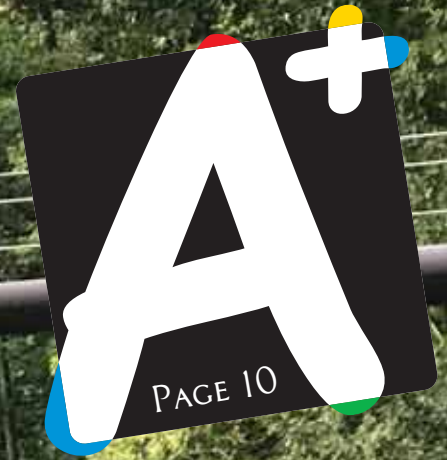




Great Falls CONNECTION



Continued growth in visitors to the Great Falls Park and limited parking spaces create back-ups on weekends, holidays and when the weather is nice. The traffic makes advancing through the intersection at Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive difficult.

Old Dominion Dr

Georgetown Pk

Great Falls
Park
CLOSED AT DARK

Great Falls
Park
CLOSED AT DARK

Gridlock in Great Falls

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Marching for
'Sensible Gun Laws'

NEWS, PAGE 8

Summer Book
Clubs for Children

A+, PAGE 10

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PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

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



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FX9853078 - \$7,000,000 - Great Falls
Utterback Store Rd: Approximately 68 Acres of
Vacant Land w/ 2 Acre Zoning Located in
Great Falls. Breathtaking Views of Tysons Corner,
Bethesda, & the Washington Monument.



For Sale

FX9971472 - \$795,000 - 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

FX9937861 - \$1,199,000 - Herndon
11698 Caris Glens Dr: 5 BR, 5B, 2B
Magnificent SFH Offering High Ceilings, Hardwood Floor,
and Dramatic 2 Story Foyer with 2nd Level Overlook.
Fabulous Lower Level w/ Indoor Pool, Deck, Patio, & Yard



For Sale

For Sale - \$355,000 - Reston
12149 Purple Sage Ct: 3 BR, 2.5 BA
End-Unit Townhouse with Large Family Room
Addition with Hardwood Floors. Fully Fenced
Backyard with Large Deck Backing to Trees.



For Sale

FX10001560 - \$950,000 - Great Falls
748 Kentland Dr: 5 Acre Parcel of Land with Eas Access
to Route 7. Soil Eval Test in 1992 Showed Percolation
for a 3 BR Home. Must See Opportunity for Anyone
Looking to Build a Home in Great Falls.



For Sale

FX9835654 - \$680,000 - Springfield
17706 Gambrell Rd: 1.22 Acres of Raw Land in a
Fabulous Location. All Preliminary Engineering Done
for 3 Single Family Home Lots. Buyer Will Need to
Finalize the Engineering Process.

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For Sale

OR9919143 - \$389,900 - Lake of the Woods
108 Sand Trap Ln: 3 BR, 2.5 BA
New Construction on Golf Course! Stunning Home
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on Front Porch & Start Living the Lake Life.



For Sale

OR9943637 - \$725,900 - Lake of the Woods
300 Mt Pleasant Dr: 5 BR, 3.5 BA
Stunning Recently Updated Waterfront Deck House
Gourmet Kitchen, Soaring Ceilings, & Abundant
Glass to Soak in Sunsets from Your Private Dock.



For Sale

OR9958296 - \$1,300,000 - Lake of the Woods
120 Lee Cir: 5 BR, 4.5 BA
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Entertainment & Private Dock. Oversized Garage.

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Event at The Old Brogue in Great Falls
and

August 30th for:

Law Appreciation Wednesday (LAW)

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Gridlock in Great Falls

Congestion worsens at the entrance to the Great Falls Park.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Park popularity has been identified as the culprit behind congestion and gridlock issues in a rural area of Great Falls.

The source of the problem is the entrance of the Great Falls Park that is located at the end of Old Dominion Drive, which can become backed up with traffic. This congestion causes issues for residents who live on the street and whose only access to their driveways are off of Old Dominion Drive. When traffic is at its peak, the congestion also causes unsafe and frustrating driving conditions at the intersection of Old Dominion Drive and Georgetown Pike — about a mile away from the park entrance.

“This has been going on for at least two years,” Pamela Grosvenor, chair of the Great Falls Citizens Association Transportation Committee, said of the gridlock.

At her committee’s June 6 and July 12 meetings, local residents and staff from Supervisor John Foust’s office met with representatives from the National Park Service and the U.S. Park Police to discuss the ongoing problem.

“While the neighbors are concerned, I think everyone is trying to minimize the impacts at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive,” said Aaron LaRocca, a spokesperson for the National Park Service.

During the past two years the National Park Service has increased entrance fees and taken steps to reduce the processing time it takes to collect payment at the gate from more than 620,000 annual visitors to the park.

These improvements included installing a Tier 1, fiber optic internet connection at the entry booth, which can carry more data than its previous system; upgrading the point of sale system; and receiving a waiver from credit card companies that allow staff members to forgo pin codes to process debit payments, according to LaRocca.

“We are confident that it’s working because we went from about 30 days of impacting the intersection last year to about six days of impacting the intersection so far this year,” LaRocca said.

Now the traffic is more weather-dependent.

Days when traffic impacts the intersection tend to be earlier in the spring, “when people are done hibernating in the winter and they happen sometimes as you get into the really nice days in the fall,” LaRocca said.

The National Park Service will be conducting a traffic study for the Great Falls Park later in the year, but the agency is working with the GFCA to find a solution to the problem in the meantime.

A SOLUTION that will be tested the next time the intersection is impacted is what



PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Continued growth in visitors to the Great Falls Park and limited parking spaces create back-ups on weekends, holidays and when the weather is nice. The traffic makes advancing through the intersection at Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive difficult.

2017 Fee-Free Days at Great Falls National Park

Park hours are 7 a.m. to dark, daily. It costs \$10 to enter the park for each vehicle and its passengers. The cost to the park is reduced to \$5 for each individual entering by foot, bicycle or horse, with the exception of active duty military personnel and dependents and all children 15 years old and younger, who can enter for free. Annual passes are also available for purchase. 2017 fee-free dates include:

- ♦ **Jan. 16:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ♦ **Feb. 20:** Presidents’ Day
- ♦ **April 15-16:** 1st Weekend of National Park Week
- ♦ **April 22-23:** 2nd Weekend of National Park Week
- ♦ **Aug. 25:** National Park Service Birthday
- ♦ **Sept. 30:** National Public Lands Day
- ♦ **Nov. 11-12:** Veterans Day Weekend

the GFCA and park employees are calling a carousel, which would go into effect when the 536 parking spaces at the park are full or when the line of traffic stretches down to the intersection.

“The carousel concept was that once traffic started building up down Old Dominion Drive that you would begin the circulation of vehicles through the entrance station U-turning back towards Georgetown Pike,” Alexcy Romero, superintendent of the National Capital Parks-East for the National Park Service, said at the meeting. “We would create this carousel effect of vehicles, allowing our visitors to make the U-turn and then identifying a time of when the park would be re-opening so they could recirculate back.”

The National Park Service has purchased equipment, including signage for the park entrance, and the U.S. Park Police are on board with testing the system, according to Romero.

Debate at the July 12 meeting then occurred about why signage couldn’t be

placed at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive. This would alert park goers before they made a trek down the road and were forced to turn around and become stuck in a long line of traffic.

“I’m in line and then you tell me after I’ve finally reached the end of the line to turn around, I’m not turning, I’m waiting for the next car to go out,” Karl Pierson, GFCA Transportation Committee member, said at the meeting. “You’re going to have a battle royal.”

Grosvenor said she has contacted the Virginia Department of Transportation about placing a sign or a notification system at the intersection to alert passengers and that engineers would be discussing the matter, she said at the meeting.

“The general concept is to let people know not to continue down Old Dominion,” Grosvenor said.

All were in agreement in connecting VDOT with the National Park Service to work on getting signage at the intersection

— whether it be electronic and capable of being remotely activated or temporarily set up by hand.

“We all agreed that there would be huge negative reaction, so we need to help our park brethren manage that reaction as much as we can,” Philip Pifer, GFCA vice president, said at the meeting. “At least then you could defend yourselves with the irate people that go all the way down the road by saying, ‘Did you see the park closed sign?’” he added.

Softening the blow was also an idea committee members had.

“For the people that are waiting in line and get carouseled back, there are local merchants in the area who may be able to provide a coupon that you could give to the people you’re turning around that would give them a place to go for an hour or two to grab an ice cream cone, grab a beer or whatever and be good for our local economy and be a measure of good faith on your part that you’re recognizing it’s inconvenient,” Pifer said.

The carousel will be implemented by the U.S. Park Police, according to Romero.

“We were talking about a variety of scenarios that could happen and what to expect, but whenever we do put this into effect, the Park Police will be there to help us enforce,” Romero said. “We’re going to expect angry visitors.”

ANOTHER OPTION the GFCA is considering advocating for are employing crossing guards or police officers to manage traffic at the intersection when it gets backed up.

“If traffic is stretching almost to the intersection, it will take 25 minutes to get a half-mile or so to my driveway,” John Ulfelder, who lives in one of the homes on the portion of Old Dominion Drive that is impacted by the traffic, said at the meeting.

Traffic has been backing up to Ulfelder’s driveway and the 10 homes on that portion of Old Dominion for years, but has gotten heavier, he said.

“The problem is the weekends where it really, really, really backs up or the lot fills and they can’t let any more cars in without somebody leaving,” he said. “That’s when it gets really bad.”

He says the weekend backups usually don’t start until after 10 a.m. and go until about 4 p.m.

“My wife and I now plan our weekends to accommodate for that,” he said. “If we want to have guests over during the weekend, that’s an issue. I have to tell them to come early.”

In the future, the National Park Service has a goal of implementing a reservation system to better manage the flow of traffic into the park.

“The carousel is just a pilot,” Romero said at the meeting. “We don’t know how it will work.”



PHOTO BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

When entering Claude Moore Colonial Farm, you are entering the year 1771, four years before the American Revolution. Reenactors will stay in character and ask you and your family to help them with their work.

NEWS

Welcome to 1771 in McLean

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Stepping into Claude Moore Colonial Farm is walking back into the history of America when it was still a colony of England. The year is 1771, four years before the American Revolution and reenactors fill the farm paths wearing bonnets, hats, and gowns made by hand.

The costumed interpreters stay in char-

Claude Moore Colonial Farm preserves living history for young and old.

acter as they serve spit-roasted chicken, meat pies, beer, lemonade, and sausages. The farm family enjoys visitors and takes pride in doing all of the farm work by hand just as it was in 1771.

There are also some places of historical importance to the Claude Moore Colonial

Farm, including: Tolston's Mill, six miles west; The Falls Church, eight miles east; The Tobacco Warehouse, three miles to the east; and the Town of Alexandria which was a day's walk away or 15 miles — the nearest

SEE HISTORY, PAGE 5



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Photos by Walt Lawrence

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Pio Pio Restaurant.....	703-865-7700
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School of Theatrical Dance.....	703-759-5652
Spectrum Property Management....	703-307-2965
Village Centre Mgmt Office.....	703-759-2485
Village Retreat/Massage Therapy....	703-638-4852
Wells Fargo Bank.....	703-757-1040
Wild Ginger Restaurant.....	703-759-5040



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WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Senior Center to Host Antique Appraisal Event

"How much do you think it's worth?" Well, grab your favorite (portable) heirloom or piece of jewelry and join Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) on Tuesday, Sept. 19, from 10 a.m. to noon as GFSC, in concert with Paradigm Experts, hosts their version of the "Antiques Road Show" at the Colvin Run Historic Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls.

Paradigm Experts is a network of accredited appraisal experts helping clients make informed decisions regarding their personal items.

There is a limit to 40 items (20 jewelry/gem/watch/coin related and 20 "all other categories") being appraised. Anyone wishing an item to be evaluated must send a picture and a description of the provenance (how long has it been in your family? What do you know about it already?) ahead of time. Deadline for submitting pictures and descriptions is Aug. 31. First come, first served.

Send electronic copy to Yasha Arant at yasha_arant@yahoo.com or mail hardcopy to: Yasha Arant, 104 Sue Ann Court, Sterling, Va 20164.

Those submitting an item for appraisal are requested to arrive at the venue at 9 a.m. so items can be reviewed prior to the 10 a.m. show.

Audience members don't have to be having an item appraised in order to attend this event. Contact Karen Emami at karen.emami@globalinfotek.com or call 703-938-6471.

This event is sponsored by TD Bank, www.tdbank.com.

History Revisited at Claude Moore Farm

FROM PAGE 4

town to the farm in 1771. The farm itself includes cattle, chicken, corn, flax, a garden, geese, hogs, and orchard, pond, tobacco, and turkeys.

NOW, THE FARM focuses on education and events for children and families to engage with history. "This is a great learning experience for the kids. It involves all of the senses," said Melissa Wilcox, a U.S. military spouse at the event Saturday.

"It's great to learn about the history of our country," said Ryan Repass. His mother, Daphne Repass, a U.S. Military Spouse said "we like it because we can talk to people from the time period."

Reenactors from all parts of the country also come to Claude Moore Farm to take part in the living history event that was held this past weekend on Saturday and Sunday.

Brad Rivera, 52, a business owner, and Elizabeth McClung, 51, a construction project manager visited with the First New Jersey of the Continental and donned the apparel of the 1770's.

"I love it, though there's not enough of us, it's a family. Women always wore a white cap of some kind and this one is a bit fancy," said McClung.

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10), helped to pass a bill in congress approving



Reenactors put chickens on a spit to roast over a wood fire this weekend at Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

the Land Exchange at the Farm. "The Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run in McLean is a living history museum that portrays family life on a small farm at the birth of our nation," she said.

Comstock helped the farm resolve a land dispute involving the Federal Highway Administration and the Central In-

telligence Agency.

Phillip C. Zane, President, Claude Moore Colonial Farm said, "we are very grateful that this transfer of land is being completed as it has allowed the Farm to have free and open vehicular access. We sincerely thank Congresswoman Comstock for getting this accomplished."



Brad Rivera, 52, a business owner, and Elizabeth McClung, 51 a construction project manager, visited with the First New Jersey of the Continental and donned the apparel of the 1770's.

Similar legislation about land transfer adjacent to the George Washington Parkway was presented by Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA).

Adrienne Conroy, 48, with Historical Hounds came to the event this past weekend at Claude Moore Colonial Farm. "Re-enacting is a fun way to learn about history, and fun for people to see us. It makes history live for people because it's not a boring book or a teacher," she said. "The kids are going to remember that!"

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OPINION

Help Prepare Children in Need for School

Many opportunities to contribute; tax-free back-to-school shopping is Aug. 5-7 across Virginia.

We live in an area where many, if not most, families have the means and desire to do almost whatever it takes to give their children the best chances for success.

But for thousands of students, families lack the financial resources to equip them for success on the first day of school and beyond.

In our affluent area, there are many poor families, families who are barely making it, families who are not able to indulge their children in a shopping spree before school begins, families who are already having trouble making up for the meals their children would be getting at school.

EDITORIAL

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 27 percent of more than 184,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 50,000 children in Fairfax County who are going through the summer without their usual access to breakfast and lunch. In some schools, volunteers pack snacks for the students to take home on weekends. For many of those children, having a fully equipped backpack on the first day of school is out of reach.

In the City of Alexandria, about 60 percent of the Alexandria Public Schools students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 8,000 of the city's 13,000-plus students.

In Arlington, more than 32 percent of the county's 23,000-plus students are poor enough to receive subsidized meals; more than 7,000 students.

Help these students get started on the right foot by contributing to one of the many local backpack drives.

The Virginia sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing (and preparedness and energy savers) is Aug. 4-6. This is a little extra savings that could be paid forward to students in need.

The three-day sales tax holiday starts the first Friday in August at 12:01 a.m. and ends the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. During the sales tax holiday, you can buy qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear; hurricane and emergency preparedness items; Energy Star and WaterSense products without paying sales tax.

Each eligible individual school supply item must be priced at \$20 or less, and each eligible article of clothing and footwear must be priced at \$100 or less. For other details see www.tax.virginia.gov/virginia-sales-tax-holiday

Where To Give in Fairfax County

❖ **Fairfax County Collect for Kids** is a public private partnership that provides local children from economically challenged families with the school supplies they need to begin the school year, and has provided more than 100,000 supply kits and backpacks since

2010. Collect for Kids is made possible through a partnership with Kids R First, Fairfax County Public Schools, the Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships, Apple Federal Credit Union and numerous community-based organizations (some listed here) and businesses in the Fairfax County area who are working together to provide supplies in a more cost-effective and efficient way. See collectforkids.org/resources.

❖ **Cornerstones** will work to provide backpacks and other necessities to 3,000 Reston and Herndon area students. You can buy backpacks and other items online and have them delivered to Cornerstones. Or deliver the backpacks to Cornerstones Administrative Office Aug. 7-11, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston. In addition to backpacks, Cornerstones also requests donations of new underwear for elementary school age children, and Payless gift card donations (\$25) so young clients can get a new pair of shoes. Contact Cornerstones at 571-323-9568 or volunteer@cornerstonesva.org. Visit www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/back-to-school/

❖ **United Community Ministries** annual Back to School campaign is underway. Donations are needed by Friday, Aug. 4. A gift of \$40 completely outfits one student. Please drop checks and backpacks off at UCM's main office (7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306) weekdays from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Emily Griffin at emily.griffin@ucmagency.org or by 571-255-8973 or visit www.ucmagency.org/back-to-school-2017.html.

❖ **Britepaths**, participates in the Collect for Kids Back to School Program each summer and is working to help more than 2,500 students in central Fairfax have everything they need to succeed this fall. Cash donations help purchase supplies at a steep discount. Donate backpacks or calculators by Aug. 5. Larger size backpacks especially needed. Donate cash through Aug. 31. Checks are welcome. Make checks payable to "Britepaths," write BTS in the memo line of the check. Mail to: Britepaths 4080 Chain Bridge Road, 2nd Floor, Fairfax, VA 22030. If delivering in person, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., except for holidays. Call 703-273-8829. Visit www.britepaths.org.

Drop-off sites until Aug. 5:
— Cinema Arts Theatre At Fair City Mall, 9650-14 Main St, Fairfax, VA 22031
— Cox Farms 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville, VA 20120
— Del. Kathleen Murphy Constituent Office, 6888 Elm St., Ste 1C, McLean, VA 22101
— GAP Solutions, Inc. 205 Van Buren St, Herndon, VA 20170; Drop off in Suite 205
— Gathering Grounds Cafe At University Mall, 10637 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
— Dr. Gene Sweetnam, OD 5204A Rolling Road, Burke, VA 22015
— Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031

— Pure Performance 3805 Pickett Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
— Quest Diagnostics 14225 Newbrook Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151
— Solaris Laser and Skin Care 513 Maple Ave. W, Vienna, VA 22180
— Spine and Joint Institute 9990 Fairfax Blvd. #115, Fairfax, VA 22030
— STEM exCEL 4010 University Drive, #104, Fairfax, VA 22030
— Sugar Mama's Ice Cream 11208 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030
— Union Bank Burke 6050 Burke Commons Road, Suite A, Burke, VA 22015
— University Mall Theatre At University Mall, 10659 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032
— Westminster School's Camp Griffin 3819 Gallows Road, Annandale, VA 22003

❖ **FACETS** is seeking to equip more than 300 students in need with backpacks filled with supplies. Use the checklist at the link below as a guide for purchasing backpacks and supplies. Place purchased supplies in backpacks or other bags and deliver to FACETS. Drop off supplies through Aug. 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030. Contact FACETS at 703-272-3710 or visit facetscares.org/summerbacktoschooldrive/

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service** is able to buy supplies at a value that beats retail price. Every \$1 donated by July 27 can purchase \$2 worth of school supplies. Mail checks (payable to NVFS, with BTS in the memo line) to: Northern Virginia Family Service, Attn: Back to School, 10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Donations of new backpacks and new school supplies will be accepted on Friday, July 28, and Monday, July 31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at 13868 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151 (between Lotus Vegetarian and PetSmart – our storefront has white-washed windows). www.nvfs.org/support/back-to-school/

❖ **Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools** www.fcpsfoundation.org/donate.html accepts online donations only – to purchase school supplies in bulk quantity

❖ **Apple Federal Credit Union** www.applefcu.org/appleweb/collectforkids accepts online donations and backpack donations at local branches.

❖ **Fairfax County Board of Supervisors** Offices will be collecting backpacks during the month of August. See website for office locations and hours of operation. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/about-the-board-of-supervisors.htm

❖ **Fairfax County Public Schools** Backpack donations at the Gatehouse and Willow Oaks Administrative office locations. www.fcps.edu/

❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** accepts online donations and backpack donations. Check website for more details. Deliver Backpacks to WFCM (July 17-Aug. 11, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.) to WFCM's Office at 4511 Daly Drive, Suite J, Chantilly, VA 20151. Please bring backpacks to the back door of the Food Pantry. wfcmvva.org/how-you-can-help/annual-backpack-program/

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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Finding Focal Points

.....
Avoid confusing and visually busy patterns in your kitchen space by selecting one or two focal points. Invest in items that will make the strongest impact. A backsplash, accent countertops, furniture, textured walls, and fixtures can all act as the foundation of your focal point.



BATHROOM REMODELING DESIGN TIP:

Capturing the Resort Feel

.....
Plan on a variety of shower heads like a ceiling mounted rain shower and a body sprayer for a spa-resort like feel. Free standing or pedestal bathtubs make a nice focal point in a bathroom. Ceiling-mounted light fixtures add style and sparkle, while additional wall-mounted lights positioned at eye level illuminate your face from both sides.



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BASEMENT REMODELING DESIGN TIP:

Endless Possibilities

.....
Basements are ideal for entertaining adults and children. Incorporating good lighting and maximizing space along with adding built-in shelving and storage areas are few things to consider when you're planning the layout and design.



CHOOSING THE RIGHT FLOORING TIP

.....
When choosing a new floor for your home, asking yourself a few key questions at the beginning can dramatically increase your satisfaction in the end. Is it a high moisture area? Are pets or kids walking on this floor? What is your square foot budget? Do you want flooring that requires very little maintenance?



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Diana Smith is ready to rally and to march. The Restonian, a member of the Herndon-Reston Indivisible group, is ready for action. "It's great to see so many people out here. Together is how to make a difference."



Erica Brouillette from Fairfax believes in her sign, "We can End Gun Violence."



From left: Karen Randall, Chris McGlone and Ellen McGlone from Springfield join the rally at the NRA. "I just can't see a reason for someone to need an assault weapon," said Chris McGlone.



Tamika Mallory, co-founder of the Women's March, talks to the press before getting the event underway.

Marching for 'Sensible Gun Laws'

Hundreds rally outside NRA Headquarters for march to Department of Justice.

By ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The organizers were out-of-towners and many of those in attendance came from miles away. Boston. Miami. New York City. Richmond. Newtown, Conn. But in the mix at the "NRA2DOJ" rally and march were dozens of people from the greater Washington region, and from Fairfax County.

Cecile Heatley of Falls Church has been joining a faithful group of gun regulation reform advocates standing vigil outside of the National Rifle Association's (NRA) Fairfax headquarters one day every month since the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December of 2012. "I always knew gun laws were a problem, but until Newtown, I just didn't see them as my problem." This morning Heatley said she had never seen a crowd like the one that was gathered all around her. "Maybe some will come back and join us next month."

Instead of the usual handful of protesters who quietly congregate outside their offices each month, on Friday, July 14, the NRA was the target of hundreds of protesters as they gathered to first rally at the organization's homebase on Waples Mill Road and then proceed to march some 18 miles to the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. where another rally was scheduled



Marchers on the move.

to take place on Saturday.

Erica Brouillette of Fairfax was also inspired to participate in the protest efforts by the deaths of the Sandy Hook children and their teachers, as well as the many gun-related deaths that have taken place since then. "I guess we just have to do something to make people more aware."

Brouillette seemed a bit daunted

by the prospect of a march in the sweltering humid weather and the threat of afternoon thunderstorms, but she said she was going to "give it a try." She looked hopeful holding her "We Can End Gun Violence" sign.

The Sandy Hook victims were much remembered during the day, with a sobering banner, featuring the life-sized silhouettes of all 26 lives lost at the school, with brief



Marchers on the move.

PHOTOS BY
ANDREA WORKER/
THE CONNECTION

epitaphs of each, stretched across a stone wall opposite the NRA building, but there were signs and photographs memorializing numerous victims of gun violence, including the high-profile cases of Trayvon Martin and Philando Castile and the victims of the Pulse nightclub shootings along with photos and memories of loved ones lost that perhaps no one in the crowd had heard of before.

THE NRA is not the cause of these tragedies, acknowledged attendees



Not everyone was there to demonstrate against gun violence and demand gun law reform. A small group of counter-protesters also attended, walking among the crowds and holding signs with their viewpoints. A few less-than-friendly words were exchanged here and there, but the event remained civil, and peaceful.

like Karen Randall, and Chris and Ellen McGlone of Centerville, but "they seem to work to instill fear and pursue their own agenda," said Chris McGlone, "instead of using reason and common sense. And I'm sorry, but I see no reason for people to need assault weapons."

That was a sentiment that Diana Smith of Reston, a member of the Herndon-Reston Indivisible group, agreed with 100 percent as did the vast majority of those assembled, although there were some who dissented.

A small group of counter-protesters from Annapolis, Md., were there, as well, continuously wandering among the crowd wearing prominently displayed firearms and carrying their own signs, like

the one which read "Free Speech by Any Means Necessary."

Fairfax resident Sandra Robinson paid little attention to the group. "I am here in Love, nothing but Love," said Robinson. "The Bible is our weapon. I think the NRA needs to be more reasonable and help find solutions."

Del. Ken Plum (D-36), who lives in Reston, has attended many of the monthly NRA vigils and is a staunch advocate for "more common sense gun laws." As he told the crowd, "year after year" he introduces legislation, "but we won't quit until we succeed."

The organizers of the Women's March on Washington, which saw an estimated one million people swarm the streets of the nation's

capital on the day after the inauguration of Donald Trump, were behind this action, as well.

The larger issues driving today's protest are calls for more gun legislation, a ban on assault-type weapons, an end to gun violence, and what some protesters called systemic racism as the reason behind several deaths, particularly of minority males, at the hands of law enforcement personnel. "No one is safe unless everyone is safe" T-shirts, banners, and buttons were everywhere.

The catalyst for this two-day rally, march, and vigil stems from two recent events, the first being the acquittal of Minneapolis police officer Jeronimo Yanez in the shooting death of Philando Castile as the African-American man sat in his car with his fiancé and 4-year-old daughter. Pulled over by Yanez, Castile told the officers that he was legally carrying a firearm. Castile was shot several times when he reached to get his driver's license as requested.

"Where was the support from the NRA for Philando as a legally armed citizen?" Tamika Mallory, a founder of the Women's March, asked as she addressed the crowd outside the NRA building.

THE SECOND MOTIVATING FACTOR that led to the civil action was the release of an NRA video on Facebook that portrayed protestors as people who "smash windows, bully and terrorize law-abiding citizens." Radio host Dana Loesch, who narrates the video, goes on to say that the only answer is for the police to then "do their

jobs" and for those "law-abiders" to "fight back with the clenched fist of truth."

Mallory and many others viewed the ad as inflammatory, saying not only was it completely incorrect in its portrayal of the many Americans who openly oppose the President and the Republican agenda, but that it endorses the use of violence by NRA members and Trump supporters against those with whom they disagree.

Mallory wrote an open letter to the NRA asking that the video be removed and that an apology be issued. The NRA declined, and instead produced another video, this time using NRATV host Grant Stinchfield as spokesperson, who called out Mallory personally among others, and said "no way will we ever apologize for telling the truth," and again categorized the protestors as lawless looters and paid instigators.

Mallory and company prepared their own response to the new video — the "Women's March from the NRA to the DOJ," and brought along a few hundred friends to be sure their response was heard. "We know that we are not safe," she wrote in her letter and she called out to the rallying crowd. "But we will not be intimidated into silence."

Organizers and attendees asked that a special "thank you" be sent out to the Fairfax County Police Department for their professional and friendly assistance and escort, and to the Fairfax County EMS staff who came to the aid of several demonstrators who were overcome by heat.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

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Summer Book Clubs

Ideal time to instill a love of reading, say experts.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Encouraging children to read during summer months can be challenging for some parents, but worth the effort, say local educators, because diving into books offers students an opportunity to boost their reading skills before the start of the next school year. Book clubs with their peers allows children to read in a relaxed, informal setting.

"Book groups during summer vacation are the perfect time for friends to gather and share the love of reading," said Julie M. Esanu, lower school librarian, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "The summer is a perfect time for readers to explore and enjoy a variety of books across different genres and formats, including ebooks, audiobooks, and graphic novels."

While parents must provide a basic structure for the book club, Esanu says that allowing children to be involved in the planning and book selection, will cultivate a positive attitude toward books and reading.

"Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge," said Esanu. "Consider the members of the book group and their various interests when selecting titles and let the members have a say in what they're reading."

Allow for organic discussions inspired by the readers rather than formal discussions that require too much preparation, advises Esanu. "[Formality] feels too much like homework for students and we want them to dive into books during summer," she said. "Kids have a lot to say about the books that they read and that can lead to fabulous conversations. It is important for children to select the books that they read, especially over the summer."

In her role as the lower and middle school librarian at Bullis School in Potomac, Katherine Brewer helps students make book selections by asking them about the last book they read and enjoyed. "This helps me find out what types of books they are into and suggest other titles they might like," she said. "I might ask what about the book they liked. Then I

will give several suggestions."

Preparing and organizing the book club session without over planning, avoids chaos and leads to success, advises Laura Maffei, humanities teacher at BASIS Independent School McLean. "Set the stage by helping the children to understand the setting and any unfamiliar events or vocabulary they might encounter," she said. "For example, before reading 'Misty of Chincoteague' learn about Virginia, specifically Assateague and Chincoteague Islands, watch a documentary on the round up, make a craft that teaches the parts of a horse and its riding equipment, look at examples of life in the 1950s to see how it differs from today."

WHEN THE MEMBERS of the book group are not all at the same reading level, as can be the case with children, reading the same book can be pose a challenge, says Maffei. "... An option would be to read the same content, but each reader gets a book at their reading level," she said. "I've done this with Shakespeare, Greek Mythology, and classics like 'Peter Pan' that come in a variety of book types from picture to early reader to original text."


"If the children aren't around the same age [and] reading level or have varying interests, I would select a topic and suggest books that they could read and share," added Brewer. "Students can have the book read to them or listen to an audio version if they prefer."

Brewer, who runs book clubs for students at Bullis, says that during her meetings, children share the book they read and encourage others to read it. She also discourages penalizing children who haven't finished the book. "We use the book talk format popularized by [the television series] 'Reading Rainbow,' share a bit about the book and why others would want to read it, but no spoilers," she said. "They will be more interested if they have choice and input in the club's topic, books and activities."

Book club activities are an important tool in helping children develop a love of reading, says Tom Longano a third grade teacher at the Heights School, an all boys school in Potomac. "With most of our books I will invent a quick game that includes acting out the characters or key events from the story," he said. "I have found this to be an excellent way for the boys, who often have a very

SEE SUMMER BOOK, PAGE 13

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PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Experiencing Costa Rican Rainforest

Charlotte Fitzgerald, a 17-year-old student and Girl Scout at Langley High School, prepared for the rapids in a Costa Rican rainforest. In July, Charlotte spent 10 days on course with Outward Bound Costa Rica learning about Costa Rican culture on homestays with local families and doing adventure activities in the countryside. In addition to whitewater kayaking, she surfed, rode a zipline and painted a school-house as well.

Summer on Capitol Hill

Katie Burnham of McLean served as a summer intern for U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-02). As an intern, Burnham gained experience working in Washington, where she attended committee hearings, lead tours, and assisted office staff. She is the daughter of Chris and Courtney Burnham and will be a sophomore at Miami University of Ohio this fall.

"I learned so much about how a congressional office operates and how to effectively communicate with constituents. It was really beneficial to attend hearings, work with legislative aids and shadow the Congressman," Burnham said.

Wilson said, "As a former intern, I know firsthand the benefits of interning in Congress, and want to provide the opportunity for students from across the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. I am grateful for all young people who give back to their community by completing a Congressional internship, and am confident in their future success."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Katie Burnham with U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina.



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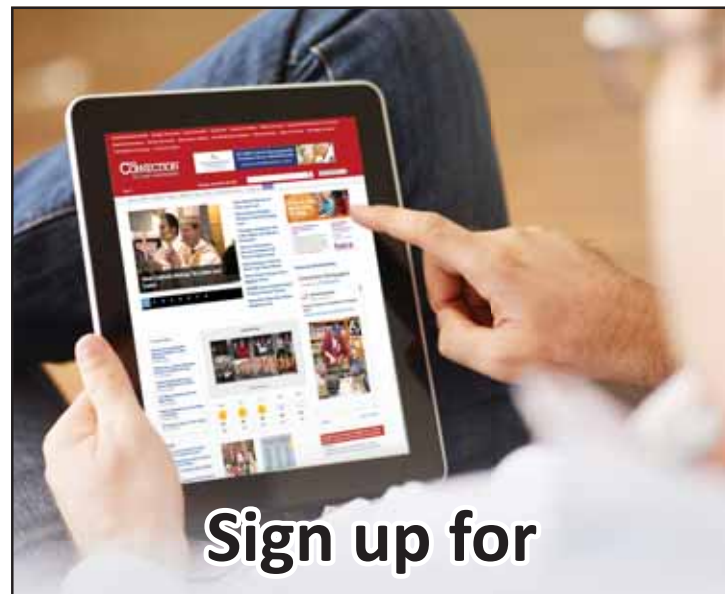
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ENTERTAINMENT

Restonian Brings Comedy to Lake Anne

Robin Dodd performs before full house at Café Montmartre, returns on Sept. 23.

BY THOMAS KENDZIORA
THE CONNECTION

Raunchy, crude and explicit jokes flew from the stage across the packed Café Montmartre for nearly two hours on Saturday night, July 8.

It was exactly what Robin Dodd wanted. The high school teacher and Reston native, who performs stand-up comedy in Washington, D.C., with stage name Robin Rex, founded FunnyFriend Productions and spent months hiring and planning for the event. It was her first time booking and promoting a show, so she was nervous about it for the three months it was being planned, but everything ultimately came together.

"It is kind of like a marathon," Dodd said after the show. "You build up, you build up and then you're just spent and then you think, 'I'm never doing that again.' ... But it was so nice to see all my friends, and the show went



Saturday's FunnyFriend Productions comedy show brought 75 paid guests to the Café Montmartre in Reston.

so well we agreed to do another one."

Most shows like this are in the District, and the ones that branch out don't usually venture farther than Arlington. Dodd wanted to give the Reston community a chance to see comedy at home rather than drive several towns over.

Bringing in an audience was no problem, as the café filled up and some guests had to stand in the back; there were 75 paid guests.



Robin Dodd (stage name Robin Rex) hosted and performed Saturday, and was in charge of hiring and planning for the show.

The Lake Anne plaza restaurant isn't usually packed, so the night was successful on both ends, and Dodd can use this as a selling point going forward.

"To fill a place to capacity, I had someone taking pictures so that now, if I want to go to another venue, like in Herndon or Arlington or something, I can say this is what I did, and this is how much business I brought to this restaurant," Dodd said.

The Café Montmartre had never held a comedy show — although several bands and musical guests had performed there — so it was a new experience for management. Since the event brought several new faces to the café, its staff was excited to make plans for another one.

"This turned out great. I love it," said Ahn Le, the café's general manager. "This is a first try for the long run."

The comedy lineup was headlined by Rob Maher, who has appeared on Comedy Central's "Hart in the City," among other places.

He followed Gil Segev, Dominic Rivera and Chelsea Shorte, who filled in for Franqi French, another Reston native, after French had to bow out because of a dental emergency. Dodd said she was looking for a variety of comedic styles, which was on display Saturday.

During the show, Dodd and Le agreed to hold another event in the café on Saturday, Sept. 23. Dodd hasn't been in comedy long, so to put a successful show together and have plans for another is an impressive start.

"I think this was an absolute success, and I feel really good about my production company now, and so I can go forward and do other things," Dodd said. "But I love Reston, and I definitely wanted to get a show back here."

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Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org.

The Light of Day Paintings. Through July 15, various times Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Featuring landscape paintings by Michael Godfrey, Christine Lashley, Tricia Ratliff, and Rajendra KC. Call 703-450-8005.

Julie Cochran Photography. Various times through July 29 at the Vienna Arts Gallery, 513 Maple Ave. W. Exhibit called "Lotus-Palooza." Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

"Summer in the City" Art Show.

Normal business hours through Aug. 15 at Brightview, 10200 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Members of Great Falls Studios will exhibit their work in a show. Call 703-759-2513.

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. Visit www.FreeTaiChi.org.

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. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. Park does not sell licenses. 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 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.

FRIDAY/JULY 21

Stargazing and Snacking on S'mores.

6-7:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Learn about the creatures that fly through the night skies. Ages 4 to adult. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/.

Chillin' on Church. 6:30 p.m. at Church St., Vienna. Water games, Harlen Simple band playing rock/funk/blues. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

Delta Spur Concert. 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson's Concert Series. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com or call 703-893-9401.

SUNDAY/JULY 23

Mountain Music Concert. 5 p.m. at McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Slim Harrison and the Barnstormers, American folk



Summer Sunday

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park featuring Slim Harrison and the Barnstormers, Sunday, July 23, at 5 p.m. in McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Free. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

musicians, will be joined by The Rockcandy Cloggers. Part of The Alden at the McLean Community Center's 2017 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Local Honey is a local band featured. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Nitehawks Swing Band. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

Mylo's Grill, 6238 Old Dominion Drive. AARP has reserved a section of Mylo's Grill for members and their guests to enjoy dinner together with a 15 percent discount on their entire check. Call 877-926-8300 or visit states.aarp.org/MylosGrill.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

Meet the Cooking Author. 6:30 p.m. at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3rd floor, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Lecture by John Shields, author of "Chesapeake Bay Cooking," host of the PBS series Coastal Cooking, and owner of the renowned Gertrude's in Baltimore. \$65. Call 703-442-9110.

MONDAY/JULY 24

AARP Dinner Group. 5-8 p.m. at

THURSDAY/JULY 27

Daniel Nahmod in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. New Thought singer/songwriter performs original music with a poetic and evocative message of peace, love, and compassion. \$20. Call 703-281-1767 or visit unityoffairfax.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 28

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Wayne Tympanick Quartet. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

LeAnn Rimes Concert. 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson's Concert Series. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com or call 703-893-9401.

SATURDAY/JULY 29

Big Splash Party. 1-3 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Water games and slide. Visit www.viennava.gov.

SUNDAY/JULY 30

Kara and Matty D Concert. 5 p.m. at McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. A couple plays songs from all eras, with vocal harmonies. Part of The Alden at the McLean Community Center's 2017 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Jr. Cline and The Recliners are playing classics and rhythm and blues. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

Summer Book Clubs

FROM PAGE 10

concrete approach to the world yet boundless imaginations ... to enter into the stories and feel them as actually real. This generates a love for the books that goes beyond just reading them, because they have in a sense lived them as well, acted them out."

Longano says that this excitement about books can also be achieved with dramatic readings and assigning children characters from the book and having them act them out. "Anything to bring the text off the page and into their direct environment," he said.

"The activity should be fun and hands on, with the children taking the lead on the project," said Brewer.

Summer book club activity ideas include visiting local public libraries or bookstores and browsing the shelves for ideas, says Esanu. "Visit the Alexandria or Arlington Public Library or an independent bookstore, such as Hooray for Books! in Alexandria or One More Page Books in Arlington, and browse the shelves for ideas," she said. "Each book club member could choose a book that catches their eye and then the group could vote on which book they want to read."

Esanu recommends reading a book and taking a field trip related to the book. "For example, Tonya Bolden's award-winning book, 'How to Build a Museum' shares a behind-the-scenes look into Smithsonian's National Museum for American History and Culture," she said. "This is a great way to explore the museum before a visit."

"Jack and the Geniuses: At the Bottom of the World" offers inspiration for another journey, says Esanu. "It's the first book in a series packed with adventure, science and engineering and is written by Bill Nye and Gregory Malone," she said. "This would be the perfect book to read before heading the National Building Museum to explore the Hive Interactive Exhibit [which runs through Sept. 4]."

Guiding a discussion by asking questions that connect the book to current or personal events, playing games such as Charades, 20 Questions or Pictionary can help spark a lively discussion of the book, says Maffei.

"If the book has a movie version, watch the movie after reading the book," she said. "Look for differences in plot, how the characters and setting look compared to how you thought they'd look."

McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Final Six Performances!



Music & Lyrics by William Finn Book by Rachel Sheinkin
Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

Additional material by Jay Reiss Originally directed on Broadway by James Lapine

Produced by Annie O'Neill Galvin and Diane Sams
Directed by Kevin and Pamela McCormack
Choreographed by Kathleen McCormack
Music Directed by Lori Roddy

July 21-30

Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.; Sundays at 2:00 p.m.
Performances at Vinson Hall Retirement Community
Community Building Ballroom
1735 Kirby Road, McLean, VA 22101

Tickets: Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006 OR www.McLeanPlayers.org

Audio description will be offered by the Metropolitan Washington Ear on Sunday, July 23, 2017.
The McLean Community Players, Inc. is funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

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Employment

Job opportunity available for a Teacher's Assistant in a Montessori school in McLean. The classroom age range is 3-6 year olds. Hours are generally 8:15-1:30, M-F, and will begin the last week in August. Experience with children preferred. Interested applicants should send their resume to info@ridgemonmontessori.com

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NEWS

The Arts Council of Fairfax County works with area companies and artists to improve pocket places which generates economic activity on a countywide scale. Pictured here, Tysons Tiles, worked with the Arts Council on their "Imagine Art Here" public art project aesthetically enhancing a park in a Tysons Corner office area.



VITA IMAGES

Nonprofit Arts Boosts Economic Picture

The Arts Council of Fairfax County recently released information from a 2015 study by the Americans For The Arts that stated "the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates over \$271 million in annual economic activity in Fairfax County, supporting 6,220 full-time equivalent jobs."

In Tysons Corner, the Capital One project in a space just north of the McLean Metro station on the Silver Line, is putting in a 1,500 seat performing arts audi-

torium, a black box theater and two classrooms that will be available for public use. The Arts Council of Fairfax County is supporting this effort as part of the bigger picture to generate economic activity. "This highly-anticipated facility will create more jobs in the County, encourage more visitors and accelerate the prosperity of Fairfax County," said Laura Dailey of the Arts Council of Fairfax.

FCPS Students Win National Merit College-Sponsored Scholarships

Eight Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) graduates from the class of 2017 have been named winners of college-sponsored scholarships by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). Recipients of college-sponsored scholarships from the NMSC, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

- ❖ Kanishk Singh of Langley High School (diplomatic service), National Merit Carleton College Scholarship.
- ❖ Carlyn Kranking of McLean High School (journalism), National Merit Northwestern University Scholarship.
- ❖ Abhishek Mishra of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (computer science), National Merit University of Maryland Scholarship.
- ❖ Aditi Sundararaman of TJHSST (computer science), National Merit University of

Maryland Scholarship.

- ❖ Christine Wang of TJHSST (aerospace engineering), National Merit Purdue University Scholarship.

- ❖ Diana Zavela of TJHSST (engineering), National Merit Case Western Reserve University Scholarship.

- ❖ Andrew Elaryan of Woodson High School (mechanical engineering), National Merit University of Oklahoma Scholarship.

- ❖ Brian Ward of Woodson High School (political science), National Merit Boston College Scholarship.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarships provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. Nationwide, approximately 7,500 students have won Merit Scholarship awards in 2017. This is the final group of scholarship recipients for the class of 2017.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Dulles Toll Road Nighttime Lane Closures

Starting Monday night, July 17, nighttime lane closures, including intermittent full closures, on the Dulles Toll Road and Dulles Airport Access Road at Route 7 will occur over the next several weeks in order to remove beams from the old Route 7 overpass, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Single-lane and multi-lane closures on the Dulles Toll Road and Dulles Airport Access Road will take place each night between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. There will also be total stoppages lasting up to 20 minutes at a time each night between midnight and 5 a.m.

The schedule is as follows, weather permitting:

- ❖ Monday night, July 17 – Thursday night, July 20: Eastbound Dulles Toll Road

- ❖ Wednesday night, July 26 – Friday night, July 28: Eastbound Dulles Airport Access Road

- ❖ Tuesday night, Aug. 1 – Thursday night, Aug. 3: Westbound Dulles Airport Access Road

- ❖ Monday night, Aug. 14 – Friday night, Aug. 18: Westbound Dulles Toll Road

Drivers should expect delays and are advised to use alternate routes.

The work is part of the Route 7 over Dulles Toll Road project, which is scheduled for completion in spring 2018.

BULLETIN

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

THROUGH JULY 31

Backpacks for Students. Various times at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Christ the King's Team Service is collaborating with Reston's aid to families organization Cornerstones and school supplies collection organization Kids R First to help youngsters in the community. Collections will run through July; drop off in the church lobby. Visit www.gflutheran.org or call 703-759-6068.

JULY 20-22

36th Annual NFED Family Conference. 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at The Westin Tyson's Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. An opportunity for families affected by ectodermal dysplasias to gather information on the syndromes and treatment options; to network with other affected families; and to educate legislators on Capitol Hill about ectodermal dysplasias. Visit www.nfed.org for more.

THROUGH JULY 28

Vendor Application Deadline. Reston Community Center is seeking arts and crafts vendors, food vendors and civic organizations of all cultures for the 17th Annual Reston Multicultural Festival. The festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Interested groups or individuals should fill out the appropriate Vendor Application Form, available at www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf.

THROUGH AUG. 18

Artist Application Deadline. Visual artists who wish to participate in the 17th Annual Reston Multicultural Festival art exhibit "Art Mirrors Culture" should visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com. The festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Interested groups or individuals should fill out the appropriate Vendor Application Form, available at www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf.

THROUGH SUMMER

Vienna Street-sweeping Program. The Town of Vienna began its annual street-sweeping program beginning March 20. The Town is divided into eight sections for purposes of the sweeping program. During the first pass through Town, the Public Works Department asks that residents not park on the street. Find the "sweeping" sections at viennava.gov/sweeping. Additionally, signs will be placed on streets marking a window of 7-10 days during which the truck will come through. Contact public works at 703-255-6380.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30 - 3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

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.

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And So It Begins



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For the first time in almost exactly 25 years: bathroom demolition, times two. With financial assistance from my father-in-law, along with use of our home equity line, we have committed to and contracted for, a complete renovation of our two full bathrooms ('full' meaning: tub/shower, commode, sink, vanity, mirror, shelves, lights/fixtures, counter top, floor and shower tile, and paint). Ergo, over the next eight to 12 weeks, our house will officially become a construction site.

Never having experienced this level of upheaval and chaos in any of our previous homes before, we are looking forward since we have no reference looking backward.

We know one thing for sure: our five indoor cats will be miserable and scared and likely hiding for days on end. Considering that the workers will be in our home from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., I don't know when the cats are going to feel like eating since their routine will have been completely thrown off having so many new people in the house for so many hours per day. (I don't even want to think about the litter box implications.)

Nevertheless, time marches forward, and given that our home is historic/over 250 years old, its bathrooms, though not exactly pre-Colonial, definitely are showing their age. Their design, form, function, efficiency and attractiveness barely blip the radar. Both bathrooms are old, and that's the only compliment I can give them.

I imagine the next two to three months will likely be a journey of discovery; Columbus-like in that we will be discovering a new world with modern bathroom amenities and conveniences, color coordination and functionality, many of which we've not been the beneficiaries of in over 25 years.

Our kitchen remains as it has been all those years ago: large but clearly deficient in many ways compared to modern kitchens. As a matter of fact, as the designer, project manager and I walked into the kitchen looking for the access panel to the adjacent bathroom, I said, "As you can see, our kitchen needs work, too. Any chance you all offer a 'BOGO? Buy one, get one free?" Of course, they both laughed and shook their head. They didn't have to say "No." It was more a rhetorical question anyway.

Considering the time we've all had together, we have no doubt the contractor and his workers know what they're doing. We're not sure however, as homeowners that we know what we're doing. From our first meeting, a few months back, the process has seemed clear enough as do the drawings/design ideas we've now seen/decided upon do. Still, when it goes from their paper to our property, how will it all transfer? They seem confident and complimentary which certainly has been reassuring but we're novices in this transformation.

For us each step forward is yet another step into the great unknown. And since we can only take it one step at a time, we have no choice but to live and learn and hopefully not regret and decisions we've already made (although changes can still be made).

So far – and it's not very far – so good. However, it's the process of starting and ultimately finishing that worries me. Not that I run on a schedule (heck, I can barely walk), but my wife, Dina, sort of does; and it seems as if she and the workers might be occupying the same space at the same time.

I suppose the timing and all eventually works itself out but it's the interim with which I'm concerned. I realize there are no guarantees in any of this.

I guess I just have to deal with it as I do with my having cancer: take the bad with the good, keep a sense of humor and try to remain positive. Doing so has kept me alive for eight years and four months. I'd like to think I can manage for another eight to 12 weeks.

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



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