vibrant Flowers'

Joyce Lee is exhibiting her “Vibrant Flowers” throughout May at Katie’s Coffee House at Village Centre, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Visit oldbrogue.com/katies-coffee-house/ for more.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

Project for the Arts will host its annual Spring Benefit at the private residence of Pat and Matthew Bullock. Dr. Dorothy Kosinski, director, The Phillips Collection, will serve as the evening’s guest of honor. Event chairs for this year’s Spring Benefit are Jane A. Imperatore and Neda Yazdani. Visit www.mpaart.org or call 703-790-1953 for details.

Meet the Author. 7:30-9 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Meet local author Britt Alan whose political thriller warns of the threat of unchecked Chinese regional aggression. Books available for sale and signing. Adults. Call 703-938-0405 for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 19

Bike to Work Day 2017. Registration — now open — is free and open to anyone who commutes in the region, from first timers to daily cyclists. All registrants will be entered in a regional bicycle raffle, and the first 16,000 to register and attend will receive a free t-shirt at one of more than 85 pit-stops throughout Northern Virginia. Participants can register online at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org. Email Megan Goodman at mgoodman@mwocog.org, or call 202-962-3209 for more.

Meet the Artist. 7 p.m. at the McLean Art Society, Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. Gavin Glakis, a portrait artist, will be the featured speaker. Call 703 356-0770 for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 20

McLean Day. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road. Features live entertainment, carnival rides large and small, activities for children such as pony rides and face-painting, great music, food. Visit www.fairsandfestivals.net for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 21

Amadeus Orchestra. 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Amadeus Orchestra with Jonathan Carney, violin. \$30. Visit www.amadeusconcerts.com for more.

MONDAY/MAY 22

Charitable Golf Tournament. noon at Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Clubhouse Road, Reston. Proceeds benefit Great Falls, Forestville and Colvin Run Elementary schools. Call 703-437-5222 or visit www.greatfallsgolf.org for more.

Dine and Donate. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. at Ledo’s Pizza, 141 Park Street, SE, Vienna. Ledo’s will donate 20 percent of total sales to the Shepherd’s Center of Oakton-Vienna. Call 703-281-0538.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

“Bulky Boy”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Is the nickname I gave Andrew, one of our male cats. It's because he's a bit portly, like his father, yours truly. However, Andrew's nickname is not the impetus for this particular column. The impetus for this column is my tendency, as the primary (almost exclusive) buyer of miscellaneous household goods and to a lesser extent, services, to buy in bulk/quantity, not necessarily quality; although that's a subject of a long-ago column and perhaps a future one as well — dare I cross that Rubicon again, and one that has earned me this identical nickname to Andrew.

As a cancer patient originally diagnosed as “terminal” — at age 54 and a half, eight-plus years ago, time becomes an integral/essential part of your life; what there is of it presently, what you have been told you have left of it and what you — in your wildest dreams, every day and every night, hope you actually get to do: live a relatively “normal” life expectancy.

Even though life has gone on years past my original “13-month to two-year” prognosis, I still struggle with the emotional yin and yang of whether I'm closer to the end or further from the beginning (date of diagnosis). And is so struggling, everyday decisions that might have a time element/time-sensitivity to them are complicated. Is it necessary to do it/buy it/obligate myself to it now when the benefit might be later? A later I might never see? If I'm trying to enjoy life in the present as much as possible to fend off the inevitable and relentless stress that a “terminal” cancer diagnosis imposes, then how does a future benefit help me now?

As a few examples and finally to the point of this column: buying in bulk. 240 dryer sheets — for two adults, one of whom works at home and doesn't exactly get dressed for it; 90 tall kitchen trash bags — we use one bag a week, and that includes bagging the cat litter for five indoor cats; paper towels — enough quantity that we could likely wrap them around our entire house if we had to; toilet paper — is sacrosanct, one can never have enough in stock; and tissues/Kleenex — given how frequently my eight-years-of-post-chemotherapy nose runs — constantly, is also sacrosanct (although I can always use toilet paper, paper napkins or paper towels in the pinch; not exactly the same pinch as if the toilet paper inventory runs out, however). Naturally, these items are all non-perishable so their life expectancy is not a consideration. But since mine is, sometimes I think I need to buy them or else, because when I do need them it will be too late.

As for perishables, obviously it makes little sense to overbuy (expiration dates notwithstanding, except mine). I can't eat all the food quickly enough anyway (another point of contention from a previous column), although I may try. But even I know, in my cancer-induced haze, that spending money now on an unpredictable future though penny-wise and beneficial in some emotional ways, might be pound-foolish. I need to feel good today - period, not feel good today about something I might benefit from tomorrow. I mean, how else am I even going to get to tomorrow? Don't I need to filter out potentially harmful/debilitating mental and physical images/impacts and try to live as unencumbered as possible (to invoke one of my deceased father's favorite words)? Cancer is already an uphill battle. If I don't want to live the legendary life of Sisyphus, pushing a figurative rock up a hill, only to have it fall back down time and again, I need to find a way/strategy to both manage my budget and control my mind. Obviously, I want to live like I have a future, but not at the expense of my present. You can call me “Bulky Boy” all you want, but “crazy-kookie” not so much.

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



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