

Singer Claudia Swope performs at the Bands for Bikes Concert at the Old Firehouse in McLean on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017.

2018
VIRGIL
PRESS
ASSOCIATION
Annual Meeting
Newspaper

McLean CONNECTION



Block Party Held at Old Firehouse in McLean

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PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

AUGUST 23-29, 2017

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Archery Program Starts Sept. 9

County will use regulated archery hunting to help manage deer population.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The county-managed program to control the deer population in Fairfax County via regulated archery hunting in designated areas starts on Sept. 9, not the first of the month, as previously reported in the Connection. When making note of the error, Dr. Katherine Edwards, wildlife management specialist for the county, stated that the Sept. 9 was “intentionally set as the start of the program to avoid overlap” with the Labor Day holiday weekend.

The deer maintenance program is managed by both Edwards and Sgt. Earit Powell through the Fairfax County Police Department. The comprehensively regulated archery program is the method most widely used by the county to keep the deer population in check. In last year’s deer harvest, 1,092

deer were taken through the archery program, while only 53 deer were harvested during sharpshoot operations.

At a recent public meeting to discuss the program, area residents Melissa Klein, Kathie Sowell, and Phil Church brought up concerns about the use of archery as the main method of population control. Church was particularly disturbed about what he called “the wounding rate for these animals.”

Edwards, Powell, and Kevin Rose of the Bureau of Wildlife Resources, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, explained why the costs and logistics for sharpshooting operations and managed firearms hunts were shown to make those options untenable and not equal to the task.

Edwards also wants the public to know that “the county investigates reports of wounded deer,” saying that there was no information about the one incident related

by Sowell, of Vienna, that could attribute the deer injury she described to the program. “All archery tackle ... is marked with unique hunter identification numbers so that each shot can be traced back to the individuals in the county program.”

As for the “wounding rate” concerns expressed by Church, Edwards notes that any “incident of non-recovered deer must also be reported to program management” and that investigations of injuries were determined to be “non-hunting [program] related based on the type of archery tackle used.”

According to county data collected about each hunt in the Deer Management Program, Edwards says that between FY 2014-2017, Fairfax County reported non-recovery/wounding rates of approximately 4-7 percent using modern archery tackle, and that these rates are “similar to or lower than wounding/non-recovery rates reported in more recent published studies for hunters using modern archery equipment.”

Much of the reporting is self-regulated, but Powell expressed his confidence in the program and in the reporting, noting that many of the group leaders are well-known to the organizers and veterans of the program. “We take every aspect of the program seriously,” he said at the meeting, and added that hunters who had failed to properly complete mandated recordkeeping in the past had been removed from the program, as the result of reports by peer hunters.

Information about the Deer Management Program is available on the county’s website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

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Enjoying the Block Party at the Old Firehouse in McLean are (from left): Alexandra Papakonstantinou, Maggie Perry, and Yasmin Berrada, all seniors at McLean High School.

Block Party Held at Old Firehouse in McLean

Bands for Bikes Concert helped collect 100 bikes for Wheels to Africa.

The Old Firehouse Teen Center in McLean held its 27th annual Block Party on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017, where about 500 people were expected. The event included a Bands for Bikes Concert with four bands and a bike collection for Wheels to Africa.

For the fourth year, the bike collection was organized by Jack Lichtenstein, 17, of McLean and Winston Duncan, 22, of Arlington. They collected about 100 bikes from the community, which will be shipped to villages in Tanzania or Ghana. Duncan has been running the program for 13 years, and has collected a total of 7,000 bikes for Africa.

"Today is the 27th anniversary celebration for the Old Firehouse. ...We're really just out here to celebrate McLean, and celebrate the Old Firehouse and what it's meant to the community for the past 27 years and just make sure everybody has a good time," said Mike Fisher, General Manager of the Old Firehouse.

Dixie Duncan, Executive Director of Wheels to Africa, who recently delivered 440 bikes to Tanzania, said: "When you go to a third-world country like Tanzania, a bike there is a car. So when I see all these bikes come in here, I'm so thankful because I know that not only one life will be changed by the bicycles; they'll be 10 lives changed by one bicycle, because the bicycles are used by families. So therefore, you get multiple return for one simple task."

Dixie Duncan's son Winston, who is a senior at Bard College, said: "Every year the support is just overwhelming. We actually got a lot of bikes today and we're excited to continue our mission on how a bike can change a life. So we're out here again collecting bicycles, spreading the word and trying to get the youth involved because one of our goals is to bridge the gap between

the kids here and the kids in Africa."

Jack Lichtenstein, a rising senior at Langley High School who booked the bands, added, "I just want to use my music to have a positive impact on the Wheels to Africa. I'm just trying to spread awareness about the Wheels to Africa."

The four bands that performed at the Bands for Bikes Concert included: The Outliers, singer Claudia Swope, Dropoff, and The Unexpected. The Block Party also included a rock-climbing wall, a moon bounce, a Shark Attack balancing game, quarterback ball toss, spray-on tattoos, Coderkids, Mathnasium, and Johnny Ray's food truck. The event was sponsored by Burke and Herbert Bank with partners Bach to Rock, Wheels to Africa, and Bands for Bikes.

— STEVE HIBBARD



The organizers of the Bands for Bikes Concert and Wheels to Africa bike collection at the Old Firehouse in McLean Block Party on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017, are Jack Lichtenstein, 17, (left) of McLean and Winston Duncan, 22, of Arlington.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Patrons line the booths at the Old Firehouse in McLean at the Block Party on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017.



The Burke and Herbert Bank was the main sponsor of the Block Party at the Old Firehouse in McLean on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017.



Mia Mortman, 9, of McLean on the climbing wall.



Stephanie Beard, 13, of McLean tries her luck balancing on the Shark Attack.

OPINION

Expand Medicaid Now

It's too late to get back the \$10 billion Virginia turned down, but not too late to gain coverage for 400,000 and boost the economy.

Virginia's General Assembly has refused to accept one of the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, expansion of Medicaid at almost no cost to Virginia that could have covered 400,000 uninsured Virginians and would have brought more than \$10 billion into the state. It has also cost lives.

EDITORIAL

Ironically, the failed efforts to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act included changes to Medicaid that would have penalized states, like Virginia, that did not expand Medicaid, permanently reducing federal funding.

"In all of the bills proposed in the House and Senate to repeal the ACA, none of them left the non-expansion states better off," said Gov. Terry McAuliffe on Monday, Aug. 21, in calling again for Virginia to expand Medicaid, al-

most entirely paid for by the federal government.

"I have called for Virginia to expand Medicaid for three and a half years now. In that time, we have forever forfeited a whopping \$10.4 billion of our federal tax dollars," McAuliffe said. "We have missed an opportunity to cover 400,000 low-income Virginians."

More than 140,000 residents of Fairfax County have no health insurance. More than 40,000 residents of Arlington and Alexandria have no health insurance. That's more than 12 percent of the people who live in one of the wealthiest areas in the nation.

A Harvard Medical School study determined that the decision by 25 states to reject the expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act would result in between 7,115 and 17,104 more deaths than had all states opted in. In Virginia, the number of

deaths due to failure to expand Medicaid: between 266 and 987.

Refusing to accept federal funds to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation or education.

In Virginia, 102,000 uninsured people with a mental illness or substance use disorder could qualify for coverage if Medicaid were expanded under the Affordable Care Act.

As Virginia wrestles with heroin and opioid addiction, expanding Medicaid would allow for expanding treatment programs. One of the big obstacles to helping people who are fighting addiction is the availability of treatment when it is most needed. More people die of opioid overdoses in Virginia than in vehicle crashes.

It is beyond cruel that an ideologically driven General Assembly can turn away health care for so many. It's beyond understanding why the General Assembly would turn down billions of dollars in direct health care dollars, plus the tremendous boost to the economy and jobs that federal investment would generate.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Governor's Perspective

Remarks by Gov. Terry McAuliffe to General Assembly money committees Aug. 21, 2017:

I have called for Virginia to expand Medicaid for three and a half years now. In that time, we have forever forfeited a whopping \$10.4 billion of our federal tax dollars.

We have missed an opportunity to cover 400,000 low-income Virginians.

Thirty-one states from across the political spectrum have expanded Medicaid. This isn't a political issue. These are people's lives.

I believe in the radical notion that health care shouldn't be a privilege for the rich. And in the wealthiest nation in the world, one medical event shouldn't send a family into financial ruin.

Just a few weeks ago, I went to the Remote Area Medical Clinic in Wise for the fourth time as governor. I want to thank Dr. O'Bannon for providing his services at the clinic.

There, you will see the stark reality of what it means to lack access to affordable health care. People were waiting in the animal pens, separated by bed sheet "curtains" to get the only medical care they'd have this year. Many

of them slept overnight in the parking lot just to get a spot in line.

I met a woman who pulled me aside to tell me that the clinic literally saved her life by catching her cancer in time. Another man had been driving for a year without proper eyeglasses. Yet another told me that, at 39 years old, he visited the dentist for the first time ever that day. Sadly, he was too late, and needed all of his teeth pulled.

These folks should get the exact same level of care that you or I do.

That's why I will be including Medicaid expansion once again in my biennial budget proposal this year.

And even if you don't believe that the ACA is here for good, let me also remind you that in all of the bills proposed in the House and Senate to repeal the ACA, none of them left the non-expansion states better off. In fact, in one of the proposals, non-expansion states would cover costs for the expansion states for the next five years.

So, I ask you this: Are you willing to let Virginia be block granted or capped at our current Medicaid levels? Are you willing to risk

losing out on expansion dollars forever? And are you willing to hamper our state finances by turning away these federal dollars, given the uncertainty we face?

I ask you these questions in earnest, and I hope we can find a workable solution together.

I have formally invited General Assembly leadership to meet with my team to start this process as soon as possible so that, perhaps, consensus can be reached in the budget development process.

I welcome your input and I remind you that I have consistently supported a business-like approach that allows us to bring this money back at no cost to Virginia. If you pursue expansion the way I've presented it to you, it could save the state hundreds of millions of dollars.

Further, it could protect us from the potential negative financial impacts of future federal caps on the Medicaid program.

It's not too late. There's still more than \$2 billion a year on the table that we can benefit from, and I hope we can agree on an approach to do the right thing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Responsibility Makes You Responsible

To the Editor:

As a rising senior in high school, I feel that I have matured greatly from my freshman and sophomore years. As many seniors would agree, a lot of this personal growth has taken place through extracurricular activities. What I've found, however, is that I've grown most by putting myself into positions of responsibilities in these extracurricular activities. In the

rush to secure a leadership position to put on one's resume or college application, we commonly forget that leadership is innately rewarding, especially for high school students.

The thing about leadership that no one tells you, is that it takes a lot of time to do a good job, no matter your position in the leadership of a club or team. And the thing is, it doesn't really matter what your position is because collaboration is almost always required to do a good job leading these sorts of organizations.

In short, the capacity in which you lead doesn't matter. All that matters is that you put

yourself in some position of responsibility and that you then put in enough time to fulfill your responsibilities. If you fail, put in enough time to understand why you failed and to remedy the situation. Always ask observers what you can do to improve your leadership, no matter your performance. If you put yourself in a position of responsibility and work hard in that capacity, you will become more responsible — I know I have.

John Krause-Steinrauf
McLean

McLean
CONNECTION

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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Great Falls Farmers Market.

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.

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.

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

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 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.

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.

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 work and its design possibilities. Visit www.greatfallsart.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 29

Dance Open House. 4-6 p.m. at Cuppett Performing Arts Center, 135 Park St, SE. Beginner through pre-professional dance classes in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, lyrical, hip hop, acro and musical theatre. Visit CuppettPAC.com or call 703-938-9019.

Toastmasters Humormill Club. 6-8 p.m. in the McLean Bible Church, Ground Floor Community Room, 8925 Leesburg Pike. Humor and improv help develop spontaneity and speaking skills. Experience laughter



Open House

On Tuesday, Aug. 29 the Cuppett Performing Arts Center is having a dance open house, 4-6 p.m. at 135 Park St, SE. Beginner through pre-professional dance classes in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, lyrical, hip hop, acro and musical theatre. Visit CuppettPAC.com or call 703-938-9019.

and a speech contest. Visit humormillclub.toastmastersclubs.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 30

Back-to-School Quote-Along

Movie. 7 p.m. at the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road. The Alden begins a series of quote-along movies with a back-to-school viewing of "Mean Girls," Tina Fey's 2004 high-school comedy. Call 571-296-8385 or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 5

Lecture on Downton Abbey. 12:15 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. The McLean Woman's Club presents food and travel writer CiCi Williamson describing the food and its preparation on the 6-year show, along with the history of Highclere Castle, where the filming took place. Free. visit www.mcleanwomansclub.org or call 703-556- 0197.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 6

McLean Newcomers and Neighbors. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Community Room, Regency at McLean, 1800 Old Meadow Road, McLean. Visit www.McLeanNewcomers.org.

SEPT. 7-9

Quarterly Book Sale. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Tyson's Library, 7700 and 7704 Leesburg Pike. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Visit tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com or 703-338-3307.

SEPT. 9-20

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Olympics. Various times and locations, more than 50 different events taking place at more than 25 venues across Northern Virginia. Call 703-403-5360 or visit www.nvso.us.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 13

Riverboat Cruise. 10-11:30 a.m. at Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) 541 Marshall Road SW, Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna hosts day trip to Georgetown Harbor via riverboat cruise from Alexandria to Georgetown for shopping, exploring and lunch. Will return by

riverboat to Alexandria, then the bus trip home to Vienna. \$85 includes transportation and riverboat cruise. Call 703-281-0538 or visit www.scov.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 15

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

MONDAY/SEPT. 18

W&OD Railroad Historian Lecture.

Noon-2 p.m. at 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. W&OD Railroad historian and former manager of the W&OD Trail, Paul McCray will talk about the history of the rail line, how it came to be and why it didn't

survive. Call 703-281-0538 or visit www.scov.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

Antiques Road Show. 10 a.m.-noon at Colvin Run Historic Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. To have an item evaluated, attendees must provide a picture and description of the provenance (how long it has been in the family, what is already known about it) by Aug. 31. Pictures and details should be sent to Yasha Arant at yasha_arant@yahoo.com or Yasha Arant, 104 Sue Ann Ct, Sterling, VA 20164. Visit greatfallsseniorcentergfsc.wildapricot.org/.

Colonial Tobacco Harvest. 1-4 p.m. at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Help the farm family harvest their tobacco

crop. Gather the cut plants and hang on sticks to cure in the Tobacco Barn. Visit www.1771.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 20

Dining with Dorothy. 12:30 p.m. at Bonaroti Restaurant, 428 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Join Dorothy and the group for laughter and conversation over lunch. Call 703-281-0538 or visit www.scov.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Fun Fall Bazaar and Market. 9

a.m.-3 p.m. at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls UMC Annual sale Shops, bake sale, books, silent auction, children's activities, Appraisal Roadshow, and BBQ dinner. Call Lois 703-759-2843.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 24

Teddy Bear 5K and 1K. 2-6 p.m. at Pimmit Hills Park, 7230 Idylwood Road. All proceeds from this event go to Falls Church-McLean Children's Center. Visit potomac.enmotive.com/events.

MONDAY/SEPT. 25

Charity Golf Tournament. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Westfield's Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Annual Family PASS golf to benefit the working homeless Families of Fairfax County. Visit www.familypassfairfax.org.

SEPT. 29-OCT. 1

Annual Used Book Sale. Friday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday noon-4 p.m. at the Spring Hill Recreation Center, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Hosted by the McLean Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) featuring the auction of a signed Washington National Max Scherzer shirt and cap. Visit www.aauw.org/.

FRIDAY/OCT. 6

2017 Community Leadership

Award Presentation. 6:30 p.m. at McLean Hilton Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive. Honoring Mark and Brenda Moore. Visit www.leadershipfairfax.org/.

OCT. 6-9

Glass Art Exhibit. Various times at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street, NW. "Catching Eyes with Watercolor and Glass" with Carole Choucair Oueijan.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Stuff the Truck Food Drive. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Safeway, 9881 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Benefit for Committee for Helping Others (CHO) and Artemis House to provide emergency food aid to those in need in Vienna, Oakton, Dunn Loring and Merrifield. Artemis House is Fairfax County's only 24-hour emergency shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking. Sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Great Falls Baha'is as part of the regional Day to Serve initiative. Visit www.daytoserve.org/.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Arlington Free Clinic Annual

Benefit Gala. 6 p.m.-midnight at Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner Tysons Galleria, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Cocktail reception and silent auction, which includes getaways, art and photography, sports items, and much more. \$300. Visit www.gala.arlingtonfreeclinic.org.



Art Exhibit

Catching Eyes with Watercolor and Glass with Carole Choucair Oueijan, Oct. 6-9 at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW.

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Employment

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Announcements

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Announcements

Announcements



Vote in the Aug. 29 School Board Election

To the Editor:

The May 31 resignation of Jeannette Hough, the Republican-endorsed School Board Member, will cost the county \$250,000. Had she waited until June 10, a vote to replace her would have been included on the November ballot without cost to you, the taxpayer. Why would the party of "fiscal responsibility" encourage such timing? Could it be that special elections usually have low voter turnout and tend to favor Republicans?

Karen Keys-Gamarra is a fiscally responsible candidate who has the best interest of Fairfax County kids at heart. She has been endorsed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, the Fairfax Education Association and the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers. Let's stop wasting taxpayers' money and elect this fiscally responsible candidate.

As a Planning Commissioner on the Schools and Parks Committees and alternative member of the Personnel and Budget Committee, she has in-depth understanding of county budgets. In these positions Keys-Gamarra has sought input from a variety of stakeholders including staff, the Public Schools, transportation specialists, community associations, developers, and individual constituents. She helped determine comprehensive plans regarding zoning and other land use issues. Keys-Gamarra won't waste your money.

As an attorney and court appointed child advocate with the school system, she stands up for children. In this role, Keys-Gamarra has become very familiar with Fairfax County schools, counselors, teachers, social workers, as well as parents and students. Her extensive history of leadership in the community also includes pro bono work as a Court Appointed Special Advocate ("CASA") for children who are abused or neglected. She works to provide them with a safe and healthy environment. For more information about Keys-Gamarra's professional and volunteer experience with budgeting and matters pertaining to the welfare of kids, see her website: <http://karen-keys-gamarra.ruck.us>.

The Fairfax County School Board needs a candidate who cares about your money and your children. Please get out and vote for Karen Keys-Gamarra Aug. 29. You can do this three ways: (1) at your regular polling place, (2) in advance at the Fairfax County Government Center until Aug. 26, or by (3) absentee ballot.

**Paul Walsh, Susan Knobl,
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Victoria from Australia, 17 yrs. Enjoys spending time with her family and younger siblings. Victoria plays volleyball and is excited to learn new sports while in America.



Giorgio from Italy, 16 yrs. Loves to play baseball and spend time with his dogs. Giorgio also plays the guitar, and his dream is to join a drama club at his American high school.

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BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 23

Candidate Forum. 7 p.m. at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Learn more about the candidates running in the Aug. 29 election for the open At-Large seat on the Fairfax County School Board. Visit <http://bit.ly/2vmlxLD> for more information.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 2

Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. The Vienna branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will hold a free, informational open house. AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Membership dues discount for those who join at this event. Refreshments. Visit www.aauw.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 7

Shepherd's Center Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This support group is designed for caregivers of adult family members. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838, jtarr5@verizon.net.

Adventures In Learning. 10 a.m.-noon at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Open House to see what's on the Shepherd's Center's fall semester of Adventures in Learning. Call 703-281-0538 or visit www.scov.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 14

Good Morning McLean. 7:30-9 a.m. at J. Gilbert's Wood-Fired Steaks and Seafood, 6930 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The second Thursday of each month is the McLean Chamber of Commerce "Good Morning, McLean breakfast." Visit www.mcleanchamber.org or call 703-893-1034 for more.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 21

Shepherd's Center Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This support group is designed for caregivers of adult family members. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838, jtarr5@verizon.net.

Chapter Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc., invites all veterans, friends, and the general public to attend the next chapter meeting. Channapha Khamvongsa, founder and Executive Director of Legacies of War, will discuss its mission. She is a native of Laos and earned degrees from George Mason University and Georgetown University. Admission is free. Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit www.vva227.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 26

ESL Learners and Volunteers. St. Mark's English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministry is seeking new students and volunteers to participate in their upcoming fall term. All classes take place at St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. Visit www.stmarkesl.org.

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Two, Hopefully for Won



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Being diagnosed with cancer; then having cancer/living with cancer, is like having a second job. A job that unlike many, requires and/or imposes a 'round the clock-type 24/7 adherence to protocol, policy, procedure, presumptions and principle. To live not like you're dying takes more than scoffing at a country music song that twangs an alternative vision. Believing in what routines you're following and any lifestyle changes you've made allows (I didn't say enables) a cancer survivor to thrive under the most difficult and demanding of circumstances.

Unfortunately for those reading this column looking for answers/guarantees, there aren't any other than: if you abuse the privilege of post-cancer-diagnosis survival, the ends will likely justify the means; meaning, you are responsible for your own actions and "inactions." The prognosis one is given at diagnosis is a reasonably thought out prediction. However, as grim as those words sound and seem at that moment, that prediction is not cast in stone. I'm living proof of that. The words you hear are based on the past. Your ensuing treatment is more about the present and future and what you decide to do living forward. Being open and unassuming, and by 'unassuming' I mean: not taking anything for granted, presuming facts not in evidence, considering that which has happened to somebody else – either good or bad, could happen to you and of course, asking as many questions in as many ways as necessary to get the answers you need, will help you co-exist with this terrible burden. Being diagnosed with a heretofore "terminal" disease presents one with innumerable challenges but not the slim pickin's (choices not the actor) of yesteryear.

Integrating/assimilating all of the facts, fiction and philosophy into one's daily cancer conundrum is a task often complicated by one's day job/intention to remain on that job. The thinking being, at least in my mind/experience: living as normal a life as possible and staying as true to one's usual and customary self as well as to one's wishes, desires, hopes, prayers, etc., will enable (not 'allow' this time) you potentially to live longer and prosper more and trek "where no man has gone before." For us cancer survivors/patients, where we hope to 'trek' is beyond the prognosis given to us by our oncologist.

I can boast of such an accomplishment, but I'd rather write it quietly and consistently as encouragement to others similarly diagnosed and "prognosed" than brag about it loudly. However, the changes/choices I've made might not suit another's personality. I regularly receive suggestions about additional anti-cancer pursuits. Some I embrace, some I don't. Some are conventional (Western), some are alternative (Non-Western). Many sound reasonable and "integratable" into my lifestyle. Many others don't. But given that my life is at stake, how can a suggestion's incompatibility with my personality matter? We're talking life versus premature death here; not sit-down Italian versus take-out Chinese. And though food certainly matters, it is of course to no comparison to living versus dying. Still, I don't always say "yes."

This is the yin and yang of my life and probably the lives of many other survivors of serious/terminal-type diseases. I want to feel like I'm winning. But I'm deathly afraid of losing.

Moreover, I want to live my life as normally as possible, but not if it has adverse consequence. And how would I know anyway? Symptoms can be misleading and scans are quarterly. And though I remain positive about my very negative circumstances, occasionally the reality of those circumstances interfere with that normalcy. When that happens, I usually put pen to paper and try to write myself out of it.

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



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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2017-2018

Artist's booths line the MPAartfest on Oct. 12, 2015 at Central Park in McLean. Every October, the McLean Project for the Arts converts McLean Central Park into a free, one-day festival of the arts. Thousands of area residents attend.

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

MCLEAN CONNECTION EDITOR
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The Best of Dranesville District

Supervisor John W. Foust on places he would like newcomers to see.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN W. FOUST
(D-DRANESVILLE DISTRICT)

We are fortunate to have many wonderful parks, historical features and community events in the Dranesville District. The following are some of my favorites.

Clemyjontri Park, 6317 Georgetown Pike, McLean

Since opening in 2006, more than 200,000 visitors have enjoyed this unique playground where children of all abilities can play side-by-side. Equipment allows children who have physical, sensory or developmental disabilities to have a parallel playground experience of fun and exploration. The park also includes a carousel and picnic pavilion.

Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills, Great Falls

This park offers over 400 acres of forests, meadows and ponds. Trails include a 2.5 mile portion of the Potomac Heritage Trail that links national and regional parkland. Kayaking, canoeing and fishing are all available on the Potomac River. The nature center and picnic shelter are available for rent.

Colvin Run Park, 10017 Colvin Run, Great Falls

Colvin Run Mill offers visitors a chance to step back in time. There are tours of the restored mill, which was built around 1811. A general store offers stone ground cornmeal, wheat flour, grits, "penny candy" and snacks and drinks. Trails are available for quiet walks. Live music, craft demonstrations, ice cream making and seasonal activities are available from February through December.

Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls

Originally the site of a dairy farm, the 52-acre park offers a mix of educational and recreational facilities. In 2016, a new roll-top observatory opened in Observatory Park at Turner Farm. The observatory offers the public a chance to see the night sky from one of Fairfax County's darkest spots through permanently mounted telescopes. The Analemma Society partners with the Park Authority to provide astronomy programs at the observatory. Equestrians can enjoy a cross country course and a large multi-purpose arena with stadium jumps and dressage makers. Small children can enjoy a tot lot.

Runnymede Park, 196 Herndon Parkway, Herndon

The Town of Herndon is located in the Dranesville District. The town owns and maintains this 58-acre park. It is the site for many community nature-related events such as the annual Nature Fest. Situated near the Sugarland Run Stream, the park attracts over 100 species of birds, deer, fox and other wildlife. Two park shelters are



Clemyjontri Park: A unique playground where children of all abilities can play side-by-side.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
SUPERVISOR JOHN FOUST'S OFFICE



Riverbend Park offers over 400 acres of forest, meadows and ponds.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts offers performances and musical education year-round.

available for rental.

Scotts Run Nature Preserve, 7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean

One of the few nature preserves in the County. The 336-acre preserve, formerly known as the Burling Tract, had at one time been slated for development. Scotts Run offers wonderful hiking trails of varying difficulty, some of them leading to the bluffs of the Potomac River.

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna

Known simply as Wolf Trap. The 117-acre park is home to the beautiful Filene Center, The Barnes and the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods. Each summer there are over 100 performance across all genres. There are also year-round recreational opportunities, including hiking trails, picnic areas, and sledding.

Spring Hill Recreation Center, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean

Visitors can take advantage of the indoor swimming pool, a two-story fitness center and a gymnasium with an elevated running track. The gym features a single high school-sized basketball court with two overlay basketball courts and a volleyball overlay court.

MPAartfest, McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean

Every October, the McLean Project for the Arts converts McLean Central Park into a free, one-day festival of the arts. Thousands of area residents attend. Vendor tents display the works of numerous juried artists, which are complemented by the exhibitions of children's' and seniors' artwork, an Open Studio demonstration, and performances by local musicians.

Great Falls Freedom Memorial, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls (behind the library)

Dedicated in 2004, the memorial plaza on the library grounds honors local military personnel, firefighters, police officers, the six Great Falls residents who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, and others who have made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our liberty and freedom. The service on 9/11 is very moving.

McLean Day, Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean

Sponsored by the McLean Community Center, McLean Day is held on the third Saturday in May. The festival features live entertainment, carnival rides, exhibitions and delicious foods for visitors of all ages. The event also includes booths where artisans, local businesses, civic organizations, nonprofit groups, and local officials showcase their wares.

Great Falls Park

This National Park consists of 800 acres along the banks of the Potomac River. The park is a wonderful place to hike, picnic and simply view the majestic falls and rapids, often navigated by kayakers. Entrance is at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive, Great Falls.

Dulles Station Community Park, 13707 Sayward Blvd., Herndon

This recently completed 2.6-acre park includes playgrounds for preschoolers and elementary-age children, as well as a seating area, fitness area, multi-use court, trail and a dog park with a shade pavilion.

Farmers Markets

In addition to the Fairfax County Farmers Markets held from May through November in Herndon and McLean on Thursday and Friday mornings, respectively, the Great Falls Community Farmers Market is held on Saturday mornings year-round. The Farmers Markets are a great way to shop local. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/ or greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Welcome to Fairfax County: 'Work Hard, Play Hard'

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



Welcome to Fairfax County, one of the greatest places in the nation to live, work, play and raise a family. Fairfax County is home to a thriving business community, vibrant entertainment and shopping destinations, a world class university, beautiful parks and a diverse population of engaged residents. Whether you are a long time resident or new to the county, I hope you'll take some time to visit some of our most popular spots and enjoy what Fairfax County has to offer.

Tysons Corner Center, Fair Oaks Mall, Reston Town Center, Fairfax Corner, Springfield Town Center and the Mosaic District are great places to shop, eat and spend time with friends. For cultural destinations, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts and

the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton are some of my favorites. For fresh air and exercise, I recommend our extensive network of trails, parks and RECenters.

While there are a lot of fun things to do in Fairfax County, our community is notorious for our "work hard, play hard" ethic. Time Magazine has described us as the epicenter of the Washington region's job boom and one of the great economic success stories of our time. Fairfax County is home to nine Fortune 500 company headquarters, approximately 9,000 tech businesses and over 116 million square feet of office space.

Fairfax County has one of the best public school systems nationwide with a graduation rate of nearly 93 percent. Fairfax County Public Schools is the third largest employer in Virginia and the 10th largest school system in the country with more than 189,000 stu-

dents. After high school graduation, George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College are located just down the road for affordable higher education opportunities in many different subject fields. Our business-friendly economy offers a wide array of impressive career opportunities for both our older and younger residents.

On the local government level, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is constantly hard at work to ensure quality public services for our residents. Our 10-member Board of Supervisors strives to maintain positive community engagement, while strategically planning for the future with land use and infrastructure decisions.

Some recent Fairfax County accomplishments include updating many of our police policies, establishing a Diversion First program for people with mental illness who become involved with law enforcement, and successfully extending Metrorail to Tysons and Reston. Phase 2 of Metro's Silver Line is currently under construction and

will extend all the way to Dulles Airport and into Loudoun County.

Fairfax County offers opportunity and quality services for residents of all ages. People from all over the globe have made Fairfax County their home, enriching our community with their diverse cultures and entrepreneurship. In Fairfax County, we believe we must all do our part to set a positive tone of acceptance, inclusiveness and kindness.

As chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I am elected at-large by Fairfax County residents. My office is here to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov or give my office a call at 703-324-2321. I hope you will sign up to receive my monthly Bulova Byline newsletter that will keep you up-to-date on what is happening in your new community. I also encourage you to visit fairfaxcounty.gov and fxva.com to see what Fairfax County has to offer you and your family every season and every day. Welcome to your new home.

Service for Seniors Who Want to Serve

RSVP is the region's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older, providing individualized support to seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

RSVP offers opportunities for volunteers including providing rides, support and meals to older neighbors, assisting local veterans in need and helping prepare communities for disasters. RSVP also recruits volunteers for community events throughout the year.

RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to group projects and social gatherings with other RSVP volunteers.

To sign up for an upcoming RSVP orientation email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about

RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

About the Connection

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Connection's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we report on the character of your community, we include details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local government, nonprofits and business organizations, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

In 2016 alone, Connection papers won dozens of awards, including the top Virginia Press award — for Integrity and Community Service, for our coverage of police reform and related issues.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an email. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo.



Local Media Connection writers and photographers won 37 Virginia Press Association awards for work in 2016, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service. Pictured here from left: John Bordner, Mark Mogle, Mary Kimm, Shirley Ruhe, Tim Peterson, Vernon Miles, Eden Brown, Andrea Worker and Jeanne Theismann.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate

getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metro-

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McLean CONNECTION NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

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— MARY KIMM

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Back to FCPS

BY SCOTT S. BRABRAND, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



It is great to be back in the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) family! I am returning to FCPS after spending the past five years as superintendent of Lynchburg City Schools.

My family is also very excited to be back; my two sons will be attending Fairfax High School this year, the same school where I once served as principal. I always dreamed of coming back to FCPS and it is an honor for me to have the opportunity to lead this amazing school system.

I was a career changer, after doing volunteer work in the schools, and began in FCPS as a social studies teacher in 1994. I also served as an assistant principal at Herndon High and an associate principal at Lake Braddock Secondary School before being named principal at Fairfax High School in 2005. In 2009, I was named the cluster assistant superintendent for schools in the Hayfield, West Potomac and Mt. Vernon pyramids.

As your superintendent, I am making Fri-

days my school days. I want to visit our schools to understand the work and the challenges our teachers, administrators and employees face, to understand what is happening "on the ground" so I can be better informed when making decisions.

I am committed to following through on the work of my predecessor,

Dr. Karen Garza, who established Portrait of a Graduate — the 21st century learning model that our system has embraced — that focuses on the skills necessary for our students to succeed in college and beyond. As a school division, we are committed to achieving this goal for every student, in every classroom, in every school. We can we make this vision happen through ...

Excellence: We need to make sure every student and family has an excellent experience during their time with us. This also requires our employees to be fully invested in the important work they do every day.

Equity: FCPS is a microcosm of the world with students and families who come from all backgrounds and cultures. We will ensure that all students reach Portrait of a Graduate outcomes by addressing oppor-



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Langley High School's class of 2017 walks into the hall to "Pomp and Circumstance" played by the Langley High School Orchestra at the graduation ceremony in June. Fairfax County has one of the best public school systems nationwide with a graduation rate nearly 93 percent.

tunity, access and attainment gaps. Every child, by name and need, can succeed with the proper support.

Effectiveness: We need to ensure that FCPS is being effective and efficient. One step I am taking is to narrow down our strategic plan in order to focus our efforts on achievable priorities that we can do well this year as a school division. We will align our resources to these priorities.

Expectations: I want our employees to love kids. The personal connection that our students feel with their teachers and all of

our employees is critical to their success. I want our employees to love teaching and learning which I know will positively impact a child every day, and I want our employees to be professional in their work and role models for our students.

All of the challenges we face as a community and a country can best be solved through public education and FCPS can and will lead the way.

I wish all students, teachers, and parents a very successful school year and I look forward to seeing you in your schools!

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How To Vote

Every year is election year in Virginia; mechanics and details of voting require attention to detail.

Voting early if you qualify is a good choice.

There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible: elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html

There are two ways to vote absentee, in-person and by mail. To do either, you should first check your voter registration status to make sure it is up-to-date. Then you will need to apply for an absentee ballot. Note: If you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location (see locations below). Voting absentee by mail? Read below for the process of applying for your mail-in ballot.

You can now apply for an absentee ballot online with the state's new Citizen Portal. You will need your Social Security Number and information on your Virginia Driver's License to complete the application. Information is also provided on how to apply if you do not have a driver's license.

Virginia Voter ID

Virginia has voter identification requirements, plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether that is absentee or on Election Day.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; valid U.S. Passport; other government-issued photo identification cards issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; valid college or university student photo identification card from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an

employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad. Once the application is processed, the card will be mailed directly to the voter.

A voter who does not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls will be offered a provisional ballot.

Provisional Ballot Process for Voters Who Arrive Without ID

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo identification, don't panic or give up. You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. Voters may submit a copy of their ID via fax, email, in-person submission, or through USPS or commercial delivery service. Please note that the copy of the ID must be delivered to the electoral board by noon on Friday, or the provisional ballot cannot be counted.

Also by noon on Friday following the election, the voter may appear in-person in the office of the general registrar, in the locality in which the provisional ballot was cast, and apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. At the completion of the application process, the voter may request a Temporary Identification Document. This document may be provided to the electoral board to suffice the identification requirement.

General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7

On Election Day Polls are open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m., Nov. 7.

To determine whether eligible and registered to vote in this election, visit the Virginia Department of Elections website at elections.virginia.gov/ or call Fairfax Elections office at 703-222-0776.

To vote on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 6 a.m.-7 p.m. (General Election)

❖ Register/update address by: Monday, Oct. 16.

❖ Request absentee ballot by mail by: 5

p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31.

❖ Vote early (in-person absentee ballot by appearing in person by 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4.

For more information on voting in Fairfax County:

Voter Registration: 703-222-0776, TTY 711

Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725

Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

Election Officer Info: 703-324-4735,

TTY 711

School Bonds on Ballot

There is a \$315 million public school bonds referendum on the Nov. 7 general election ballot. If approved by voters, the Fairfax County Public Schools' current plans to use this bond money are to:

❖ Plan and/or construct two new elementary schools, one in Fairfax/Oakton area and another in the Northwest county area.

❖ Relocate one modular building

❖ Plan additions at three existing high schools to add capacity at Madison, Stuart and West Potomac.

❖ Plan and/or construct renovations of 10 elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools.

See www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/2017-school-bond-referendum.

Special Election

Aug. 29, 2017 Special Election, School Board At-Large

All county polling places will be open on Aug. 29 to fill a vacancy for member, School Board At-Large for the remainder of the present term of office which expires Dec. 31, 2019.

In-Person Absentee voting is underway until Aug. 26

❖ Aug 26: Final Day In-Person Absentee Voting

❖ Aug 29: Absentee Ballot Return Deadline, 7 p.m.

Four candidates are on the ballot:

Chris S. Grisafe

Sandra D. Allen

Karen A. Keys-Gamarra

Michael H. Owens

For more on the school board race, see www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jul/31/low-turnout-high-stakes-special-election-school-bo/

ON THE BALLOT in Fairfax County:

Governor

Ralph S. Northam (D)

Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie (R)

Clifford D. Hyra (L)

42nd District

Kathy Tran (D)

Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R)

Lieutenant Governor

Justin E. Fairfax (D)

Jill H. Vogel (R)

43rd District

Mark Sickles (D) incumbent, unopposed

Attorney General

Mark R. Herring (D)*

John D. Adams (R)

44th District

Paul Krizek (D) incumbent, unopposed

House of Delegates (100) (2-year term)

34th District

Kathleen Murphy (D) incumbent

Cheryl Buford (R)

45th District

Mark Levine (D) incumbent, unopposed

46th District

Charniele Herring (D) incumbent, unopposed

35th District

Mark Keam (D) incumbent, unopposed

47th District

Patrick Hope (D) incumbent, unopposed

36th District

Ken Plum (D) incumbent, unopposed

48th District

Rip Sullivan (D) incumbent, unopposed

37th District

David Bulova (D) incumbent, unopposed

49th District

Alfonso Lopez (D) incumbent
Adam Roosevelt (R)

38th District

Kay Kory (D) incumbent

Paul Haring (R)

53rd District

Marcus Simon (D) incumbent
Mike Case (I)

39th District

Vivian Watts (D) incumbent, unopposed

67th District

Karrie Delaney (D)
Jim LeMunyon (R) incumbent

40th District

Donte Tanner (D)

Tim Hugo (R) incumbent

86th District

Jennifer Boysko (D) incumbent
Linda Schultz (R)

41st District

Eileen Filler-Corn (D) incumbent, unopposed

NEWCOMERS

Where to Give Locally List of Nonprofits in Fairfax County

- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org. Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Alacia Earley at 571-323-9568 or alacia.earley@cornerstonesva.org.
- ❖ **SHARE** of McLean operates a food pantry; provides assistance to families to avoid eviction, keep utilities on and meet other needs in a crisis. Share of McLean will provide holiday assistance to more than 250 needy families (630-plus people) this year. Each family will receive a grocery gift card in November along with a bag filled with pantry staples and traditional items. In December, our families will be welcomed to a festive party, served a light meal, and Santa will travel all the way from the North Pole to take photographs with the children. Each person will receive a "wish" gift and families will be given a grocery gift card, a bag filled with toiletries, and a jug of laundry detergent. Help us help our neighbors in need by fulfilling a wish or donating Walmart, Target, Giant, or Safeway gift cards. Contact Chris Wilbur at ShareWishes@gmail.com for more information. Visit www.shareofmclean.org for more info about Share.
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 herndonrestonfish.org. Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short term crises by since 1969. FISH provides Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help by responding to emergency requests for rent, transportation, utilities, medical prescriptions and other needs. FISH operates The Bargain Loft, a thrift store, which needs donations of good quality saleable items, accepting and selling art, furniture, jewelry, household linens, dishes, pots and pans, books, women's designer clothing (clean and on hangers), puzzles, games, collectibles, small electronics and much more. If you have store questions, call 703-437-0600. Herndon-Reston FISH also provides Holiday Food & Gift Baskets during the November and December season.
- ❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more. Every year the goal is to provide each family with a week's worth of non-perishable food in November and again in December. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. In November, clients also receive a voucher for coats and warm clothing. In December, children 16 and under receive gifts. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.
- ❖ **Committee for Helping Others** (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Last year 450 children had a special Christmas through the annual Christmas Store. 703-281-7614, www.cho-va.com
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. Just \$50 provides a complete holiday meal to a family of four. Donate at give.nvfs.org/holidaydonation or via check payable to "NVFS" with "Operation Turkey" on the memo line, or send grocery store gift cards. Northern Virginia Family Service, attn: Holiday Initiatives, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124.
- ❖ **Second Story** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. Requests for food and clothing are up more than 50 percent. second-story.org.
- ❖ **Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna** providing services, personal enrichment, volunteer opportunities for adults 50 and over. Currently serving 3,000+ mature adults in the region. 703-281-0538, www.scov.org
- ❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. www.touchingheart.com, 703-901-7355.
- ❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly. For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.
- ❖ **HomeAid** builds and renovates facilities that house the homeless, and partners with many local organizations to do so. 3684 Centerview Drive, Suite 110B, Chantilly, VA 20151. www.homeaidnova.org/
- ❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030
- ❖ **Britepaths** will have 3,000 individuals and families in need of holiday assistance list this fall. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. Join Britepaths at Wine & Wonderment, Nov. 15, at 2941 Restaurant britepaths.org
- ❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) helps local people who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 fairfaxfish.org/
- ❖ **Lamb Center**,


SEE WHERE TO GIVE, PAGE 11

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

From left: Robin Walker, Social Media Editor for McLean Community Center, and George Sachs, Executive Director, pose next to plans for the renovation of the McLean Community Center Wednesday, Aug. 16.



PHOTOS BY
COLIN STOECKER/
THE CONNECTION

Polishing a Community Gem

McLean Community Center is undergoing a major renovation.

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

The Center of It All” can be found at 6631 Old Dominion Drive in the McLean Square Shopping Center, the temporary home of the McLean Community Center. Their permanent location at 1234 Ingleside Ave. is undergoing extensive renovations and won’t reopen again until the fall of 2018.

Along with the McLean Community Center Governing Board, and The Lukmire Partnership, George Sachs, Executive Director of the McLean Community Center is a driving force behind the renovations. “It’s an exciting, fresh, new updated, upgraded facility for this community. We are reaching populations in our community who haven’t used us before!” said Sachs.

The community center has existed in McLean since 1974 and the renovations were made possible by the residents of McLean. According to Sachs, the tax-base supports the center per an assessed value on residents’ homes. “A \$1 million home pays \$230 a year toward the center,” said Sachs.

Over the past few years, a much disputed tax sur-



The rear entrance of the McLean Community Center at 1234 Ingleside Ave. MCC is currently undergoing renovations and won’t reopen again until fall 2018.

plus built up and residents voted on how to distribute the funds. The vote went toward renovating the community center. No additional funding had to be raised towards the renovation. Tax surpluses were able to cover the \$8 million cost of the project.

SEE CENTER, PAGE 11



George Sachs, Executive Director of the McLean Community Center, points to a plan for the renovation of the McLean Community Center Wednesday, Aug. 16.



LEWINSVILLE
MONTESSORI

Lewinsville Montessori School, located at 1609 Great Falls Street, will open a second preschool room for the September school year.

Lewinsville Montessori School enrolls children ages 6 weeks to 6 years and operates on a full day, full year calendar.

For more information, please visit us: www.LewMontessori.School or call 703-356-4691 to schedule your private, personal tour.



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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Center of It All

FROM PAGE 10

Robin Walker, Social Media Editor at McLean Community Center, is looking forward to the renovations and the way that they will benefit the larger community. "I think the increased class space and all purpose room will allow more and better cooking, art, and yoga classes. We have the space now!"

All of her children were able to experience the events and space at the McLean Community Center and as a resident of this community she feels obligated to give back. "I was on the board that voted to renovate the center," she said.

The renovation will update bathrooms, add new ceilings, new lights, and bring the rest of the outdated building up-to-code for building inspectors. It will also add a new board room, multi-purpose room, and conference room.

"Better working conditions for staff will be created," said Walker.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

George Sachs, 65, Executive Director of the McLean Community Center poses with public works officials during renovations of the McLean Community Center.

Upcoming Events for McLean Community Center

- ❖ Fall Community Garage Sale — Saturday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- ❖ After Mixer — Friday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- ❖ MPA Artfest — Sunday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- ❖ The McLean 5K Fun Run — Saturday, Oct. 7, 8 a.m.
- ❖ McLean Day 2018 — Saturday, May 19, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Where to Give Locally

FROM PAGE 9

www.thelambcenter.org, day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178.

❖ **Food for Others** provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173, 2938 Prosperity Ave. info@foodforothers.org Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. www.foodforothers.org

❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO)**, 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. www.echo-inc.org.

❖ **Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC)** will provide Thanksgiving and Holiday assistance to more than 450 families this year. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for more than 1,000 children and teens will help low-income families. More information at lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/. Volunteers are needed for these events as well. Register online at lortonaction.org or call 703/339-5161, ext. 140.

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact

alnorthernva@gmail.com or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org

❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)** ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org

❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/

❖ **United Community Ministries**, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306 assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UCM provides four different housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center to help prepare people for moving forward with their jobs. Last year, for the holidays, donations of nearly 10,000 toys, books, games, clothing, and other gifts ensured a joy-filled holiday for more than 1,200 children in 600 families. 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306. www.ucmagency.org

Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are also welcome.

❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org

❖ **Homestretch** is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email: jhenderson@homestretchva.org; 703-237-2035 x125; homestretchva.org/volunteer/


❖ **Pathway Homes** focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-876-0390 info@pathwayhomes.org www.pathwayhomes.org www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/

❖ **Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services**, 8305-17B Richmond Highway, PO Box 15096, Alexandria, VA, 22039. 703-768-9419, www.goodhousing.org/ The mission of Good Shepherd Housing (GSH) is to reduce homelessness, increase community support, and promote self-sufficiency. GSH housing manages more than 70 housing units.

❖ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and Mount Vernon/ Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. www.bgcgw.org/fairfax


❖ **Christian Relief Services**, 8301 Richmond Highway, Suite 900, Alexandria, VA 22309, 703-317-9086, 703-317-9690 christianrelief.org/

❖ **Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia** offers structure, supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, info@friendsofguesthouse.org, friendsofguesthouse.org/



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-REBECCA MCKINSEY




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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

YEAR-ROUND FUN

Cars and Coffee. Every Saturday morning, 6-9 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Come grab a coffee and enjoy the many cars on show. Antique, classic and new ... they are all here. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org/cars-and-coffee/

September 2017

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 2-3

24th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival. Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Saturday: 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. Sunday: noon – 6 p.m. Smell the aromas from the outdoor grills, partake of Shawarma, Chicken Kebabs, Falafel, Fattoush, Hummus, and Stuffed Grape Leaves, or any number of other delicious menu choices, including a Roast Lamb Dinner served on Saturday from 6-9 and all day on Sunday. Then relax with a cup of coffee and mouth-watering pastry. Once you've satisfied your appetite, join in the Debke dance (instructors will teach you how), participate in a game of backgammon or chess, visit the vendors, or take a tour of the church. The Festival will be held rain or shine. Admission and parking are free. Call 703-734-9566 or visit middleeasternfoodfestival.com/festival/

SEPT. 7-9

Quarterly Book Sale. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Tysons Library, 7700 and 7704 Leesburg Pike. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Visit tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com or 703-338-3307.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

Food for Others Tysons 5k and Fun Run. 8a.m. Food For Others is an important part of Northern Virginia's safety net for those needing food when an emergency strikes and for the growing number of working poor who are unable to make ends meet and need to supplement their inadequate food supplies. Registration: \$35 through Sept. 7 at 8 p.m. \$40 during packet pick up and on race day. Visit www.foodforothers.org/5k/

Virginia Indian Festival. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. 10 a.m. The festival includes eight American Indian tribes from Virginia including the Rappahannock dancers and drummers. Enjoy hands on activities and live demonstrations including American Indian storytelling, shooting bow and arrows, throwing spears and making stone tools. Also, assist in building a dugout canoe and visit our marketplace of American Indian crafts, pottery and jewelry. Tickets: \$7-\$9. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Movies on the Green. Beauty and the Beast (Live action version). 7:30 p.m. Come join us on the Village Green, on these Saturday evenings, to enjoy a free movie and popcorn courtesy of our sponsors. Blankets, chairs and picnics are all welcome for a family-friendly evening of movies under the stars! Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org/movies-on-the-green/

SEPT. 9-20

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Various venues around Northern Virginia. Events include badminton, volleyball, bocce, miniature golf, and many more. The



Santa Claus rode on top of the McLean Volunteer Fire Department's fire truck.

basic registration fee is \$13. A fee of \$1 is required for each event. Additional fees may apply. Visit nvso.us/.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

McLean Fall Community Garage Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 1420 Beverly Road, McLean, behind Staybridge Suites Hotel. Admission is free. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, Sept. 13, or until sold out. Call 703-744-9365 or email registrar@mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Fun Fall Bazaar and Market. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls UMC Annual sale Shops, bake sale, books, silent auction, children's activities, Appraisal Roadshow, and BBQ dinner. Call Lois 703-759-2843.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 24

Teddy Bear 5K and 1K. 2-6 p.m. at Pimmit Hills Park, 7230 Idylwood Road. All proceeds from this event go to Falls Church-McLean Children's Center. Visit potomac.enmotive.com/events.

SEPT. 29-OCT. 1

Annual Used Book Sale. Friday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday noon-4 p.m. at the Spring Hill Recreation Center, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Hosted by the McLean Area Branch of the

American Association of University Women (AAUW) featuring the auction of a signed Washington National Max Scherzer shirt and cap. Visit www.aauw.org/.

October 2017

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

McLean Project for the Arts ArtFest. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, VA 22102. The park is transformed into a lively landscape of mini art galleries showcasing and offering for sale the work of acclaimed artists from the Mid-Atlantic region. Visit www.mpaart.org

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Stuff the Truck Food Drive. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Safeway, 9881 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Benefit for Committee for Helping Others (CHO) and Artemis House to provide emergency food aid to those in need in Vienna, Oakton, Dunn Loring and Merrifield. Artemis House is Fairfax County's only 24-hour emergency shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking. Sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Great Falls Baha'is as part of the regional Day to Serve initiative. Visit www.daytoserve.org/.

Oktoberfest. 11a.m.-7 p.m. Historic Church Street. Enjoy a traditional Oktoberfest Festival with drinks,

food, entertainment, and games for families. Visit www.viennaoktoberfest.org/

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/ OCT. 21-22

Claude Moore Colonial Farm 1771 Market Fair. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. In the fall, warm yourself by the fires and enjoy the splendor of autumn with crisp local apples, warm savory meat pies and hearty breads. Let Market Fair entertainers, tradesmen, and the militia amuse and educate you. Visit 2017.1771.org/marketfair/

TUESDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Spooktacular. 5-7 p.m. Trick or treat! Children up to age 12 are encouraged to wear their favorite Halloween costume, experience the Haunted House, and enjoy trick or treating with local merchants in a safe environment right in the heart of town. Pets, on leashes, are welcome to join in the Pet Parade (4-4:45pm) dressed up in a favorite costume. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org/spooktacular.

November 2017

TUESDAY/NOV. 7

Election Day. General Election and Special Elections. Visit www.elections.virginia.gov/voter-outreach/upcoming-elections.html

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 18-19

Alden Fall Production: "Peggy the Pint-Sized Pirate." Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Peggy is a small pirate with big dreams but has bigger pirates standing in her way. When a sea monster captures her friends, can Peggy find a way to save them? Free admission. Young actors who are interested in participating in the show can find detailed information under Theatre, Classes for Children at mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre.

SUNDAY/DEC. 3

McLean WinterFest Parade. 2-5p.m. The parade route will run down Old Chain Bridge Road from Fleetwood Road and ending at Elm Street. Visit: www.mcleanvfd.org/winter-fest-parade/
Home for the Holidays Chamber Music at the Barns. 1635 Trap Road Vienna, VA 22182. 3p.m. The WSB promises a resounding celebration of the holiday season. \$45. Visit www.wolfftrap.org/



Skaters waltz on an imaginary iced pond; some slip and fall at Meadowlark Gardens' Winter Walk of Lights.

2018

SATURDAY/FEB. 24

2018 Winter Wine Tasting. Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 7-10 p.m. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org/winter-wine-tasting/

FRIDAYS-SUNDAYS/MARCH 9-24

McLean Community Players "Harvey." 8p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2p.m. on Sundays. The Grange Theatre, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. "Harvey," the 1944 Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy is a whimsical "forget-all- your-worries" flight of fancy, principally powered by the endearing eccentricities of Elwood P. Dowd, a middle-aged bachelor who, in his own words, wrestled with reality all his life but "finally won out over it." Tickets for "Harvey" at the Grange may be purchased at the door, online, or by phone through Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838- 3006. Visit www.mcleanplayers.org.

SUNDAY/MAR. 25

Annual Children's Spring Festival. Tickets on sale at 12:30 p.m. Join us for this long-running annual favorite at Great Falls Village Centre, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. This event is sponsored by Adeler Jewelers and the Great Falls Optimist Club. Visit www.greatfallsvillagecentre.com.

APRIL 21-28

Historic Garden Week. Visit www.vagardenweek.org/

SATURDAY/MAY 19

McLean Day. 11a.m-5p.m. Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Admission: Free. Bring the family and enjoy McLean's biggest annual event. This event draws approximately 11,000+ patrons throughout the day. Vote for your favorite MCC candidate, enjoy live entertainment, exhibitors, sponsors, food trucks, large and small carnival rides, amusements, games, balloon animals, a tennis clinic and more. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 26-28

Viva! Vienna! A family and community oriented celebration of Memorial Day and the greater Vienna Community spirit. Visit vivavienna.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 8-10

Celebrate Fairfax! Northern Virginia's largest annual three-day festival and community-wide celebration at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Visit celebratefairfax.com/ or call 703-324- 3247.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

4th of July Hometown Celebration, Parade and Fireworks. 5K, Parade and Hometown Celebration at Great Falls Village Centre, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade/.

AUGUST

VietFest. The Plaza at Tysons Corner 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Saturday: 10a.m.-10p.m. Sunday: 11am-8pm. Entrance to festival is free. Events include Miss VietFest Pageant, Mister VietFest and VietFest's Got Talent. Visit www.vietfest.com/

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

VIEWPOINTS

— COLIN STOECKER

Saadia Swicker, now a resident of Reston, and supervisor at Balducci's in McLean, was a McLean resident for 14 years.

"It's a safe clean area. We used to live in a big house with lots of space. Now I live in a small condominium. It's convenient to Washington, D.C. and Tysons Corner. There are nice people and sometimes we even get to meet famous people!"



PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Grady Kabesle, 18, a high schooler in McLean and employee at Robeks, has been living in McLean for 4 years.

"It's close to my school, also the area is pretty to live in. It's closer to my work kind of, the community are nice and good people and friendly. I am from the Congo and it was different for me to move here but I like to experience all the culture."



Yassad Ghahramani, 37, a youth soccer coach, has lived in McLean for 10 years.

"First of all, it's safe and quiet and it's very convenient to Washington, D.C., maybe a 15- to 20-minute drive. McLean is a good area with good people. I am Persian and I lived in Fairfax for a year before I moved here. I coached soccer for McLean and used to drive around a lot. When you drive around you see the houses and the people."



Ali Alshabnan, 23, a Global Media graduate student at American University, has lived in McLean for 12 years.

"There are many aspects of McLean that I like. It's a pleasant place to live and it's very diverse. People are nice to each other and it's a safe community. The infrastructure is pleasing. It has a small town feel but in terms of people it is a center of importance. I like the nature trails at Great Falls and Scott's Run for hiking. Some of my friends even go tubing on the Potomac river!"



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PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Hearing on the
McLean Community Center's
FY 2019 Budget**
(July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)



McLean Community Center Governing Board
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. Copies of the draft budget proposal will be available during the public hearing.

Written comments may be delivered to the Center's temporary Administrative Offices (see address below) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov. Written comments may be provided after the public hearing up through Monday, Oct. 23.

The date of the **Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole**, a full board budget work session, is **Tuesday, Sept. 12**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Center's temporary Administrative Offices (see address below).



The McLean Community Center
Temporary Administrative Offices
6631 Old Dominion Dr., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711 | www.mcleancenter.org

PARKS

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO MAJOR PARKS IN THE AREA

PHOTOS BY MARK MOGLE,
FEATURING GREAT FALLS NATIONAL PARK
MAP BY LAURENCE FOONG AND DESIGN BY JEAN CARD

National Parks

GF Great Falls National Park

9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean
www.nps.gov/grfa
Great Falls Park is open daily from 7 a.m. until dark. The Visitor Center and bookstore are open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, spring through fall seasons. Picnic, hike along the Potomac River. Swimming and wading in the Potomac are prohibited.

GW George Washington Memorial Parkway

www.nps.gov/gwmp
703-289-2500
The GW Parkway includes more than 25 sites, ranging from historic homes to wildlife preserves. Join a ranger for a free program or explore sites independently. Some park sites, including Turkey Run Park, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Great Falls Park, etc., close at dark. The Parkway itself remains open 24 hours a day to vehicle traffic.

WT Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

1551 Trap Road, Vienna
www.nps.gov/wotr/
The only national park dedicated to presenting the performing arts. From May through September, multiple amphitheatres in the park present musicals, dance, opera, jazz, and popular and country music. Explore the park without the crowds from October - April. The Barns at Wolf Trap offer indoor entertainment through the winter months.

State Park

MN Mason Neck State Park

7301 High Point Rd. Lorton
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/mas.shtml#
703-339-2385 or 703-339-2380 (visitor center)
masonneck@dcr.virginia.gov
The park's visitor center was expanded in 2010 to include a new exhibit room, gift shop and meeting room. There are several exhibits in the center, and with a view of Belmont Bay. Visitor center staff can answer questions and provide information on park trails, facilities and local points of interest. Pond study, bird watching, canoe trips, nature walks and talks, and GPS adventures are just a few of the exciting programs offered by park rangers.

Regional Parks

BR Bull Run Marina Regional Park & Atlantis Waterpark

7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville
www.nvrpa.org/park/bull_run/
www.atlantisbullrun.com/
703-631-0552
Main park open all year for picnicking, hiking and family camping. Bull Run Public Shooting Center open all year. Group Camping open daily Jan. 7 through Nov. 11. Mini and disc golf open April through October. Hours vary. Atlantis Waterpark features pools, a giant dumping bucket, waterslides, and fun-filled activities for all ages. Atlantis is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and is a member of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority family of Waterparks. Neptune Reef snack bar sells food, beverages and sweets.

CR Cameron Run Regional Park/Great Waves Waterpark

4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria
www.nvrpa.org/park/cameron_run/
www.greatwaveswaterpark.com/
703-960-0767
Cameron Run Regional Park offers a variety of recreation facilities in an urban area, including Great Waves Water Park. Catch a wave in the wave pool, twist and turn down four-story water slides, take a plunge down speed slides, play with friends in the shallow waters of the play

pool. The park also features a deluxe miniature golf course, a nine-station batting cage, picnic shelters, and a special events pavilion.

CH Carlyle House Historic Park

121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
www.nvrpa.org/park/carlyle_house_historic_park/
703-549-2997
The historic Carlyle House was completed in 1753 by British merchant John Carlyle for his bride, Sarah Fairfax of Belvoir, member of one of the most prestigious families in colonial Virginia. Their home quickly became a center of social and political life in Alexandria and gained a foothold in history when British General Braddock made the mansion his headquarters in 1755. On the National Register of Historic Places, Carlyle House is architecturally unique in Alexandria as the only stone, 18th-century Palladian-style house. Daily tours of the house, programs for schoolchildren, special events, exhibits and lectures explore the life and times of John Carlyle in pre-Revolutionary Alexandria. The site may be rented in the evenings for private functions and weddings.

FH Fountainhead Regional Park

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
www.nvrpa.org/park/fountainhead/
703-250-9124
The observation deck of the Marina Building at Fountainhead commands a spectacular view of the widest point of the Occoquan Reservoir. Summer activities include catfish tournaments, children's fishing tournament, paddleboat tours and more.

HO Hemlock Overlook Regional Park

13220 Yates Ford Road, Clifton
www.nvrpa.org/park/hemlock_overlook/
800-877-0954; 571-281-3556;
Hemlock Overlook Regional Park offers a variety of outdoor and environmental education. Programs at Hemlock Overlook are open to the public and groups by reservation. Only the hiking and horse

trails may be used without prior arrangement.

MBG Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna
www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens/
703-255-3631
This 95-acre complex of large ornamental display gardens and unique native plant collections is open year round and include walking trails, lakes, more than 20 varieties of cherry trees, irises, peonies, an extensive shade garden, native wildflowers, gazebos, birds, butterflies, seasonal blooms and foliage. The Atrium's indoor tropical garden setting is a popular meeting, reception, wedding and workshop location. Interpretive displays accompany a restored 18th-century cabin.

OR Occoquan Regional Park

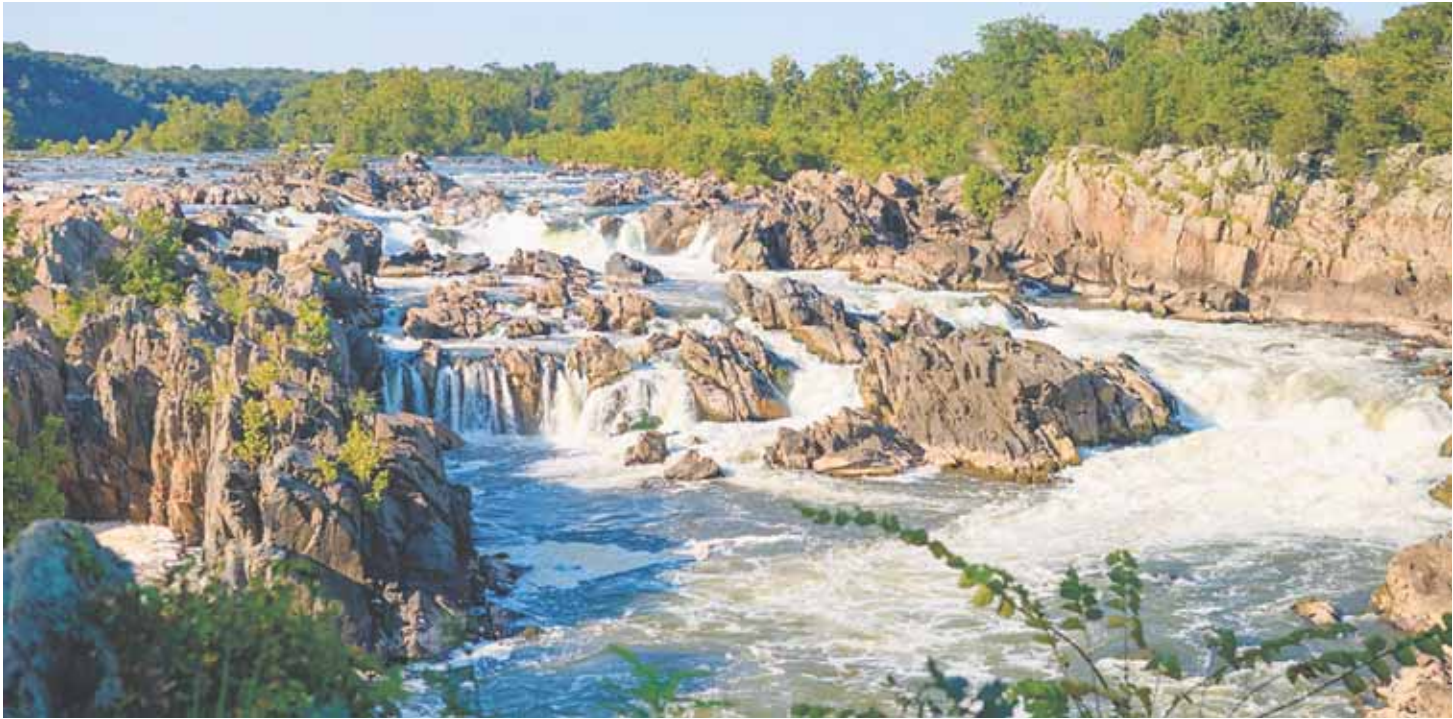
9751 Ox Road, Lorton
www.nvrpa.org/park/occoquan/
703-690-2121
This park offers 400 acres of recreational space and a touch of the past with its historic brick kilns and the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. Park lands, trails and associated waters are part of the Fairfax Cross-County Trail. Kayak rentals. One hour Tour Boat Rides on the Occoquan River to Belmont Bay and back. Offered Saturdays noon-5 p.m., Sunday 1-8 p.m., April 2 through Nov. 27. \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, under age 4 are free.

PB Pohick Bay Regional Park & Pirates Cove Waterpark

6501 Pohick Bay Drive, Lorton
www.nvrpa.org/park/pohick_bay/
www.piratescovepohick.com
703-339-6102

Pohick Bay is located on the Potomac River, 25 miles south of the nation's capital. The boat launch facility is one of only three public access points to the Potomac River in northern Virginia. Pohick Bay offers canoes, kayaks, paddle boats and jon boats for rent on the weekends, as well as family and group camping, hiking, picnic areas and a large play area for children. The park offers one of the largest, outdoor freeform pools on the east coast. Pohick Bay Regional Park, located on Mason Neck Peninsula is an ecologically fragile land that shelters an abundance of wildlife, including the bald eagle. Pirates Cove Waterpark is located at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Visitors can cool off under the 300-gallon dumping bucket, fire the water cannons and splash down the waterslide or search for buried treasure at Buccaneer Beach sand play area. Pirates Cove

Sources: National Park Service, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Virginia State Parks and Fairfax County Park Authority. Map courtesy of Fairfax County Park Authority. Designed & compiled by Jean Card and Laurence Foong. Photos by Renée Ruggles.



also features picnic pavilions, a deck for sunning and playing, as well as plenty of shade. Captain's Galley snack bar features food, beverages and sweets. Pirates Cove is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

PB Pohick Bay Golf Course

10301 Gunston Road, Lorton
www.nvrpa.org/park/pohick_bay_golf_course
703-339-8585

This scenic golf course is located on the Mason Neck Peninsula in Lorton. Pohick Bay's practice facility features a driving range with practice putting and chipping greens, and lessons from PGA pros. A full-service pro shop features an array of name-brand golf clubs, equipment and apparel. Other services include club making, custom club fitting, regripping, reshafting and tournament coordinating.

P0 Potomac Overlook Regional Park & Nature Center

2845 Marcey Road, Arlington, VA 22207
www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac_overlook/
703-528-5406

On the Potomac Palisades in north Arlington, Potomac Overlook offers 70 acres of peaceful woodland, trails, educational gardens, a small picnic area and a Nature Center. The Nature Center features brand new exhibits called the "Energerium," offering visitors a fun and accessible way to learn energy basics and ways they can help create sustainable energy solutions. The Nature Center also houses live animals and natural history exhibits.

SR Sandy Run Regional Park

10450 Van Thompson Road, Fairfax Station
www.nvrpa.org/park/sandy_run/
703-690-4392

The park is open to the public for the purpose of education, training, practice, and racing for competitive and recreational sculling and rowing. Only shells and other boats authorized by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority may be launched from the docks or shoreline of Sandy Run. Sandy Run offers a facility for team training and competition for Olympic, college, high school and club canoe, kayak and crew athletes.

UH Upton Hill Regional Park & Ocean Dunes Waterpark

6060 Wilson Blvd., Arlington
www.nvrpa.org/park/upton_hill/
www.oceanduneswaterpark.com/
703-534-3437 or UptonHill@nvrpa.org

Upton Hill Regional Park offers visitors a wooded oasis in the heart of the most densely populated area of Northern Virginia. A large outdoor water-park complex is a sparkling attraction in this wooded, urban park, which straddles the boundary line between Arlington and Fairfax counties. The deluxe miniature golf course boasts one of the longest mini golf holes in the world; the batting cages include nine baseball and softball cages. The park is open every day for hiking, picnicking, playing on the playground and enjoying the outdoors. Located within Upton Hill Regional Park, Ocean Dunes is loaded with fun features for adults and children.

Arts Center

LAC Workhouse Arts Center

9601 Ox Road, Lorton
www.lortonarts.org
703-584-2900

The Workhouse Arts Center consists of seven studio buildings, the main galleries and the recently opened Youth Arts Center. Visitors are encouraged to interact with artists. In addition to visual arts, the Workhouse Arts Center is home to performing arts, including theater, film institute, musical and dance performances. The education department supports both the visual and performing arts, offering classes and workshops in a variety of disciplines. Future plans for the Workhouse include an event center, amphitheater, Workhouse Theatre, restaurants, apartments, music barn and garden/horticultural area. Other buildings on site, yet to be renovated, may provide for other activities such as a visitors center, a blacksmith shop, theatre scene shops and rehearsal space.

Major Fairfax County Parks

BLP Burke Lake Park & Golf Course

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
volleyball, driving range, 18 hole, par 3, minigolf, trails, playground, campgrounds, fishing
883.4 acres, multiple resource park



CJP Clemyjontri Park

6317 Georgetown Pike, McLean
fitness, picnic areas and playgrounds
18.6 acres, special purpose park

ELP Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
baseball, soccer/football (unlit), basketball (unlit), community center, nature center, amphitheater, trails
650 acres, multiple resource park

FPP Frying Pan Farm Park

2717 West Ox Road, Herndon
historic structure, biking/equestrian/hiking trails, open areas, playground
135.3 acres, multiple resource park

BSG Green Spring Gardens

4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria
Community Center, historic structure, biking/hiking trails, open areas, gardens
30.9 acres, special purpose park

HPP Hidden Pond Park

8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield
tennis (lit), nature center, amphitheater, hiking/nature trails, playground, fishing
25.6 acres, community park

HMP Huntley Meadows Park

3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria
nature center, historic structure, biking/hiking/nature trails, observation tower, boardwalk
1444.8 acres, natural resource park

LAP Lake Accotink Park

7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield
basketball, volleyball, minigolf, trails, picnic
448.1 acres, multiple resource park

LFP Lake Fairfax Park

1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
softball (lit), soccer/football (unlit), amphitheater, carousel, campground, tour boat, picnic shelters
479 acres, multiple resource park

FRA Lee District Park

6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia
softball, soccer/football, tennis, basketball, volleyball, trails, treehouse, sprayground, accessible playground
138 acres, district park

MDP Mason District Park

6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale
softball (lit), soccer/football (unlit/lit), basketball (lit), tennis (lit), shuffleboard, dog park, amphitheater, biking/hiking/fitness
121.2 acres, district park

NWP Nottoway Park

9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna
baseball (lit), soccer/football (lit), basketball (lit), tennis (lit), trails, picnic
90.9 acres, district park

RBP Riverbend Park

8700 Potomac Hill Street, Great Falls
nature center, historic structure, biking/equestrian/hiking trails, picnic areas, craftroom
411.2 acres, multiple resource park

SRN Scotts Run Nature Preserve

7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean
historic structure, historic/hiking/nature trails, fishing
384.3 acres, natural resource park

SRD South Run District

7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield
baseball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, recenter, equestrian, playground, swimming
196 acres, district park

WFP Wakefield Park & RECenter

8100 Braddock Road, Annandale
softball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, recenter, biking, fitness trail, skate park
292.6 acres, multiple resource park



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