

Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION

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NEWS

Capitol Steps to Perform at Shepherd's Center Benefit

Folks at the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) are gearing up for another sell-out crowd for this year's Oct. 22 fundraiser featuring nationally recognized comedy troupe Capitol Steps. Showtime: 3 p.m. Location: Oakton High School; Sutton Road, Vienna. Presenting Sponsor is Tall Oaks Assisted Living Reston. Tickets: \$35 Order tickets online at www.scov.org/fundraiser-tickets, call SCOV at 703-281-0538 or purchase at the door. Pictured, from left: Michelle Scott, SCOV Executive Director, and fundraising committee members Ed Lowry, Jayne Young, Patti Vaughn, fundraising chair.



PHOTO COURTESY SHEPHERD CENTER OF OAKTON-VIENNA

The 14th Annual Art Tour Sponsored by Great Falls Studios & Sun Design

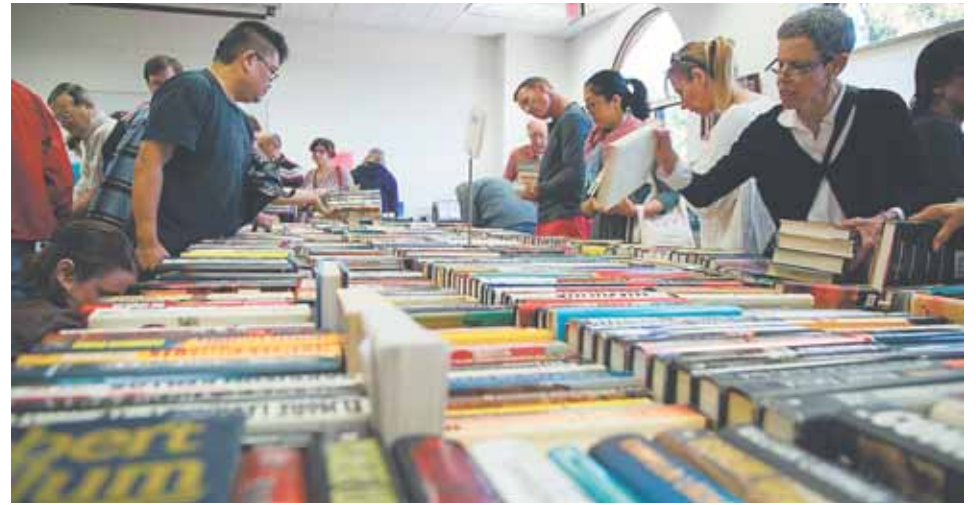
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1. Save the Date (October 20-22)
2. Check www.GreatFallsStudios.com/studiotour
3. Preview Exhibit now open at Great Falls Library through end of month (9830 Georgetown Pike)
4. Starting October 20, the Tour Information Center will be open for questions at Great Falls Library



Shoppers outside of the Patrick Henry Library in Vienna look into boxes full of books for familiar titles Saturday morning at the Fall Book Sale.



Inside of the Patrick Henry Library, shoppers browse books Saturday morning at the Fall Book Sale.

Used-Book Sale Raises Money for Library in Vienna

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Saturday morning, the Patrick Henry library in Vienna was packed with eager shoppers looking to find gems in the heap of books for sale. The second book sale this year had books and customers overflowing the tables and maneuvering with boxes of genres labeled books.

Book sales are a way for public libraries to raise money by selling the donated books back to the public.

Karen O'Meara, a Vienna resident and president of the Friends of Patrick Henry library since 2000, checked out customers who came to her with stacks of books to purchase. "It makes money, everybody seems to be enjoying rummaging through old books," said O'Meara.

Sky Maburna, a restaurant manager, was one of the customers at Saturday's book sale. "These books are to decorate in the restaurant that I work at," he said. "We look for old books with a classic look." He was purchasing a collection of old books for \$50.

"I think these book sales are great and I think that the special automatic scanners should be banned," said Keith McCormick, another shopper at the sale.

He referred to the electronic book scanning devices that dedicated amateurs and book resellers use to identify books that have a greater resale value. They then can resell them online. Some people believe that it gives them an upper hand at community book sales.

The book sale did have a sense of urgency where shoppers competed with the clock to find a few good books out of many. However, opinion on which books were the best was different for everybody.

"It's fantastic for kids books," said Mike Janik, a Vienna resident who attended the book sale with his son Zachary. "My wife and son walk down here during the week to read and we come every time they have a book sale because it's a good deal. We love Vienna and the library because it's good for families," said Janik.

The book sale is expected to raise \$5,000 for library goods and services. "We are not allowed to buy new books through the



Karen O'Meara, President of the Friends of Patrick Henry Library, helps a customer load his backpack with books at the Fall Book Sale Saturday.

Fairfax County Public library system," said O'Meara. But the money will benefit the library staff and customers who use their community library.



Sky Maburna, a restaurant manager, was one of the customers at Saturday's book sale at the Patrick Henry Library in Vienna. "These books are to decorate in the restaurant that I work at," he said.

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION



Children and adults browse kid's books Saturday morning at the Fall Book Sale at the Patrick Henry Library in Vienna.

WEEK IN VIENNA

Assistance League of Northern Virginia to Host Fall Fundraising Event

Assistance League of Northern Virginia will host a wine social fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road in Clifton. Cost per ticket is \$25, and includes two glasses of wine and hors d'oeuvres. Basket raffle tickets are also available for purchase. Tickets available at the door. Proceeds will benefit the nonprofit's children's programs. For more information, email Karen Amster at karenamster@aol.com or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

One Man Dead After Shooting in Office Building

An investigation is underway after a shooting late Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 27 in an office building in the 8100 block of Gatehouse Road in Falls Church. Initial calls came in to the dispatch center for shots fired at 4:50 p.m. Officers quickly responded to the scene and determined the shooting was isolated to a law office on the fourth floor. The shooter, who has been identified as 52-year-old John Francis Wood of Vienna, died of a self-inflicted gunshot, according to FCPD. No one else was injured.

The officers were able to secure the building and evacuate hundreds of people, including children who were at a daycare on the premises. Those children were reunited with their families at a nearby middle school.

The investigation is ongoing.

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OBITUARY

Zachary Austin Heuple

Zachary Austin Heuple, of Vienna, died unexpectedly on Sept. 26, 2017 while traveling in Spain. He was a junior at Miami University in the Farmer Business School and was studying abroad in Luxembourg. He was a 2015 McLean High School graduate.

Zachary is survived by his devoted parents, Michael and Laurie; his loving brother Colton; his paternal grandparents, Larry Heuple (Aurora) and Christy Fackenthall Heuple; his maternal grandparents, Peter and Elizabeth Baumbusch; his aunts Heidi Heuple and Cheryl Russ; his aunt and uncle, Stephen and Colette



**Zachary
Austin
Heuple**

Baumbusch; his cousins Carter and Mariel Russ, and Ryan and Alexandra Baumbusch. Many friends and brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi also survive him.

Zack always knew how to make everyone smile. He cared for all who walked into his life. A compassionate, intelligent and quick-witted young man, he made the best of all situations. Zack lived his life to the fullest. He loved video games and was an avid reader. He was a sports enthusiast. His teams were the Washington Capitals and Washington Redskins. He loved to play ice hockey and did so whenever he had a chance. Zack was a proud brother in his fraternity, Alpha Sigma Phi that helped to mold him into who he was. Celebration of Zack's life will be held on Oct. 7 at Vienna Presbyterian Church located at 124 Park St. NE, Vienna, at 10 a.m. There will be a reception immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers the family is encouraging donations to: The Zachary Heuple Memorial Foundation. This fund was established to honor Zachary's love for others, as well as his love of books, hockey and Alpha Sigma Phi.

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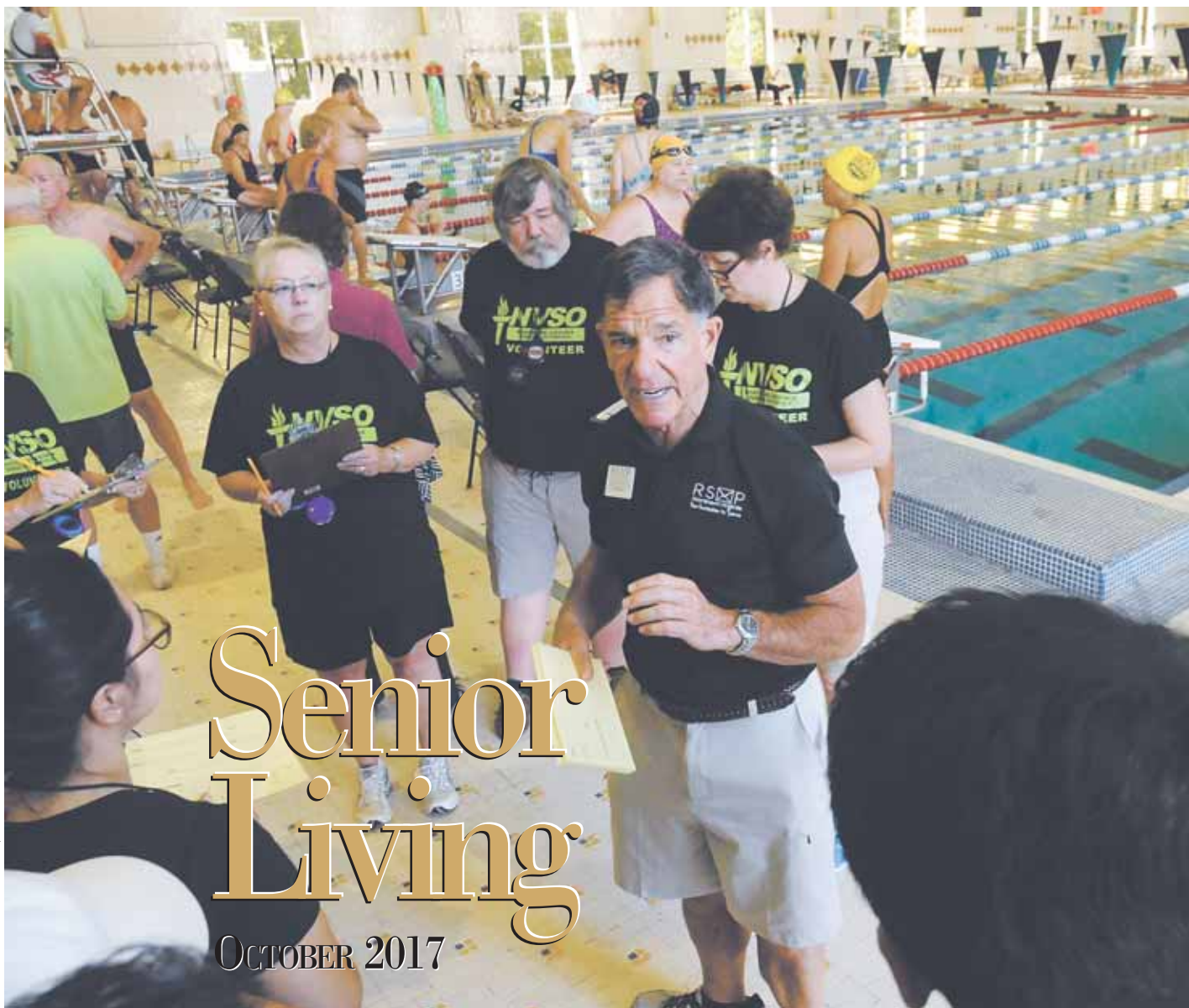


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Senior Living

OCTOBER 2017

Keeping Young

Finding the right volunteer opportunity.

BY ROB PAINE
RSVP NORTHERN VIRGINIA

RSVP Northern Virginia volunteer Ken Kozloff moves through the pool at Providence Recreation Center encouraging the child with special needs he is teaching to swim, to “stroke, breathe, and kick.”

Kozloff high-fives his students at the end of each lap and asks, “Are you having a good time?” All the while he is keeping an eye on two other volunteers he is mentoring during a Fairfax County Park Authority Adapted Aquatics class.

Kozloff will continue to do this for about 90 minutes on a Sunday morning without much of a break. Sometimes he lifts students

SEE VOLUNTEERING, PAGE 6

Ken Kozloff, center, instructs volunteer timers at the NVSO swim meet.



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SENIOR LIVING

Volunteering Keeps 70-Year-Old Former CEO Young

FROM PAGE 5

half his weight into the air so they can experience the joy of splashing into the pool. One would never guess that the former INOVA Alexandria Hospital CEO turned 70 years old in August. "I don't feel 70, I feel like 25," he said.

Kozloff donates more than 40 hours of his time each month as an RSVP Northern Virginia volunteer, helping autistic children learn how to swim, mentoring economically disadvantaged citizens to manage their finances, and directing other volunteers at large events for RSVP, including the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in September.

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) is the region's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older and provides individualized support to seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

When he is not volunteering for other organizations, he is a volunteer engagement leader for RSVP, acting as a nonprofit evangelist of sorts, spreading the word on why RSVP is such a great program. "What's unique about

RSVP is the approach it takes to new volunteers, helping them to find what they're looking to do, not where we are looking to place them," he said.

RSVP asks each prospective volunteer, "How can we help you find that volunteer opportunity that is going to mean something to you?" Kozloff said. He has been with RSVP for over a year and a half.

Five years ago, he began volunteering with the Fairfax County Park Authority's Adaptive Aquatics program, teaching children on the autism spectrum to swim. He later added another afternoon of classes at Spring Hill Recreation Center in McLean, teaching special needs adults to swim, including those with neurological issues or physical impairments. The park authority honored Kozloff in 2015 as the Adaptive Aquatics Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

He then started working with Our Daily Bread (now called BritePaths) where he has volunteered for four years as a financial mentor. He is also a volunteer classroom instructor with Junior Achievement in Fairfax. He teaches business principles to elementary, middle, and high school students. He also teaches students with special needs in this program.



Ken Kozloff works with Sami Zachaira during an Adapted Aquatic class at Providence Rec Center.

PHOTO BY ROB PAINE/
RSVP NORTHERN VIRGINIA

In an eight-day span in September, the RSVP volunteer managed volunteers at several community projects including the NVSO's indoor track meet in Arlington and its swimming championships in Sterling and a gardening project at River Farm in Alexandria.

"I love to help others," Kozloff said. "I enjoy volunteering with RSVP, not only for what I do as a volunteer, but

also for the social aspect of working with other people." During the senior Olympics he managed anywhere from 10 to 30 volunteers at the different events.

WHAT SEPARATES RSVP from other volunteer organizations is its leadership and the approach it takes, treating each volunteer as an individual, according to Kozloff. As an en-

agement leader, Kozloff tells prospective volunteers: "We are going to show you things and talk to you about specific opportunities that you can relate to."

RSVP offers an array of opportunities for volunteers including providing rides, support and meals to older neighbors, assisting local veterans in need and help

SEE VOLUNTEERING, PAGE 8

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Volunteering Helps 70-Year-Old Feel More Like 25

FROM PAGE 7

ing prepare communities for disasters. RSVP also recruits volunteers for various community events.

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.

"The big thing that I get out of volunteering is the satisfaction of helping others," he said. "I love to help others, find out what their goals are and help them achieve them, whether it is teaching an autistic child to swim from one side of the pool to the other, or teaching a stroke patient who would like to learn to swim

again."

He also enjoys working with other volunteers and letting them know how important it is to make other people feel good. He tells them that they will feel twice as good because they are helping people.

"Ken is one of our most active volunteers and a great example of what it means to stay active after



Ken Kozloff
at NVSO
indoor
track meet

PHOTO BY ROB
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retirement," said Nadia Hoonan, program manager for RSVP Northern Virginia. "He truly exemplifies the diversity of opportunities that our program offers, from leading a variety of service projects for our volunteers to cleaning up garden grounds at American Horticultural Society. No task is too small for Ken. We want more volunteers like Ken to be willing to be on the front lines of volunteering in Northern Virginia and share their lifetime experience to make a great impact in our community," Hoonan said.

RSVP has several upcoming op-

portunities during which those interested can learn more about the program including orientations at the Fairfax Regional Library, Oct. 10 and at the Beatley Central Library in Alexandria, Oct. 25. RSVP will hold a special meet and greet event for current and prospective volunteers at Huntley Meadows Park, Oct. 13.

Those interested in learning more about RSVP or in signing up for any of these events should contact RSVP Northern Virginia Volunteer Specialist Carly Hubicki at 703-403-5360, email hubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or visit the RSVP website at rsvpnova.org.

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CALENDAR

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

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/.

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/.

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/.

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/.

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.stfranciscgreatfalls.org/.

TUESDAY/OCT. 10

McLean Historian. 7:30 p.m. at the Balls Hill Government Center 1437 Balls Hill Road. Jim Lewis will address "The Consummate Citizen-Soldier, Charles Russell Lowell, Jr." Call 703-356-8223.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 11

Oktoberfest Potluck. 6:30 p.m. at Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls Historical Society is holding an Oktoberfest Potluck, and speaker Jim Lewis will present "How Fairfax and Loudoun Counties Finally Agreed on a Border." Visit www.gfhs.org/.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Fairfax County & Prince William County Design Public Hearings

All hearings at 6–8:30 p.m. Brief presentation at 7 p.m.

**Monday, November 13, 2017
for project segment from Route 50 to I-495**
Oakton High School Cafeteria
2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

**Tuesday, November 14, 2017
for project segment from Route 29 to Route 50**
Stone Middle School Cafeteria
5500 Sully Park Drive, Centreville, VA 20120

**Thursday, November 16, 2017
for project segment from Gainesville
to Route 29 in Centreville**
Piney Branch Elementary School Cafeteria/Gym
8301 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, VA 20136

Find out about plans to transform 22.5 miles of I-66 from I-495 (the Capital Beltway) to University Boulevard in Gainesville to provide congestion relief and enhanced safety, as well as new travel choices and reliability. The project will include two new express lanes alongside three regular lanes in each direction, new and expanded transit service and park-and-ride lots, and interchange improvements. For exact locations of project segments, see design plans.

Stop by between 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view the design plans submitted by I-66 Express Mobility Partners, VDOT's selected partner for the project, and learn more about the proposed improvements. Attend the formal presentation at 7 p.m., followed by a public comment period. VDOT and I-66 Express Mobility Partners staff will be available to answer your questions during the open house.

Review project information, including design plans, project schedule, and environmental, right of way and civil rights information, at www.Transform66.org, at the hearings, or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 beginning October 13, 2017. Please call 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

Give your oral or written comments at the hearings. You may also email comments to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov or mail them to Susan Shaw, P.E., Megaprojects Director, at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office address above. Please reference "Transform 66 Outside the Beltway" in the subject line. Comments must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT by November 29, 2017 to be included in the public hearing record.

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McLean 5K

Saturday, Oct. 7, 8 a.m.

McLean Square Shopping Center

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Friday, Oct. 13, 7–8:30 p.m.

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Presented by The Alden

Cellist Matt Haimovitz: "A Moveable Feast"

Sunday, Oct. 15, 2 p.m.

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The Old Firehouse

Haunted Activity

Friday, Oct. 20, 3:30–10 p.m.

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Saturday, Oct. 28, 1 p.m.

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The McLean Community Center

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NEWS

Run, Walk, and Wheel

**The annual 5K
Walk and Wheel held
at Tysons Corner
on Sunday.**

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Sunday Morning, Sept. 24 the starting line of the 5K at the Sports & Health Club at Tysons Corner, was filled with people waiting to wheel their way to victory.

The annual 5K Walk and Wheel is a community benefit for Adaptive Sports Programs at MedStar National Rehabilitation Network in Washington, D.C. The race sponsors sports programs like yoga, basketball, bocchia ball, cycling, fitness, quad rugby, and rowing, for people with disabilities.

The race is held each year to honor those in the surrounding community. It was named after Harry Freedman who lost his leg — the Super H.

Although many of the racers aren't disabled, plenty of people were there to run alongside those in wheelchairs and bikes.

Pete Brown of Alexandria accompanied Ryan Brown, a patent examiner from Alexandria who was participating in the race for the first time. "It's going to be a good race," said Ryan Brown. "I'm just here to accompany him," said Pete Brown.

Funds raised from the Super H 5K have helped MedStar's NRN wheelchair basketball team compete in their national wheelchair basketball tournament and paralympic athletes reach the U.S. paralympic team which helps athletes with disabilities compete in the Olympics.

Don Brazelton, a financial professional and fitness instructor was wearing a superman suit and holding a megaphone. He was the official announcer of the race and as one of the original organizers has been participating in support of his friend Harry for 14 years.

"We started this as a fundraiser to pay for Harry's sea-leg, because his insurance company wouldn't pay for it. We put on the race every year to facilitate the financing of challenged athletes," said Brazelton.



Racers prepare to begin the 14th annual Super H 5K race Sunday morning in Tysons Corner.

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION



Don Brazelton, a financial professional and fitness instructor was wearing a superman suit and holding a mega-phone announcing the start of the Super H 5K race Sunday morning, Sept. 24 in Tysons Corner.

Recently, Brazelton and Freedman did a short segment for local channel 9 on the race.

"It's very inspiring to see athletes of all ages. The course is somewhat hilly and it makes you realize that as a healthy person you really can't complain!" said Brazelton.

Top three women finishers:

Megan Heidt, Silver Spring, Md.; Emily Riffle, Washington, D.C.; and Megan Moran, Chantilly, Va.

Top three men finishers:

Anthony Caparella, Silver Spring, Md.; Bryce Doody, Rockville, Md.; and Joseph Baremore, Silver Spring, Md.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

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.

Drumming and Drum Circle

Workshop. 7-8:30 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join The Alden and master artist Kofi Dennis for an introduction to djembe drumming skills and improvisation. \$15/\$10 MCC district residents; \$7 each additional person, \$5 MCC district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.



SATURDAY/OCT. 14

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.

Oktoberfest

On Saturday, Oct. 7, it's the Vienna Oktoberfest 11 a.m.-7 p.m. along Church Street, Vienna. Live entertainment, beer, food, games, German Auto Show. Visit viennaoktoberfest.org.

OCT. 14-15

Cello Concert. Various times at several locations, 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.

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News

Workshops on Aging with Faith and Grace

Aging with Faith and Grace Workshops will be held on Oct. 8, 15, and 22, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Comforter (McGill Hall), 543 Beulah Road, Vienna.

This series is for planning for the future, taking care of aging loved ones, or for those beginning to consider these decisions.

❖ **Sunday, Oct. 8:** Understanding Hospice Care — a member of Capital Caring Hospice will talk about hospice care: what it is, what it is not, what are the range of services and supports offered, what are the costs and insurance coverages, and why should one choose hospice care. The theory and practices of hospice care have developed greatly in the past years, come learn more and get answers to questions.

❖ **Sunday, Oct. 15:** Lynne Kennedy, PhD, MSN, RN, director of Palliative Care Service for Inova Health Systems will lead a discussion on health care choices, advance care planning, palliative care, and more.

❖ **Sunday, Oct. 22:** Nancy Dezan, BSW, Eldertree Care Services will talk about planning for aging, including how to remain in a home, resources available to help, and how an aging care manager can help. Excellent information and resources for caregivers and for those making plans.

This series of workshops will provide information, resources, support, and Christian formation. Questions? Contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at vhayes@holyccomforter.com.

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.

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.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Metro - Fund It/Fix It. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 4301 Wilson Blvd. The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) and the Coalition for Smarter Growth (CSG) will hold a free forum for the public to learn about funding and fixing our Washington D.C. area Metro system. Event is free. Lunch will be available for purchase (\$10), but a request for lunch must be made at the time of registration. Register at www.eventbrite.com and search "Metro fund it."

TUESDAY/OCT. 10

NARFE Chapter Meeting. 1 p.m. at American Legion Post 180, 330 North Center St., Vienna. Vienna Oakton Chapter of NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association) will have a chapter meeting with speaker will be Gayle Nelson. Call 703-938-9757.

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.

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A Question Which Begs What Answer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Twice recently, in print, I have been asked the same question. Once on an evaluation of a previous doctor appointment, and within the last week, on a pre-registration form for an oral surgeon.

The question: "How is your health?" "Excellent." "Good." "Fair." "Poor." The two times I saw this question, I snickered. I mean, I have cancer: Stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer in fact, the terminal kind.

And even though I've lived way beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis, (eight and a half years and counting, always counting), I'm still undergoing treatment. I see my oncologist every three months. I'm not in remission. My tumors, so far as I've been told, are not necrotic (dead). I'm still scheduling CT Scans, brain MRIs and PET Scans quarterly, semi-annually and yearly, respectively. And while amazingly thrilled to be still alive, my fate turns on the results of any one of these diagnostic scans so I wonder aloud: how is my health?

In the two most recent opportunities (I've had others) to answer this question, I have erred on the side of reality (my reality) and answered "Poor." Whether I'm up and about or down and out, cancer is sort of the definition of 'poor,' isn't it? Let's be honest: who wants to receive a diagnosis of cancer, regardless of type and/or stage. Moreover, it's hardly the gift that keeps on giving. Quite the opposite. It's like the houseguest who never leaves. It's always there and the more it's around, the worse it's likely to get.

As much as one tries, a cancer diagnosis is hard to forget. Whether you're still undergoing treatment as I am, or have been told you're cancer-free/in remission/N.E.D. (no evidence of disease), the prospect of a life unaltered by the experience is unrealistic, especially so when questions are asked pertaining to your health. It's not as if you become stigmatized by your cancer diagnosis and/or medical history, but you do become a lifetime member of a club you'd rather not have joined (the more serious and exact opposite of a feeling expressed by Groucho Marx when he so famously joked that he wouldn't want to belong to a club that would have him as a member). If only it were that simple — and funny.

A straight forward question about one's health which requires a thoughtful and honest answer. Yet, an answer which somehow must, in my opinion, educate the asker. I'm not a normal respondent (no comments from the peanut gallery). I'm a cancer patient/survivor. Presumably, my immune system is somewhat compromised. What's good for the goose is probably not good for this gander. My life expectancy is all fouled up. Cancer is likely in control.

As much as I want to delude myself otherwise, the writing, if not necessarily on the walls, is certainly in multiple books and journals. And not that there aren't exceptions to every rule (my survival is proof of that), generally speaking, a cancer diagnosis "spells trouble with a capital 'T,'" if I may invoke the late actor, Robert Preston, from his career-defining role as Harold Hill in the 1962 movie, "The Music Man." Still, life is going on, and not too badly, I may add. But on any given day ...

I suppose the solution then is an asterisk. But how does one add an asterisk to a standardized form. And given the evolving nature of our almost-entirely inhumane (non-human) electronic contact, where does one go/what does one say, to separate and be heard. I want to be treated equally, but as a cancer patient, I'm not. I'm different. If there's a box for that, I'll gladly check it. I want the best outcome, naturally. But not giving me the opportunity to properly define myself/my circumstances doesn't help either one of us. And does even less for the next respondent.

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

Challenges Remain for Police Reform

Including communications and body cameras.

BY PHILLIP NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER

Oct. 8 will be the second anniversary of the 2015 release of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Final Report. The catalyst for the Ad Hoc Commission's formation by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was the August 2013 shooting death of John Geer. The commission was charged with assessing the Police Department's performance against national best practices.

GUEST EDITORIAL

The commission made more than 200 recommendations for transforming an excellent Police Department into one that is "best in class" and for strengthening the public's trust and confidence in the department.

I served as commission member and as the chairman of Use of Force Subcommittee. I am also a member of a loosely configured Implementation Committee, a group of former commission members dedicated to helping to see that our recommendations are effectively implemented.

I commend both the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and Police Department for their progress implementing the commission's recommendations. Significant reforms are underway that when fully realized will generate increased accountability and public confidence. Major reforms already in place include:

- ❖ forming the Office of the Independent Police Auditor to determine the thoroughness, completeness, accuracy, objectivity and impartiality of investigations of death or serious injury cases.
- ❖ convening a Civilian Review Panel to review civilian complaints regarding "abuse of authority" or "serious misconduct" by a police officer;
- ❖ creating "Diversion First," which offers alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities; and
- ❖ recrafting the Use of Force General Order to enshrine sanctity of human life as an organizing principle, with de-escalation as the strategy of first resort when confronted with a threat rather than the use of deadly force.

WHILE MUCH HAS BEEN accomplished, more is work is needed. For example, the commission advocated in strong terms for information-sharing reform to promote timeliness, completeness and transparency. In this regard, a revised Police Department Communication Policy is still in process.



The commission also called for all officers to be outfitted with body worn cameras, contingent on the enactment of laws, policies and procedures that protect individual privacy. These cameras are to complement the dashboard cameras now mounted in each Fairfax patrol vehicle.

While a potential aid to criminal prosecution, the body-worn camera's equally important contribution is to foster greater transparency and the accountability of all parties during the interactions of the police with the public. As the American Civil Liberties Union noted in an October 2014 report, body-worn cameras "[have] the potential to be a win-win, helping protect the public against police misconduct, and at the same time helping protect police against false accusations of abuse."

While the county leadership has committed to deploying this technology, its approach has been appropriately methodical. Key considerations are operational, privacy, data security and cost. For example, the supervisors have approved a pilot project that will deploy cameras in two of the county's nine magisterial districts and the department is currently evaluating proposals from prospective suppliers.

THIS PILOT PROJECT needs to generate answers to following questions, among others: the county needs to establish when cameras will be running and how will the public know the cameras are on? When can biometric technology – such as facial recognition – be used? How will the video footage be secured from hackers? Who will have access to the data and under what procedures?

How will the massive amount of video data be stored and for how long? As the county understands and appreciates, the cost of deploying body-worn cameras is not in the cameras themselves, but the storage of the massive amount of data that is generated. As reported by the Center for Digital Government and Government Technology magazine, "When it comes to [body-worn cameras], data storage is the 800-pound gorilla in the room. Video ... is a data hog."

This reality generates cost-driven data-retention policy considerations. How long should non-evidentiary video be maintained? Some police departments say it should be 60-90 days,

others say less or more. With regard to evidentiary data used in criminal prosecutions, the Virginia Commonwealth requires that evidence be stored for 99 years.

Finally, who controls access to the data? This question is becoming an increasingly significant issue nationally. Protecting evidence chain-of-custody for purposes of criminal prosecution is a necessary but not sufficient role to warrant the cost and the data protection risks inherent in the deployment of body-worn cameras. The real return-on-investment is the potential for influencing the behavior, through greater transparency and accountability, of all parties in a law-enforcement engagement.

The drive to use this technology is inexorable. A recent CATO Institute/YouGov poll found that 92 percent of the public supports the use of body-worn cameras. Implicit in this level of support are high public expectations that this technology will make a difference in law enforcement practices. Heightened expectations alone should give our policymakers pause, particularly when we know that no technology deployment is free of all mistakes and errors. The only thing worse in today's context than not collecting the data during a controversial use-of-force incident, is for the public to learn that video data under the Police Department's control is missing.

We should therefore challenge the assumption that video-camera data must be maintained under the sole access control of the Police Department. Options that should be given explicit consideration by the Board of Supervisors, Police Department and Commonwealth's Attorney include assigning video data access control to the Independent Police Auditor or alternatively assigning this role to a board composed of the Police Chief, Independent Auditor and Commonwealth's Attorney.

On this second anniversary of the Ad Hoc Policy Review Commission Report, the county and Police Department have many accomplishments to be proud of with regard to implementing the commission's recommendations.

Quality-driven change is hard; some changes are especially difficult. Body-worn camera deployment is one that requires careful study and diligent attention to complex legal and operational details. I commend the county for taking the appropriate measured response to meeting this recommendation and, especially with regard the matter of access to video data, challenge the conventional wisdom that access control to such data must be under the sole purview of the Police Department.

Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner is a member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission, served on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and a former member of the Fairfax County School Board.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia Holds Workshops

On Friday, Sept. 22, the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWVVA) held Workshops in Fredericksburg, Va. attended by new and long-time members from among the 14 local

leagues in the state. The Workshops' objective was to help these members discover ways to engage with the League and to enhance League impacts in communities. Among the subjects covered were voter engagement through

VOTE411.org and election-related activities, the LWV-VA's engagement with state legislators through the weekly Women's Legislative Round Tables during the Virginia General Assembly, and engaging with local governing bodies

through Observer Corps.

LWV-VA, a non-partisan political organization, encourages participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues. Visit www.lwv-va.org.

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