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and Oakton **Vienna** **CONNECTION**

Inside
FALL FUN

Vienna residents Kathya Gant and Courtney Chadwick frequently jog on the W&OD trail, sharing it with bicyclists, parents with strollers, and commuters, showing the popularity of this trail to lots of recreation seekers in this area.

W&OD Trail's Long And Windy History

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PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 3, 2017

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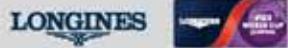
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Republican Ed Gillespie speaks at the Sept. 19 debate.



Democrat Ralph Northam (right) speaks at the Sept. 19 debate.

Rorschach Politics

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The campaign for governor is a bit like a Rorschach test as the candidates close in on the final stretch toward Election Day. Democrat Ralph Northam and Republican Ed Gillespie are presenting a series of inkblots to voters about everything from the health of the economy to the value of Confederate statues.

How voters feel about President Donald Trump and the Affordable Care Act may end up playing more of a role deciding the fate of the election than all the carefully crafted policy proposals and press releases.

"The critiques that one is leveling at the other that aren't policy oriented are designed to undermine the opponent's base but also energize their own base," said Quentin Kidd, professor at Christopher Newport University. "But while they do have to play politics and critique each other, they've got to talk about policy, and they've got to talk about the things they would do to solve problems and make life better for Virginians."

Polls show Northam holding a steady but slight lead since March, the last time Gillespie was leading in a statewide poll of voters. One of the most recent polls was conducted by the University of Mary Washington earlier this month, which shows Northam edging out a 5 percent win over his rival — a lead that's so slight it was within the margin of error. Polls have Northam crushing Gillespie in vote-rich Northern Virginia. But they also show Gillespie leading among independent voters and holding strong in conservative parts of the state.

"You see a lot of undecided voters, which means both campaigns have a lot of work to do between now and November," said Stephen Farnsworth, professor at the University of Mary Washington. "When you



At the end of Tuesday's debate Gillespie and Northam share a handshake. The debate was notable for its civility on all sides.

take out the portions of the electorate who will reflexively vote for a Democrat or a Republican, you are left with people who are going to be motivated by community-level issues."

THE DEBATE in Northern Virginia on Sept. 19 illustrated the fickle nature of Rorschach politics in the age of Trump as both candidates tried to shape the narrative. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce and moderated by Chuck Todd of NBC's "Meet the Press," the televised debate was held at Capital One headquarters in McLean on Sept. 19. Panelists included Julie Carey of NBC4, Aaron Gilchrist of NBC4 and Mark Rozell of George Mason University.

Several times during the debate, Gillespie rattled off a series of data points about sluggish job growth and stories of people leav-

ing Virginia to move to other states. His solution to the perceived weakness is a 10 percent reduction in the individual income tax rate, a proposal that would cost more than \$1 billion over the next five years.

"We have tended to put a lot of focus on what I call whale hunting — trying to get a Fortune 100 company to move lock stock and barrel into Virginia," said Gillespie after the debate. "And I'm all for it. We need to make a run at Amazon, and we're going to. But that can't be the singular focus of our economic development agenda and vision."

Northam criticized Gillespie's plan as a tax cut for the wealthy, a proposal that would blow a billion-dollar size hole in the budget and crowd out spending for roads and schools. Instead, he said he would like to continue on the path of current Gov. Terry McAuliffe's "New Virginia Economy," em-

phasizing lowering the unemployment rate and a series of corporations that have moved their headquarters to the commonwealth. During one point in the debate, Northam turned to Gillespie and said all his trash-talking about the Virginia economy could prevent Amazon from setting up shop

"You see a lot of undecided voters, which means both campaigns have a lot of work to do between now and November."

— Stephen Farnsworth,
professor at the University of
Mary Washington

in Virginia.

"Right now, Ed, we are having negotiations with Amazon — 50,000 jobs," Northam said to Gillespie. "Amazon doesn't want to hear from people like you, especially if you want to be the next governor, that we are doing poorly in Virginia."

CONFEDERATE STATUES are creating an emotional flashpoint in the campaign, a disagreement between the candidates highlighted by the violent clashes that erupted in Charlottesville after white supremacists marched across the campus of the University of Virginia chanting Nazi slogans and holding tiki torches. Gillespie said the statues should stay in place with some added context, and he called for adding a statue of Virginia's first black governor to the state Capitol. Northam said local communities

SEE DEBATE, PAGE II

OPINION

Dire and Urgent

Dire and urgent." Those are the words used by U.S. Sen. Mark Warner to describe the need to turn back the most recent attempt to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

In addition to repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act with a plan that would result in chaos, the Graham-Cassidy bill also repeals Medicaid as we know it, Virginia's senators said in a call with reporters last week.

"Why are they going after Medicaid?" asked U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine. Per capita caps on Medicaid have "nothing to do with the Affordable Care Act."

The proposed cuts include \$243 billion less between 2020 and 2026 for the ACA's expansion of Medicaid, and cuts to the rest of Med-

EDITORIAL

icaid of \$175 billion during the same period, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis. The cuts would grow dramatically in 2027, with nearly \$300 billion more in cuts that year alone.

"Why go after Medicaid? Why?" Kaine asked again. Kaine is pretty sure he knows the answer: To generate money for billions in tax cuts for the wealthy.

Senators who support this [repeal], who think that the Federal government should not be paying for health care for the poor, for the aged, for the disabled, are planning to give this money to the wealthiest Americans in tax cuts.

"We must resist that at all costs."

While the Graham-Cassidy bill appears to lack the votes to pass right now, and many

people predict that the Senate will move on from trying to repeal and replace the affordable care act, vigilance is still required.

These ongoing efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act also threaten the quality of coverage for everyone by shredding protection on pre-existing conditions, by stripping funding for addiction and mental health treatment in the midst of a nationwide opioid epidemic, by allowing lifetime caps on coverage that would leave the most seriously ill patients without coverage, by undermining what constitutes "essential benefits," the very definition of what one expects to be covered by insurance.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Playing Fantasy Politics

BY DAVE MARSDEN
STATE SENATOR(D-37)



COMMENTARY

Some people love to play fantasy football.

Almost all of us love to play fantasy politics. Fantasy politics occurs when we become enamored of a candidate because somehow their background fits our ideal and we imbue them with characteristics that we have determined would make for a great chief executive. Be that a president or, in our upcoming election, a governor. However, our judgments are often unrelated to an individual's knowledge and ability to succeed in office.

It is often a harmless exercise and it does stimulate conversation around how we address the problems that confront us but we need to be careful. This year in Virginia we have a choice to make in our gubernatorial election. What I think we tend to undervalue, because we have limited exposure to it, is the importance of existing relationships for a governor with the legislature and the role that plays in getting important things done.

I am as guilty as anyone of playing this game but the longer I have been in elected office the more I realize that relationships are key to a governor's success in dealing with the legislature. Working with each other on bills, resolutions, and budget determinations is the way legislators of both parties get to know, re-

spect, and feel comfortable with each other's judgments.

We have the opportunity this year to elect someone who is known, respected, and even liked by Republicans and Democrats in both the House and Senate of Virginia. Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam served in the Senate for six years before becoming Lieutenant Governor and it's easy to see the affection legislators have for him, regardless of political party. (This is in addition to his background as the head of the Honor Council at the Virginia Military Institute, his years as an Army doctor working on our seriously wounded during Desert Storm and the outstanding career he has maintained as a pediatric neurologist.) Does that mean that everyone will blindly follow his lead? Of course not. But what it does mean is that his conversation with the legislature as governor starts with familiarity and trust, allowing for compromise and progress for the citizens of Virginia.

You only get four years as governor in our Commonwealth. Spending your first year introducing yourself to everyone in Richmond has proven not to be a productive use of time. Our Commonwealth has been in a sustained period of growth and stability as we recover from the Recession of

SEE MARSDEN, PAGE 10

Does current repeal effort set the stage for billions in tax cuts for the wealthiest?

Vienna & Oakton CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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

Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Fairfax County at 275 Years

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



COMMENTARY

Fairfax County is celebrating the 275th anniversary of its formation when in 1742 it was split off from Prince William County to be a separate county encompassing what we now know as the current county plus Loudoun and Arlington Counties and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax. It was named for Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax who had a proprietary of 5,282,000 acres. For a time a part of the county that is now Arlington County and the City of Alexandria was a part of the 10 square miles that makes up the District of Columbia until those jurisdictions were returned to Virginia.

Fairfax County is compared today with jurisdictions throughout the country as it leads in economic growth and development in many ways. That national comparison was not always appropriate. In its early years it was a struggling community raising tobacco with the labor of enslaved black persons. By 1749 the county's population was 28 percent enslaved persons; by 1782 that number had reached 41 percent.

The county's early fame came from its two most important residents: George Mason who wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Constitution and whose work led to the Bill of Rights in our national Constitution and George Washington who as our first president brought the country together and whose service in office set important precedents that continue today.

Surprisingly Fairfax County voted with the South to secede from the Union leading up to the Civil War. While the County was not the scene of major military battles, there were many skirmishes and an almost constant flow of troops passing through it. After the war and reconstruction, investments started to flow to the county that helped its recovery. Although still an agricultural community at that time, the following decades brought significant changes that led to the community as we know it today.

Not surprisingly, one of the big issues was transportation. In the early years most settlements were along the rivers that provided a means for transporting tobacco and crops. As inland developments occurred there was no governmental mechanism for building roads. Those that were in place were narrow without a hard surface. New turnpikes supported by tolls included the Little River Turnpike, Columbia Turnpike, Leesburg Turnpike and Falls Bridge Turnpike. The start of railroads before the Civil War accelerated with the electric trolley lines that followed. It is estimated that as many as a million passengers or more were carried per year by the Washington, Alexandria, and Mt. Vernon electric railways that ran 30 trips per day.

The growth of the federal government after the Great Depression and the World Wars brought huge growth to Fairfax County. Its

SEE PLUM, PAGE 10

NEWS

Peggy Stotz, third from right, member of the AAUW McLean Area Branch Local Awards Committee, introduced five local high school students who were recognized with Math and Science Achievement Awards at the branch's 2017-2018 kick-off event. Students receiving the award are, from left: Nour Khachemoune (McLean High School), Tatiana Kennedy and Helen Oker (both Marshall High School), and Ashley Zhang and Emily Buckingham (both Langley High School).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Area High School Students Receive STEM Awards

The McLean Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) recognized five local high school girls with STEM awards at its 2017-2018 kick-off event held on Sept. 17 at the American Legion Hall. To encourage young women to pursue educational opportunities related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), the branch partners annually with McLean, Langley, and Marshall High Schools to present one Science and one Math Achievement Award at each high school.

The students recognized at the event for 2017 were: Ashley Zhang, math Achievement, Langley High School; Emily Buckingham, science achievement,

Langley High School; Helen Oker, math achievement, Marshall High School; Tatiana Kennedy, science achievement, Marshall High School; and Nour Khachemoune, science achievement, McLean High School. The Math Achievement Award, McLean High School, was presented earlier this year to June Chang.

The STEM awards are funded through the branch's Annual Used Book Sale proceeds. This year's book sale will be held Oct. 6-8, 2017, at the Spring Hill Recreation Center. For more information on the American Association of University Women and the Annual Used Book Sale, visit the AAUW McLean Area Branch website at mclean-va.aauw.net.

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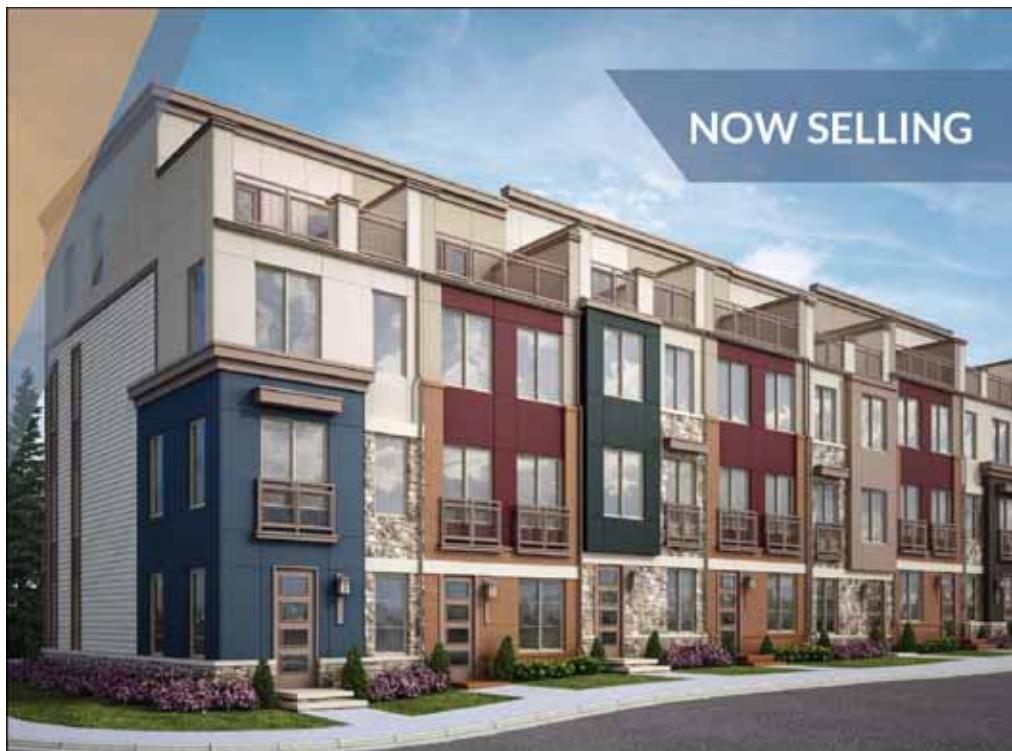
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FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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 for more.

McLean Farmers Market, Fridays, through Nov. 17, 2017; 8 a.m. to noon, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Master Gardener Plant Clinic on site to answer questions about plants in your landscape

Vienna Saturday Farmers Market, through Oct. 28, 8 a.m.-noon, sponsored by the Optimist Club, Across from Vienna Volunteer Fire Department in parking lot of Faith Baptist Church, 201 Center Street South, Vienna

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.FreTaiChi.org for more.

The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. HistoricViennainc.org

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

Bingo Night. Sundays, 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S., Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

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

Fundamentals of Watercolors.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Presented by the Vienna Business Association and Town of Vienna, Oktoberfest will be held from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, on historic Church Street.

Vienna Oktoberfest Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Vienna Oktoberfest celebrates its 10th anniversary this year with an expanded beer garden and food court as well as new vendors and entertainment options. The festival has historically drawn 20,000-30,000 attendees. Presented by the Vienna Business Association and Town of Vienna, Oktoberfest will be held from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, on historic Church Street. All ages are welcome, and admission is free. Vienna's 2017 Oktoberfest will feature:

- ❖ Live entertainment on three stages: Main Stage, Kid's Stage, Acoustic Stage
- ❖ German Beer and Food Garden featuring the Caboose Brewing Company * Domestic Beer and Multinational Food Garden located on Mill Street
- ❖ Access to beer and wine at all food locations
- ❖ Children's activities and games
- ❖ All new Handcrafted Market
- ❖ All new Business Expo area

❖ German Auto Show

Oktoberfest's steady growth signifies markedly increased interest in Vienna as a destination for shopping, eating, and beer. Vienna's own, Caboose Brewing Company, is the Platinum Sponsor for the second consecutive year. "We're so excited to be an Oktoberfest partner again," said Caboose co-owner Matt Greer, "we love being part of this hyper-local, family-friendly community event and are thrilled to help raise money for local charities with the VBA Foundation. It is the next best thing to the Munich Oktoberfest!"

Well behaved dogs are welcome to attend the event on leashes. No festival-specific parking or shuttles are available; public parking spaces are available throughout the Vienna commercial area. There will be a designated Uber/Lyft pick-up and drop-off area within feet of the festival.

Visit www.viennaoktoberfest.org.

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

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

Tysons Tailgate Fundraiser. 4-8 p.m. at Valo Park, 7950 Jones Branch Drive. Play bocce, corn hole, beer, wine, food trucks, live music by Justin Trawick, raffle prizes, and an opportunity to help our neighbors in need, Second Story, the only youth emergency shelter in Northern Virginia. \$25/ticket in advance, \$30 at the door. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

Frank Family Wine Dinner. 7 p.m.

at Ruth's Chris Steak House, 8521 Leesburg Pike, Tyson's Corner. The dinner is hosted by Beverage Manager Peter Sobota and guest speaker Master Sommelier Liza Gallia of Frank Family Vineyards. \$125. Call 571-422-8788 or email salestysons@ruthschris.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 29

Meet the Artist. 10 a.m.-noon in rooms 1 and 2 at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. A presentation by local artist Gwen Bragg, an artist member of the Virginia Watercolor Society and the National Watercolor Society, and past president of the Potomac Valley Watercolorist. Call 703 356-2998 for more.

Dance Party. 7-10 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Teens can enjoy catered food and drinks while immersing themselves in music played by a DJ, for 7th-12th graders. \$5. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Myasthenia Gravis Benefit. 9 a.m. at South Run Park, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Oakton resident, Tom Larsen and his team, "Tom's Rockets - Blast Off for the Cure," are raising money and boosting awareness of the incurable neuromuscular disease. Visit www.myasthenia.org/ for more.

Books, Movies, CD Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Free. Call 703-938-0405 for more.

Harvest Happenings. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Luke's School, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Live entertainment, a petting zoo, crafts and games. All activities are free, except for the cost of purchasing pumpkins for crafts activities and food concessions. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 1

McLean ArtFest. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at McLean Central Park. Activities includes Children's Artwalk, Open Air

Art Studio, a variety of STEAM (STEM+Art) experiences and food from local restaurants. Visit mpaart.org/mpaartfest for more.

Books, Movies, CD Sale. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Free. Sunday only, fill shopping bag for \$5. Call 703-938-0405 for more.

Choral Concert. 4-6 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. As part of the Music in McLean Concert Series, Cathedra, a choir of professional singers, will perform a cappella choral works by Palestrina and Poulenc. They will be under the direction of Michael McCarthy, Director of Music at Washington National Cathedral. \$30. Visit www.singcathedra.org/ for more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 3

Professional Impersonator Elaine Flynn. 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. The McLean Woman's Club presents professional impersonator Elaine Flynn and "A Chat With Dorothy Parker", a woman of the 1920's who wrote best-selling poetry and stories. Free. Visit www.mcleanwomansclub.org or call 703-556-0197.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 4

McLean Newcomers and Neighbors. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the McLean Project for the Arts, 1446 Chain Bridge Road. The purpose of the club is to create new friendships, provide opportunities for socializing and to acquaint residents with the community. Visit www.McLeanNewcomers.org or email McLeanNewcomers@yahoo.com.

OCT. 4-NOV. 22

Fit for Life Classes. Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-noon at Bruen Chapel United Methodist Church, 3035 Cedar Lane, Fairfax. Sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, to improve strength, balance and mobility for older adults, taught by instructor, Michele DeGarmo. \$5. Call 703-281-0538 or email eileentarr1@verizon.net

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/ for more.

OCT. 6-8

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/ for more.

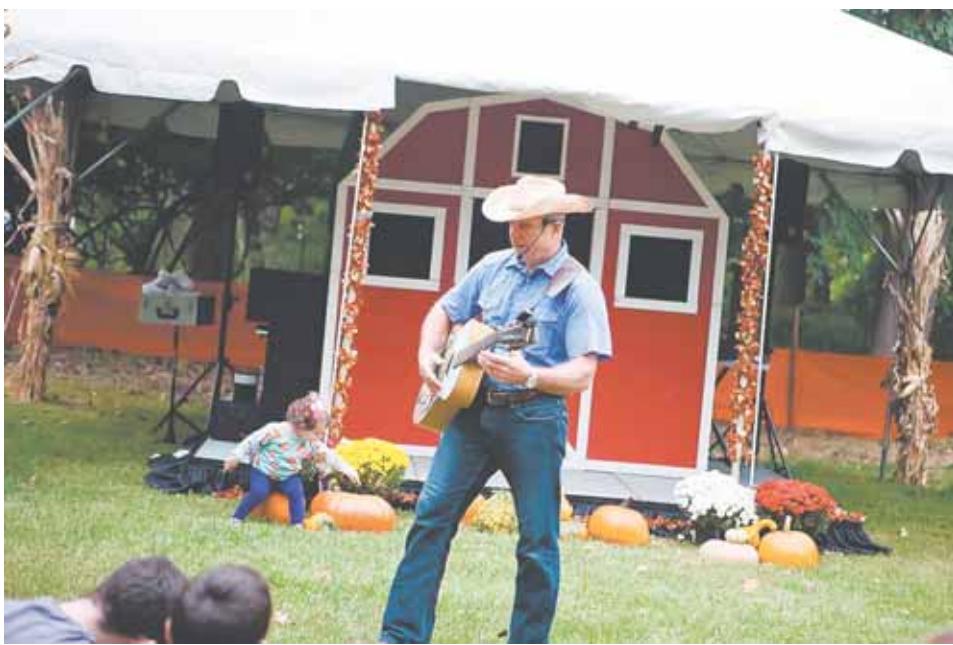
OCT. 6-9

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

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.

FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



Harvest Happenings

On Saturday, Sept. 30, it's outdoors for "Harvest Happenings," 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Luke's School, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Live entertainment, a petting zoo, crafts and games. All activities are free, except for the cost of purchasing pumpkins for crafts activities and food concessions. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

FALL FAVORITES

THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

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Harvest Happenings. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Luke's School, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Live entertainment, a petting zoo, crafts and games. All activities are free, except for the cost of purchasing pumpkins for crafts activities and food concessions. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 1

McLean ArtFest. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at McLean Central Park. Activities includes Children's Artwalk, Open Air Art Studio, a variety of STEAM (STEM+Art) experiences and food from local restaurants. Visit mpaart.org/mpaartfest for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Vienna Oktoberfest. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. along Church St., Vienna. Live entertainment on three stages, beer, food, games, German Auto Show. Visit www.viennaoktoberfest.org/ for more.

Fall Fest. 3-7 p.m. at Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Featuring local food, music, wine tasting, children's activities, and a fabulous silent auction. Call 703-450-0321 or visit www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org/ for more.

2017 Oktoberfest. 6-9 p.m. at The Pavilions of

CALENDAR

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 Bahá'ís as part of the regional Day to Serve initiative. Visit www.daytoserve.org/ for more.

Vienna Oktoberfest. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. along Church St., Vienna. Live entertainment on three stages, beer, food, games, German

Turkey Run, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Attend the Claude Moore Colonial Farm's 2017 Oktoberfest to help support the programs and services of this privately operated local National Park and living history working farm. \$35 Adults; \$25 Volunteers; \$12 Kids 6-12; Kids under 6 free admission. Email jengle@1771.org for more.

OCT. 20-22

Great Falls Studios Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at various venues in Great Falls. A self-guided driving tour of local artists in their personal studios. This three-day event is family-friendly, free, and offers the opportunity to see art being made in the community. Artists will be available 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, rain or shine. Visit www.greatfallsstudios.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 25

71st Annual Halloween Parade. 7 p.m. on Maple Avenue, Vienna. Join friends and neighbors, ghouls and goblins for one of Vienna's traditions: the 71st annual Halloween Parade, hosted by the Vienna Business Association. Pre-registration is required for businesses and organizations who wish to march in the parade. No registration needed for children who want to wear costumes and walk in the parade; children must be accompanied by their mummy or another adult. Visit bit.ly/2huu6L0 for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Spookappella Halloween Jam. 2 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Cover band rocking R&B, Hip-Hop, Funk, and soul hits of the last five decades. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

Auto Show. Visit www.viennaoktoberfest.org/ for more.

Fall Fest. 3-7 p.m. at Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Featuring local food, music, wine tasting, children's activities, and a fabulous silent auction. Call 703-450-0321 or visit www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org/ for more.

2017 Oktoberfest. 6-9 p.m. at The Pavilions of Turkey Run, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Attend the Claude Moore Colonial Farm's 2017 Oktoberfest to help support the

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programs and services of this privately operated local National Park and living history working farm. \$35 Adults; \$25 Volunteers; \$12 Kids 6-12; Kids under 6 free admission. Email jengle@1771.org for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

British Car Tour for Military Kids.

9:30 a.m. A 750-mile maiden American tour through the hills and autumn foliage of Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. Called the DC Area America's Reliability Run, it's a fundraiser for Our Military Kids, a nonprofit in McLean, Virginia. Visit www.ourmilitarykids.org or call Judy McSpadden at 703-734-6654.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Watershed Cleanup Day.

9-11:30 a.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. An opportunity for individuals, students, families, scouts and other community groups to be part of this year's International Coastal Cleanup. Help clear the earth's arteries by collecting tires, bed springs, bottles, cans and other debris from the local waterways. Visit bit.ly/FCPAwatershedClean or call 703-759-9018 for more.

Watershed Cleanup Day.

9-11:30 a.m. at Scott's Run Nature Preserve, 7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean. An opportunity for individuals, students, families, scouts and other community groups to be part of this year's International Coastal Cleanup. Help clear the earth's arteries by collecting tires, bed springs, bottles, cans and other debris from the local waterways. Visit bit.ly/FCPAwatershedClean or call 703-759-9018 for more.

Naming Ceremony.

10 a.m. at Ken Lawrence Park, 8081 Jones Branch Drive in Tysons. Jones Branch Fields and Arbor Row Park will be consolidated to form the new Ken Lawrence Park in Tysons. Call 703-324-8662 or email Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

OCT. 14-15

Cello Concert.

Various times at several locations around town, such as the McLean Project for the Arts' Chain Bridge Gallery, 1446 Chain Bridge Road.; Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave.; and Spring Hill RECenter, 1239 Spring Hill Road. The Alden in McLean presents internationally renowned cellist Matt Haimovitz in a multi-part performance of "A Moveable Feast." Call 703-790-9223 for more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 17

Meet the Author.

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Hoffman is an American writer and a Contributing Editor at the Washington Post and has been a journalist for 30 years and Pulitzer Prize winner in 2010 for a book about the legacy of the nuclear arms race. Email karen.emami@globalinfotek.com, call 703-938-6411 or visit gfseniors.org.

OCT. 20-22

Vienna Theatre Company

Production. Various times at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE. Upcoming production "In Living Sound - Back Home!" live radio drama directed by Patricia Boswell Kallman. \$14. Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org for more.

Great Falls Studios Tour.

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at various venues in Great Falls.



Artist's booths line the MPAartfest 2015 at McLean Central Park in McLean.

FILE PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD

Artists Take Over McLean Central Park

MPAartfest is an annual community-wide celebration of the visual arts presented by McLean Project for the Arts.

During MPAartfest on Sunday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. McLean Central Park is transformed into a landscape of mini art galleries showcasing and offering for sale the work of acclaimed artists from the Mid-Atlantic region.

McLean's only juried arts festival will showcase

50 local and regional visual artists. Presented in cooperation with lead community sponsor McLean Community Center, this free event features contemporary art in a variety of media, Children's Art Walk, hands-on art studio, STEAM experiences, food vendors, and live music throughout the day, making MPAartfest a must-attend community event for art lovers of all ages.

Visit mpaart.org/mpaartfest for more.



Matt Haimovitz

Cellist Matt Haimovitz will be performing a multi-part performance of "A Moveable Feast" Oct 14-15 at several locations around town, such as the McLean Project for the Arts' Chain Bridge Gallery, 1446 Chain Bridge Road; Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave.; and Spring Hill RECenter, 1239 Spring Hill Road. Call 703-790-9223 for more.

A self-guided driving tour of local artists in their personal studios. This three-day event is family-friendly, free, and offers the opportunity to see art being made in the community. Artists will be available 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, rain or shine. Visit www.greatfallsstudios.com for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 22

Capitol Steps Comedy Troupe.

3 p.m. at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. A singing, dancing, satirical show that focuses on politics. Proceeds go to the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. \$35. Visit www.scov.org/fundraiser-tickets or call 703-281-0538.

Bonis Ensemble.

4 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Playing Mozart, Mahler and Bonis. Visit www.amadeusconcerts.com.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 25

71st Annual Halloween Parade.

7 p.m. on Maple Avenue, Vienna. Join friends and neighbors, ghouls and goblins for one of Vienna's traditions: the 71st annual Halloween Parade, hosted by the Vienna Business Association. Pre-registration is required for businesses and organizations who wish to march in the parade. No registration needed for children who want to wear costumes and walk in the parade; children must be accompanied by their mummy or another adult. Visit bit.ly/2huu6L0 for more.

OCT. 27-28

Vienna Theatre Company

Production. Various times at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE. Upcoming production "In Living Sound - Back Home!" live radio drama directed by Patricia Boswell Kallman. \$14. Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org for more

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.

Ellis Paul in Concert.

7:30 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Ellis Paul with Sophie B. Hawkins in celebration of 25 years of touring. Visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Spookapella Halloween Jam.

2 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Cover band rocking R&B, Hip-Hop, Funk, and soul hits of the last five decades. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 3

Scott Miller Concert.

2 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Rock singer/songwriter highlights his first full album in four years, "Ladies Auxiliary." Visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 19

Emerging Artist Concert.

4 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Oscar Paz-Suaznabar, age 12, on the piano, and Julia Angelov, from Alexandria, play orchestra favorites. Visit www.amadeusconcerts.com.

FAITH



PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Rev. Wes Arthur who was the first pastor from 1971-1978 was present at Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist on Sunday, Sept. 24 to celebrate 50 years of service to the Vienna community.



From left: former pastor Rev. Wes Arthur, current pastor Rev. Eric Song, and former pastors Rev. Jim Noland, and Rev. Michael Copeland gather for a picture at Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist on Sunday, Sept. 24 to celebrate 50 years of service to the Vienna community.

Vienna Church Celebrates 50 Years

Anniversary is a landmark celebration after nearly closing last year.

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Past and current pastors gathered at Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist on Sunday to celebrate 50 years of service to the Vienna community. "This church has a future that is much greater than its past,"



Parishioners worship at Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist on Sunday, Sept. 24 to celebrate 50 years of service to the Vienna community.



Parishioners worship at Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist on Sunday, Sept. 24 to celebrate 50 years of service to the community.

said Rev. Dr. Jim Noland who was the minister from 1998-2006.

Since its inception in 1967 in the cafeteria at the Flint Hill Elementary School, the Church of the Good Shepherd has had four different pastors. It came close to closing its doors and being absolved as a satellite campus of the United Methodist church according to Rev. Michael Copeland of Roanoke who was the pastor from 2015-2016 for what he recalls was a difficult time in the church and parish's life.

"I was the pastor here to lead them in a time of discernment. It was an important time when the church needed to face their past and choose a course for the future," said Copeland.

Now that future is Rev. Eric Song.

"I have been the pastor here for 15 months now. We welcome good friends and old, remembering the great 50 years in the community and excitement for the future vision of our church and to make known the love of Christ," said Song.

Other pastors were present including Rev. Wes Arthur who was the first pastor from 1971-1978. "If 140 people come every Sunday, just think of how vibrant it would be," he said. "This church isn't going to die if you don't let it."

Coming back to life was a major theme for the church and its parishioners. Heather Weger, Song's wife, was excited about the 50-year mark. "As one of the newer members of the church, it's exciting to think about the next 50 years," said Weger.



Parishioners exchanged greetings after service at Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist on Sunday, Sept. 24 which celebrated 50 years of service to the Vienna community.

Mark Tremba, head usher at the church and a parishioner for 15 years believes that the recent success of the church is due to Song's leadership. "It's great to see a lot of members come back to the church," he said. "Pastor Eric is a great people person, and ever since he came he has reinvigorated our church!"

"It's not easy being a church, it's a challenge!" said Noland.

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs



LETTERS

Confederate Symbols Belong in Museums

To the Editor:

White supremacists incited deadly violence in Charlottesville, Va. in defense of a Confederate monument. We must show the country that Fairfax County gives no safe harbor to such hatred. Let's remove the John Quincy Marr monument in Fairfax.

Confederate symbols on public land endorse a movement founded on white supremacy. We will never solve our community's problems if an entire group of citizens is alienated or feels targeted for discrimination.

Confederate symbols belong in museums and on private property,

and the time has long passed to move the John Quincy Marr monument to an appropriate place. Our community should figure out how to remove the monument and act on it.

Clare Bennett
Vienna

Marsden

FROM PAGE 4

2007. It is hopeful that our backlog of needs can be addressed and Virginia can continue its climb back to being the best state to do business, the best managed state, and continue our status as the best state to raise a child.

As much fun as fantasy politics can be, and as

much as we like to make statements with our political choices, we have a Commonwealth to run. It has been rare in the past 30 years that we have elected a governor with strong existing relationships with the legislature. It may not sound exciting to make our political choices based on that criteria... but it works in our best interest. Ralph Northam is our best choice for governor.

Plum

FROM PAGE 4

population of 40,000 grew to 98,000 in 1950 and by 1970 was 454,000. It is now approaching 1.2 million people. Recognized as among the best places

in the country to live and to start a business, we have clearly left behind our humble beginnings. It is worthwhile to remember our history and the 275th anniversary provides many different opportunities (www.fxva.com/275/).

BULLETIN BOARD

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

IN-PERSON, TV DEBATES

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold four in-person forums and three televised forums for the public and the press to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates. The League invited all certified candidates campaigning for office in their respective districts. At the in-person forums, question-and-answer sessions will be followed by an opportunity for informal conversations with individual candidates. The public and press are encouraged to attend. For more information about the candidates' priorities and positions, visit www.vote411.org. In-person forums: **Thursday, Sept. 28** at 7 p.m. at Providence Community Center: 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax.

The televised forums at Fairfax County Public Access are on Channel 10 or livestreamed on YouTube "Inside Scoop Livestream." The public can submit questions by email to theinsidescoopvt@gmail.com or call 571-749-1142 between 7-8:30 p.m. Tune in on: **Monday, Sept. 11** at 8 p.m.; **Monday, Sept. 18** at 8 p.m.; and **Monday, Oct. 2** at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 27

Public Hearing on FY 2019 Budget. 7:30 p.m. at MCC Administrative Offices, 6631 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The McLean Community Center Governing Board invites Dranesville tax district residents to attend a public hearing on MCC's FY 2019 Budget. Residents who would like to speak at the

public hearing should call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to have their names added to the speakers' list. The hearing will be immediately followed by the regular monthly board meeting for September. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

RSVP Volunteer Orientation. 11 a.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. RSVP, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, is looking for volunteers 55 and older. Email RSVP Volunteer Specialist Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360.

SEPT. 28-NOV. 16

Adventures in Learning. A variety of daytime classes at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Classes open to those 50 years and older. \$40 for all classes. Call 703-821-6838 or email jtarr5@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Garden Club Yard Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the parking lot, 10610 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Garden Club is hosting a multi-family yard sale. Visit www.gfgardenclub.org for more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 5

Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia, first and third Thursdays of every month. Free. Call 703-821-6838 or email jtarr5@verizon.net.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 18

McLean Newcomers Luncheon. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Mylo's Grill, 6238 Old Dominion Drive. Nancy

Harvey Steorts, a former Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, will discuss "How Safe is Your Home?". \$30. Visit www.McLeanNewcomers.org or email McLeanNewcomers@yahoo.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Are You A Caregiver?

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

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

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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 Visit www.rsvpnova.org.

NEWS Debate

FROM PAGE 3

should be able to determine what they want to do with their statues, although he added he wants to see them in a museum.

"I think what is important is to talk about some of the statues that aren't built of bronze, the inequities that we still have in our society," said Northam during the debate. "Inequities in access to health care. Inequities in access to voting rights. Inequities that we have in education."

Views of the Affordable Care Act are also expected to play an important dividing line in the election. Northam has been consistent in his support for expanding Medicaid, criticizing Republicans for undermining a system that has expanded health insurance to millions of Americans who previously had no coverage. Gillespie has been consistently critical of the landmark achievement of former President Barack Obama, although he was noncommittal when asked about his view of the reform proposal currently working its way through Congress.

"I'm not endorsing or opposing any specific legislation that is being talked about right now. I haven't had a chance to read it," said Gillespie after the debate, adding that Virginia should not be punished for declining to expand Medicaid. "But as a principle I've been consistent in this regard, and that is where I am today."

PERHAPS NOTHING looms as large over this election as Donald Trump. The president has become a lightning rod of opposition and a rallying cry for people who feel marginalized. Virginia was the only Southern state Trump lost, and polls show that he remains unpopular here. Gillespie has been trying to distance himself from the president by opposing some of his budget proposals and declining to answer questions about whether he'll ask Trump to campaign for him in Virginia.

"Probably the biggest thing being hung around Ed's neck is the Trump administration," said Republican strategist Dan Scandling. "But depending where you are in the state determines how much of a weight that is. If you're downstate, that's not a problem. If you're up here in Northern Virginia, it's a potential problem."

Democrat Hillary Clinton won Virginia with 50 percent of the vote, with Trump at 44 percent. Many of those presidential year voters might not show up in an odd year election, when the electorate tends to be older and whiter. For Democrats, the goal heading into Election Day is to run up the numbers in Northern Virginia and overwhelm Republicans in parts of the state that still support Trump. For Republicans, the challenge is find some kind of way of embracing Trump voters without alienating independents who might feel conflicted about the president.

"I think what's really going to drive the election is President Trump," said Democratic strategist Ben Tribbett. "A lot of voters are going to vote either for or against Ed Gillespie based on how they feel about Donald Trump."

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Ought To Ship



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't want to praise the Lord too much for providing me with such a trivial and mundane benefit but, I sure am grateful when my 112 pounds of cat litter arrives/is delivered to my front porch, mere feet away from our cats' litter boxes. "Auto Ship," baby. No more am I lugging 28 to 44 pound boxes of cat litter into our five-indoor-cat household from the local supermarket and/or pet superstore. I don't want to plagiarize a television "spokesthing" from my youth so I'll give "Speedy" from Alka Seltzer proper attribution when I write as enthusiastically as I can: "Oh, what a relief it is!"

The litter is my second auto-ship of substance; having made an earlier/similar commitment to 16 pound bags of dry cat food. I do get some fancy, multi-vitamins auto-delivered and my wife, Dina, as well receives special eye vitamins in the mail, but I thought that was the only way to purchase them, given that the manufacturers were out of town so I never considered them an auto-type ship. Previously, I had always resisted inquiring about getting products delivered from a national company when they are available locally. My thinking had been that since I'm home during the day, and regularly in and out doing errands at many of the stores that sell this merchandise, why ship it when I can shop it? It seemed redundant.

Now however, given the pleasure I felt when I saw that litter sitting on the porch without my having had to lift one finger; well, a few fingers initially when I "keystroked" my way through this company's online registration, the light has come on. Moreover, given the neuropathy I have in my feet, I'm tired of walking around those giant warehouse stores. Sure, the local proximity and availability is helpful but the bigger the buyer, the more effort the unloading/restocking is required at home. Perhaps I've simply come to a realization, and not necessarily an accommodation to my age, that less effort equals more overall value. And if in addition to less effort, I can buy products at equal or even lower cost than doing so locally, than I am sittin' pretty in high cotton, if I may double-down on the benefit?

Not that I'm overworked and underpaid for the household duties I perform but, I'd rather be under worked and overpaid, if you catch my drift? And given certain realities to the many tasks now performed by hand, it's up to me to reinvent the wheel, so to speak. And so, I'm starting to consider very seriously, ordering more stuff this way, especially bulky/heavy stuff and to let my fingers do the clicking rather than my arms and legs doing the walking and carrying. Let commercial/corporate America do the driving and delivering. I don't have to prove my shopping mettle anymore. I'm ready to sit back and let the boxes do my talking.

I'm not quite ready to order food/perishable however. I feel a certain sense of calm and serenity wandering down supermarket aisles taking mental inventory of what's present and what's not — and what's new and what everything costs. Not that I try many things as anybody who knows me knows, but occasionally, Entenmann's or Hostess or Nabisco will surprise me with a new item and thus will have made the visit all the more sweeter. I wonder if I'll have the same sensation perusing and clicking my way through a site that so far has been unseen — by my eyes, anyway. I guess it can't hurt to explore a bit. I mean, it's not exactly the dark web. (Is it?) Nor do I expect to use bit coins or have to create an avatar for myself. Nevertheless, the process does seem a little daunting; changing habits that have become habitual, and routines which have become routine. Seems a bit like turning an ocean liner around after it's headed out to sea. They don't turn on a dime and neither do I. Still, I'm intrigued by the possibilities, and besides, I'm nearly out of laundry detergent.

Perhaps a test is in the offing. I don't think I'm quite ready to join a club/pay a membership fee, but I am open to investigating. Time will tell I suppose, as will my first bill.

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

NEWS



The railroad station in Vienna was a center of activity at one time.



After the slideshow, W&OD historian Paul McCray talks with Michelle Scott, Executive Director Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna and an audience member about the presentation.

W&OD's Long, Windy History as a Railroad

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

For Vienna, May 31, 1951 was an important day for transportation, modernization in Northern Virginia, as the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad made its last trip carrying passengers. The rail line would continue on for another 17 years with freight service on those tracks until the whole rail line would come to a halt in 1968. It was then turned over to the park service, which turned it into the W&OD bike trail.

It all started in 1847 when the markets in Alexandria and Washington, D.C. needed a rail line to transport goods from the farmland eastward and the planners got to work. It was not until 1859 that rail officials started building the "Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad," which survived the Civil War, Spanish American War, the Depression, both World Wars and was finally halted by the popularity of the automobile.

"The Metro out 66 and the Greenway have taken the place of the W&OD," said Paul McCray, the W&OD historian, at a recent presentation at the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. The 45-mile rail line stretched from Shirlington to Purcellville, and McCray managed the trail for the park service from 1985-2005 from his office in Ashburn. "The railroad was Main Street," he said, "the W&OD had a strong influence on how the area was developed."

VIENNA RESIDENT Barbara Hildreth has been dubbed the "mother of the W&OD trail," and talked about the day she brought the idea of a bike trail to county planners shortly after the rail line has ceased. The planners wanted to use it for a bus line, but "the trail won," she said. Hildreth was at McCray's presentation and wore a W&OD pin on her collar, which is one of the only ones left in existence. She gave them out to the Friends of the W&OD about 10 years ago, and members of a task force that was looking to repurpose it. McCray wasn't too

Today the W&OD trail through Vienna is a gathering spot for the town.

PHOTOS BY
MIKE SALMON/
THE CONNECTION



familiar with the trail's history when he got the job as the trail manager in 1985. Since then, he has collected more than 6,000 trail memorabilia items which included pictures, books and artifacts, as well as a rich history he has put on a slideshow.

McCray was invited to speak at the center after one of the volunteers had seen his W&OD presentation at another location, and thought the residents of the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna might benefit. "Considering the age of our group, many of our folks probably used the rail system before cars were the rage," said Michelle Scott, Executive Director Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna in an email.

On June 17, 1861, the train was the cen-

terpiece of the Battle of Vienna, when the Union troops rode the train out from Alexandria and got attacked by the Confederate Army. In following years, the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry was stationed around the train station in Vienna. In 1870, coal was a big item for trains, and the rail line was reorganized as the Washington and Ohio Railroad, and Western Union used the train as a principal carrier of messages. It was "the UPS of its day," said McCray.

In 1898, a stop was implemented on the line at a place called Camp Alger, which is in present day Merrifield, and it helped transport the soldiers in the Spanish American War. Finally in 1912, it was renamed the Washington and Old Dominion, and

TIMELINE

- 1847** a train line was authorized by Virginia to serve markets in D.C. and Alexandria
- 1859** it started as the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad
- June 17, 1861** it was the center of the Battle of Vienna between Union and Confederate troops
- 1870** the rail line was reorganized as the Washington and Ohio Railroad to haul coal
- 1874** the rail line was extended to Purcellville
- 1894** Southern Railway took it over
- 1900** a West Falls Church Station began operations
- 1916** railway workers were unionized, there was a strike and Samuel Gompers stepped in
- 1936** the Great Depression took a toll on the railroad
- 1941** temporarily abandoned passenger service
- May 31, 1951** last passenger trip
- 1968** the at-grade crossing at I-395 was eliminated
- 1968** the rail line stopped all service
- 1977** the park service bought the property
- 1978** the park service began work on the W&OD trail

there was a West Falls Church and a Great Falls station. "People started moving out to the countryside and "the passenger service was really popular," McCray said. In 1918, the train was used to transport flour from Herndon to France shortly after World War I.

"Throughout all this, the W&OD was having problems," said McCray.

AT ONE POINT, the nickname was the Wobbly and Old Dilapidated Railway. In the 1930s, they started losing passengers, so the W&OD created a bus line to get passengers to the stations, similar to community bus lines now, such as the TAGS buses in Springfield or the CUE bus in Fairfax.

There were many at-grade crossings which weren't too popular with the car traffic. There was an at-grade crossing at I-395 in Shirlington and another at Maple Avenue in Vienna. "A flagman would get out and stop the cars," said McCray. When Dulles Airport was built, the train transported all the building materials. Finally the park service took over and started building the trail in 1978.

"At least two million people a year are using it," said McCray.



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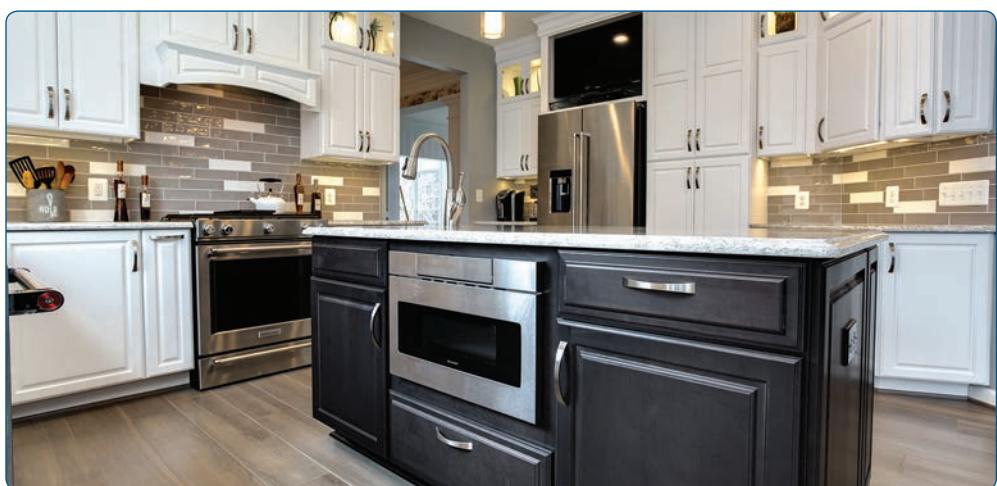
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