

# Great Falls CONNECTION

SENIOR LIVING

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Home & Lifestyle

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Bald Eagles in formation over Riverbend.  
Walt Lawrence is one of 50 artists participating  
in Great Falls Studio Tour Oct. 22-24.

## Great Falls Artists Prepare for Studio Tour

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on Georgetown Pike  
Walkway

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Langley Freshman  
Continues Success in  
Auto Racing

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PHOTO BY WALT LAWRENCE

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## Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department to Host Open House

National Fire Prevention Week concludes Saturday, Oct. 14 with the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department hosting an Open House. Bring the family by for an education-filled event, with activities for the children, games, give-aways, and the always popular fire truck and ambulance climb-aboard.

Firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs will be on hand for demonstrations and information. The theme for this year is: "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!"

Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department Open House, Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 9916 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

## Technology Workshop to Be Held in Great Falls

Great Falls Senior Center and the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood & Community Services (NCS) are teaming up to host a Technology Workshop on Monday, Oct. 16, 1-3 p.m. at Great Falls Library,

9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Free and open to all. Registration required. RSVP to [GFSCTECH@gmail.com](mailto:GFSCTECH@gmail.com)

## Great Falls Senior Center Seeks Board Nominees

The Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) is looking for applicants for its Board of Directors. The election will take place in December.

GFSC's sole mission is to enrich the lives of older residents in the Great Falls area. Board members must be committed to that mission and be excited about working with seniors.

Individuals who feel they can contribute to GFSC's goals and future can receive an application from Carol Blackwell via e-mail at [lovriver@aol.com](mailto:lovriver@aol.com); by postal mail at 1034 Cup Leaf Holaly Court, Great Falls, VA 22066; or by phone at 571-236-6933.

GFSC will be governed and managed by an elected Board of Directors of up to 13 members. The Board must be members of the GFSC, and the majority should live in Great Falls. Each director will be elected for a two-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

Applications will close on Oct. 30, 2017. A slate of nominees will be presented at the November event. Only GFSC members can vote.



Walt Lawrence

## Visit the Great Falls Village Centre!

The Great Falls Village Centre is located around the lovely village green in the heart of Great Falls, Virginia. We have been part of Great Falls, Virginia throughout its extensive growth and development and have worked hand in hand with the residents of Great Falls to enhance and build the sense of community that is prevalent today. We offer boutique shopping, delicious restaurants and quality services right in the center of town.

There is always something fun going on at the Village Centre, from weekend events like Cars & Coffee and the Farmers Market to Summer Concerts on the Green, 4th of July Parade, annual Christmas Tree Lighting, Halloween Spook-tacular, art exhibitions and more! Visit our Website: [www.GreatFallsVillageCentre.com](http://www.GreatFallsVillageCentre.com) or just stop by and see why the Great Falls Village Centre is not only located in the center of town, but truly is the "heart" of the community.



Professionals (AHCP), for over 20 years has provided home health care and hospice for all of Northern Virginia. Founded in 1995, AHCP is a Community Based Organization (CBO) and is Joint Commission Accredited. AHCP specializes in Skilled Nurses (RN), Physical

Therapists (PT), Mental Health Nurses and Home Health aides.

They are providers of medicare/medicaid and all major insurances. The company provides a comprehensive, patient-centric model inclusive of: Home Health, Telehealth, Mobile Health, Global Health, and Wellness Programs. AHCP's expert staff also serves as great resource concerning health care needs for you or your family.



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### Great Falls Village Centre

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PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

**Fairfax County Department of Transportation Environmental Specialist Doug Miller shows residents a rendering of the of Phase IV.**



**Great Falls Citizens Association Vice President Philip Pifer offered the assistance of the GFCA to help the Fairfax County Department of Transportation accelerate the project, since the association has long advocated for more walkways in the community.**

## Comments Sought on Georgetown Pike Walkway

**Design of final phase of walkway up for discussion.**

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**F**airfax County is seeking input from community members before it designs the final portion of a 4-mile pedestrian and bike trail along Georgetown Pike in Great Falls.

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation held a community meeting about its \$800,000 Georgetown Pike Trail Phase IV project on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at the Great Falls Library. This was a follow-up meeting the FCDOT held at the library regarding Phase III of the trail.

"This is a public walkway that will meet [Virginia Department of Transportation] and county design standards and comply with the [federal Americans with Disabilities Act] and be maintained by Fairfax County," John Dresser, FCDOT project manager, said during the meeting.

The portion of the walkway is also situated entirely within VDOT right of way, according to Dresser.

"It's not right on the roadway; it's outside of the drainage areas on a separate profile, separate area," he said.

The grade of the sidewalk was designed so the rising and the falling of its slopes were minimized while also bearing in mind the community's desire to limit tree loss, according to Dresser.

"What we've done is kept the grade at under 5 percent or 5 percent maximum ... to minimize the need for putting handrails up," he said.

Utilities were also an area of concern for Dresser and the design team.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**Phase IV of the project will complete a 1,200-foot section between Falls Bridge Lane and Seneca Road of a continuous 4.2-mile trail along the north side of Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. The walkway is to be 6-foot-wide asphalt. Construction is scheduled for the summer of 2020.**

**THE TRAIL** bends at one point to avoid an electricity distribution pole. Infrastructure for two major pipelines owned by the Colonial Pipeline Company are also located near the project area, according to Dresser.

While the pole and pipelines will not need to be moved, another power pole, mailboxes and a fire hydrant will need to be relocated, according to Dresser.

"We will have close contact with utility companies, including Colonial Pipeline during the design process," Dresser said.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors entered into an agreement with the VDOT to construct a pedestrian trail along the north side of Georgetown Pike from River Bend Road westward to Seneca Road in January 2001. The total distance for the continuous trail is 4.2 miles.

Phase I, located in the Village Centre, and Phase II, between Utterback Store Road and Falls Chase Court, have been completed. Phase III will complete a 250-foot section between Falls Chase Court and Falls Bridge Lane. Construction is scheduled for the summer and fall of 2019. Phase IV will complete a 1,200-foot section between Falls Bridge Lane and Seneca Road.

For Phase IV of the project, the FCDOT



**Fairfax County Department of Transportation Project Manager John Dresser walked residents through the design of the walkway during the meeting.**

plans to submit its final design in spring 2018; acquire construction easements from abutting homeowners and the Salem Baptist Church in fall 2018; relocate utilities in fall 2019; and start construction in spring 2020, according to Dresser.

"We want to build this as fast as possible, but we didn't want to promise something we couldn't deliver," Dresser said. "We're at a point where we're not too far down the road to make changes."

The local citizens association offered its help to the FCDOT in securing its easements from the church and homeowners.

"The Great Falls Citizens Association is very eager to accelerate the connection of trails in the community," GFCA Vice President Philip Pifer said during the meeting. "If there's anything that we can do from our position to accelerate the process with our citizens ... please reach out."

**THE PUBLIC** can submit comments about Phase IV of the project to the FCDOT by Friday, Oct. 27, by using an online form at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedestrian/georgetownpiketrail.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedestrian/georgetownpiketrail.htm) or by emailing John Dresser at [john.dresser@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:john.dresser@fairfaxcounty.gov).



# Great Falls Artists Prepare for Annual Studio Tour

During the past 12-15 months, the artists of Great Falls have been traveling the globe, finding memorable locations, unique subjects, and new techniques as inspiration for their art. The resulting creations, along with the backstories about them, will come together on the weekend of Oct. 20-22 during the Annual Great Falls Studio Tour. From the frozen landscapes of the Antarctica, the equatorial regions of South America and even the northern latitudes of the Arctic Circle, it seems no place is too distant for this group.

Plein Air (on location) painter Jill Banks is a prime example. She undertook independent on-location painting trips to Italy and Charleston, S.C., this year. She was juried into prestigious plein air competitions in Arizona, Colorado, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia and brought back excellent representations of those locations as well as several significant awards.

She said, "Painting on location offers the chance to observe life as it happens and really see the beauty in every day. It's also just plain fun, as characters wander onto my canvas and visit with me at the easel. Just ask me about painting in the dark at the Night Café."

Begoña Morton, also a painter who frequently works on location, traveled to China in June where she encountered the art of water calligraphy, as well as to Thailand, Spain and England. She spent the month of August based in a studio near Barcelona.

"Traveling is such a tremendous inspiration for me," she said. "I especially enjoy going back home to Catalonia every summer, where in addition to catching up with family and friends I take the opportunity to paint local landscapes and still lifes." Paintings of her summer travels will be on display in her studio during the Tour, and visitors may be fascinated by her stories of life in this intriguing region of Spain.

A total of 50 artists will be participating in the 14<sup>th</sup> running of this traditional, highly popular event. Dorry Emmer, one of the many tour organizers this year, emphasizes the support of sponsors such as Sun Design, which will have a design home on the Tour Itinerary, as critical to the success of the event. "It is really a community effort," she said, outlining the volunteer efforts of the participants and the advertising support of many local restaurants and businesses.

Landscape photographer Robin Kent, has been capturing images in the colder latitudes. He spent five weeks in the Arctic Circle last September retracing the full route of the Northwest Passage on a small expedition ship. And this past June, he made his second photographic journey to Iceland. "I've long been concerned over what I call the 'disappearing landscape,'" he said, "and the beauty of these places is vanishing faster than anywhere else on the planet. I am essentially documenting things that soon will be gone forever."

But faraway places will not be the only subjects on display. Many of the tour locations will feature some unexpected discoveries of the local area that will surprise and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Jill Banks painting at the Floradora Saloon in Telluride, Colo.**



PHOTO BY MICHELE DANDREA

**Robin Kent on location in Iceland.**

delight visitors to their studios.

For example, photographer Walt Lawrence has become a local legend for his comprehensive documentation of Great Falls itself, especially its natural surroundings and the wildlife which inhabits it. This past year was no different as he located and documented the progress of a new bald

eagle nesting site in the Riverbend Park section of the Potomac River. In telling the story, he said, "This probably was the most exciting thing to happen in Riverbend Park for a long time. To have a perfect viewing point of this new eagle family a mere 500 feet away is almost unprecedented around here."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Begoña Morton writing water calligraphy with a Chinese artist at the Summer Palace in Beijing, China.**

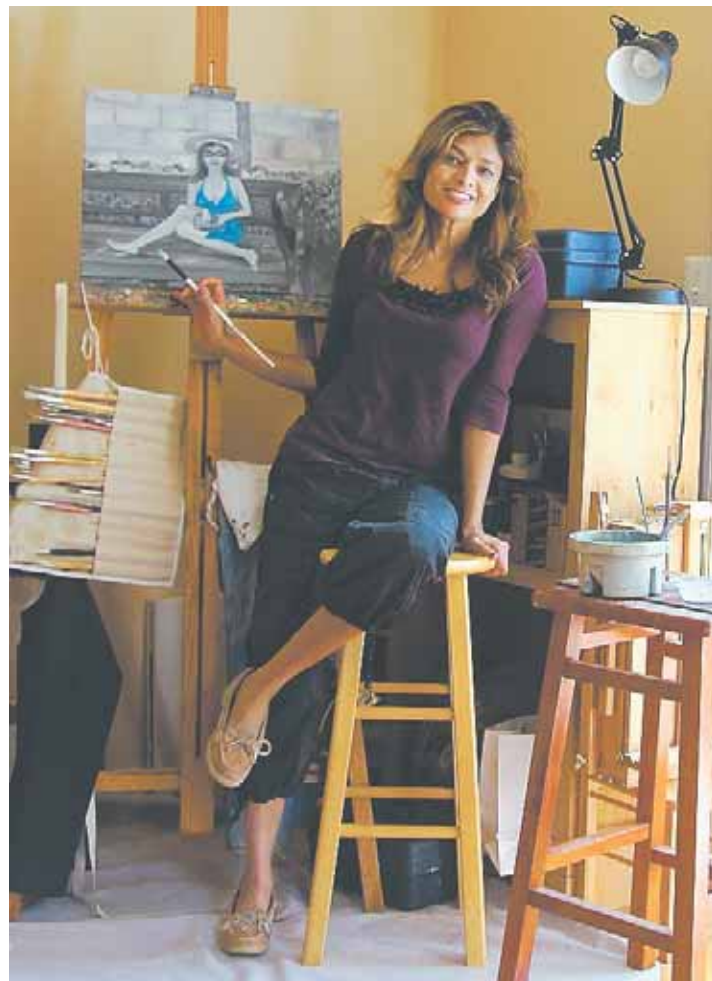


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Lochini Johnston in her studio.**

Watercolorist Linda Jones has also found new subject matter in a familiar location, the Chesapeake Bay. She will be unveiling her "Seasonal Patterns" series based on sailing trips around the bay over the past 12 months. Painted in a panoramic format, the

SEE STUDIO TOUR, PAGE 12

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



# News

## Living History Celebrated at the Farm

Peg Jarman, board member in charge of the fundraising event, encourages bids at the silent auction and celebration Saturday night, Oct. 7 at Claude Moore Colonial Farm.



PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION



J. D. Engle, events manager at Claude Moore Colonial Farm and Lisa Berray were both dressed in traditional costumes from the 1800s for the silent auction and celebration Saturday night, Oct. 7 at Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

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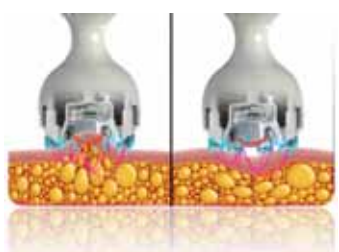


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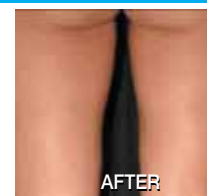
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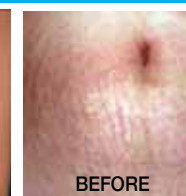
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# OPINION

## Building A New Economy

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

**C**andidate Terry McAuliffe promised during his campaign for governor that he would work to build a new economy in Virginia. A reduction of federal spending in the state along with the decline of traditional mining and manufacturing jobs had left the Virginia economy sluggish.

If there was any doubt as to what Governor McAuliffe had in mind one only needs to look at his performance in office. His latest performance figures, although these numbers increase daily, are 1,027 new projects, 215,100 jobs created and \$165 billion in capital investments. No other governor has come close to these kinds of numbers. But he clearly is not done yet.

Just last week Governor McAuliffe announced that Facebook will bring more than \$1 billion of new investment to the Commonwealth. Facebook is directly investing \$750 million to establish a 970,000-square-foot data center in the White Oak Technology Park in Henrico County. The project will bring thousands of construction jobs to the region and



### COMMENTARY

more than 100 full-time operational jobs. Virginia is already a leader in data centers with a record number in Loudoun County.

An exciting aspect to this new project is that with a new renewable energy tariff designed by Dominion Energy Virginia and Facebook, hundreds of millions of additional dol-

lars will be invested in the construction of multiple solar facilities in the Commonwealth to service Facebook's Henrico data center with 100 percent renewable energy. That feature continues a trend that has been going on in Virginia in the use of solar-generated electricity with new and expanded business projects. In another project, Amazon is behind what had been the state's largest planned solar installation to date, an 80-megawatt system in Accomack County. Early last year another solar project was introduced that spurred Virginia's solar energy market by a partnership among the state, Dominion Virginia Power and Microsoft Corp. to bring a 20-megawatt solar farm to Fauquier County. The 260,000 panels on 125 acres represented more solar energy than was available across all of Virginia two years ago.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Lessons for the 34th District Delegate Race

To the Editor:

The Connection's Oct. 4 article on the Virginia House of Delegates race in the 34th District ("Pendulum Politics in Northern Virginia"), is a must read for any voter in the district. Del. Kathleen Murphy, running for re-election in the district that includes McLean, Great Falls and part of Sterling in Loudoun County, has a proven track-record in three legislative sessions, where she has introduced bills to address the class size problem in public schools, keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, and help rein in predatory for-profit colleges that take advantage of veterans and other students.

Murphy also has outstanding constituent services. I have personally seen her work with the Virginia Department of Transportation in helping my neighborhood win improvements to the plans for widening Route 7. She not only tackled the problem personally but enlisted other local officials to join her in developing a design that was accepted by both VDOT and the community.

The GOP challenger has no government experience and fails to

provide specific policy proposals on the issues raised in the campaign. I, for one, am wary of any candidate who needs on the job training. Our recent experience in national politics highlights the risks of electing an official that needs training wheels. We deserve experienced and professional representation, and we have that in Kathleen Murphy.

**J. Jay Volkert. Ph.D.**  
Vienna

## A Sacred Duty

To the Editor:

Just as the end of summer snuck up on us so unexpectedly, Election Day in Virginia is looming. In just a few weeks, on Nov. 7, Virginia voters will choose a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and all 100 members of the Virginia House of Delegates. The candidates are knocking on doors, sending mail, and sponsoring ads on radio and TV. The decisions voters make will set the course for the Commonwealth of Virginia for the next four years.

Here is some important information to assist citizens in casting a ballot.

If you are not registered to vote at your current address, the deadline for registration is Oct. 16. Fairfax County residents can reg-

ister on-line at [www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/) or in person at Fairfax County Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323 in Fairfax City. You may also register by mail. Applications are available at public libraries, DMV offices, and some community centers.

If you are not able to vote on Nov. 7, there are two ways to cast an absentee ballot. You can vote by mail if you submit an application for an absentee ballot by Oct. 31. You can apply for an absentee ballot on-line at [vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation).

If you expect to be out of Fairfax County for any part of Election Day or otherwise qualify because of work obligations or health status, you may cast an absentee ballot in person before Election Day. In McLean and Great Falls, ballots can be cast at the McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road in McLean, Monday through Saturday (except Columbus Day) until Friday, Nov. 3.

Because so many Americans have struggled and sacrificed to create and protect our democracy, voting is a sacred responsibility for every citizen. Please make a plan to vote and make sure your voice is heard in selecting the representatives we rely upon to advance

Recent evidence demonstrates that the new economy of the Commonwealth is being recognized nationally. Recently Virginia was ranked in Area Development magazine's 2017 "Top States for Doing Business" annual survey for the first time since 2010. Overall, the Commonwealth placed 11th out of 20 states ranked in the prestigious annual site consultants' survey.

The Commonwealth ranked in the "Top 10" in five of 12 subcategories that impact companies' location and facility plans, including: Cooperative & Responsive State Government, fifth; Leading Workforce Development Programs, seventh; Competitive Labor Environment, eighth; Favorable Regulatory Environment, ninth; and Speed of Permitting, ninth. These rankings represent significant advances for Virginia as the state has not placed in any subcategories since 2013. This year also marks the first time Virginia has ever placed in the Cooperative & Responsive State Government, Competitive Labor Environment, and Speed of Permitting categories.

The new economy is proving to be good for jobs with record low unemployment and good for communities that were struggling to recover from the Great Recession. At the same time it is good for the environment with record growth is solar energy production.

our local interests and pursue the common good!

**Rob Abbot**  
Arlington

*The letter writer was a legislative assistant to Del. Margaret Vanderhye (D-34) in 2008-09.*

## Fairfax County Steps to Limit Unsustainable Pension Liabilities

To the Editor:

Fairfax County can limit its unsustainable pension liabilities if it seeks serious policy options. But it has not.

Unfunded pension liabilities of its five main pension systems in June 2016 were an unsustainable \$5.6 billion, up \$0.8 billion in that year alone. Moreover, that unfunded level would be far larger were its liabilities based on realistic 5.5 percent discount rates rather than 7.25 percent discount rates.

One of five systems is the Educational Employees' Supplementary Retirement System (ERFC) for

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

## Great Falls CONNECTION

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## COMMUNITY

Children dance on the lawn at the St. Francis Fall Fest.



Folks peruse the St. Francis Fall Fest silent auction items.

PHOTOS BY TRACEY KELLEY/ASST. RECTOR

## St. Francis Hosts Fall Fest

The annual St. Francis Fall Fest, held on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017, was filled with music, food, and fun for all ages. This year's event featured wine tastings offered by The Wine Cabinet, live bluegrass music by the Andrew Acosta Band and food by Mookie's BBQ and the Great Falls Creamery.

Festival goers enjoyed a beautiful afternoon. Children played games, enjoyed face painting, rode the hay wagon and danced on the lawn while adults competed for the winning bid on treasures in the

annual silent auction.

The annual event in early October coincides with the Feast of St. Francis, patron saint to St. Francis Episcopal Church. The Festival was followed on Sunday, Oct. 8 with the annual Blessing of the Animals, where creatures great and small, and their owners, received blessings for the year ahead. Information on St. Francis Episcopal Church (9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls) can be found at [stfranciscgreatfalls.org](http://stfranciscgreatfalls.org) or 703-759-2082. All are welcome to Sunday services.



The Andrew Acosta Band provided musical entertainment.

A black and white photograph of three men sitting at a table, looking at papers and smiling. The text "Men fully alive" is written in a cursive font across the image.

**Admissions Open House**  
Sunday, October 22, 2016 from 2:00-5:30 pm  
HEADMASTER'S PRESENTATION AT 3:30



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**Admission Information Sessions**  
Wednesday, October 18, 9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, December 6, 9:00 a.m.

**Fall Admission Webinars**  
Visit [langleschool.org/admission-events](http://langleschool.org/admission-events) for a list of our 30-minute admission webinars

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## SENIOR LIVING

# Senior Talent Performs to Full House

From line dancing to modern dance.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

**L**ee Line Dancers are lined up at the doorway waiting to perform in the Lee Senior Center Performing Arts Showcase on Saturday, Sept. 23. The audience has filled up the chairs and is spilling out into the hallway.

"Hi, I'm Carl," introduces the first act, Carl Gold Folk Music Chorus. The group of 14 will sing six selections. Gold announces the opening song is "Let's Get Together" by The Youngbloods. "We're gonna get together and love each other right now." The audience joins in, and a man in the back row of the audience imitates Carl Gold by playing the guitar with his cane.

Gold changes the mood back to the British Isles with a tune popularized by Peter, Paul and Mary, "With a Little Help from My Friends." "Who doesn't like them?" Then finally to the sing-along with "We Shall Overcome."

Next come the line dancers opening with "Putting on the Ritz." Dressed in black with a black top hat studded with a rhinestone band and a sparkling cane to match, they look the part. Kat Fanelli, the dance instructor and leader of the group, has been line dancing since 1992. Fanelli said she started in a different location to be able to compete in the Senior Olympics. "But it isn't a sport anymore." She says there is a larger group but the ones here today are the people who like performing. Fanelli says they perform all over and will be doing the Halloween Thriller Dance at the Lincolnia Senior Center in Alexandria on Oct. 25.

Five, six, seven and they begin the cha, cha, cha, moving back and forth in synchronized steps in their final number "Stay."

Bernadine Gibbs, one of the group, says, "I love line dancing. I'd rather do it than eating." She says it is her passion but she started in ballet when she was about 8 years old.



Carl Gold guitar leads off the Carl Gold Folk Music Chorus with "We Shall Overcome" as the overflow audience sings along at the Lee Performing Arts Showcase.



Four, five, six, Kat Fanelli, dance instructor and leader of the Lee Line Dancers, steps backwards, double shifts and the group follows with their performance of Mamita.

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**Dressed in black with shiny top hats trimmed in rhinestones with matching canes, the Lee Line Dancers look the part for their opening number, "Puttin' on the Ritz."**



**The Sultanas line the wall of Lee Senior Center waiting their turn to perform at the Performing Arts Showcase on Saturday, Sept. 23**

Bill Wong, another member, says he has been line dancing for 10 years and he alternates with ballroom dancing, especially the West Coast swing.

Sun Yang adds, "I do line dancing, tennis, pickleball, I do whatever."

After the intermission the Sultanas perform dressed in long, colorful kaftans. The program describes their presentation as "a melange of emotions and musical styles depicting an evolution from despair, hope

and strength."

Susan Marquis, a member of the group, describes it as a mixture of belly dance and modern dance.

Also on the program are Tom and Fran's Partner Dance performing Dimeto and Night Fever.

And the winner is .... well, since this was a performing showcase and not a talent show, Adriana Carr, director of the Lee Senior Center declares, "They're all winners."



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### COME CELEBRATE FALL WITH US!

Join us at Arbor Terrace for our upcoming events. We'd love to have you visit.

**Wednesday, October 18, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**  
Lunch and Learn, "Rehab, Hospital Discharges and Insurance: What you should KNOW!" presented by Leslie Ruffner, Dulles Health and Rehab. RSVP by 10/17/2017. Free and open to the public.

RSVP to 703-956-6311 or [sfields@arborcompany.com](mailto:sfields@arborcompany.com).

**Tuesday, October 24 - 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Sneak preview of our newly remodeled two-bedroom apartment and tour; it's a WOW!!

**Thursday, November 2, 2-3 p.m.** Meet Chris Zimmerman, the conductor of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and sample the music for the 2018 season. Refreshments will be served.

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## We're hosting a Harvest Open House at The Kensington Falls Church, and you're invited

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### from 1pm-3pm

### 700 West Broad Street

### Family & Friends Welcome • Tours • Refreshments

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or [conciergefs@kensingtonsl.com](mailto:conciergefs@kensingtonsl.com)

**P**lease join us for a harvest open house as we anticipate the crisp temperatures and beautiful colors of fall. Our community is buzzing with activity, along with the happy sounds of residents, staff, family and our beloved four-legged friends. Having you here to share it all will make our upbeat mood even more so! We promise to make you feel welcome as soon as you cross the threshold. Our team is quick to deliver a smile and a hug, and maybe even a two-step and a song.

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# Great Falls REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

## August, 2017 Top Sales

IN AUGUST 2017, 31 GREAT FALLS HOMES  
SOLD BETWEEN \$3,150,000-\$630,000.

**8** 10747  
Riverscape Run  
— \$1,355,000



**3** 9998  
Blackberry Lane  
— \$2,500,000



**1** 609 Walker Road — \$3,150,000



**5** 514  
Arnon Lake Drive  
— \$1,355,000

Address.....	BR..	FB	HB	Postal City...	Sold Price...	Type .....	Lot AC	Postal Code.....	Subdivision.....	Date Sold
<b>1</b> 609 WALKER RD .....	6.....	6.....	3 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$3,150,000 .....	Detached.....	1.94 .....	22066 .....	WALKER HILL ESTATES .....	08/22/17
<b>2</b> 100 INTERPROMONTORY RD.....	6.....	4.....	2 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$2,700,000 .....	Detached.....	5.00 .....	22066 .....	FALCONRIDGE .....	08/28/17
<b>3</b> 9998 BLACKBERRY LN .....	6.....	5.....	1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$2,500,000 .....	Detached.....	5.57 .....	22066 .....	MERRYELLE ACRES .....	08/14/17
<b>4</b> 8918 JEFFERY RD .....	5.....	4.....	1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$1,735,000 .....	Detached.....	5.00 .....	22066 .....	NONE .....	08/10/17
<b>5</b> 514 ARNON LAKE DR .....	4.....	4.....	1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$1,355,000 .....	Detached.....	2.00 .....	22066 .....	ARNON LAKE .....	08/31/17
<b>6</b> 11318 INGLISH MILL DR .....	4.....	4.....	1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$1,315,000 .....	Detached.....	3.00 .....	22066 .....	VAN PATTEN PROPERTY.....	08/07/17
<b>7</b> 855 CONSTELLATION DR .....	5.....	4.....	1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$1,265,000 .....	Detached.....	0.52 .....	22066 .....	OLIVER ESTATES .....	08/28/17
<b>8</b> 10747 RIVERSCAPE RUN .....	4.....	3.....	1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$1,250,000 .....	Detached.....	1.87 .....	22066 .....	RIVERSCAPE.....	08/14/17

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**7** 855 Constellation Drive — \$1,265,000



## Inside D.C. Design House

In its 10<sup>th</sup> year, showcase raises money for charity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

### DC Design House

**Location:** 9004 Congressional Court, Potomac, Md.

**Tickets:** \$35 at [www.dcdesignhouse.com/copy-of-events](http://www.dcdesignhouse.com/copy-of-events)

**Open through Oct. 29:** Saturday-Sunday 12-5 p.m.; Closed Mondays; Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 29: DC Design House, last day, 12-5 p.m.

For the 10th anniversary of the D.C. Design House, 23 designers transformed the Potomac, Md. home which includes nine bedrooms, nine full bathrooms, four half bathrooms, a cinema, two-story library, a pool and a pool house. Visitors will have the opportunity to walk through the 27,256 square-foot estate to view the latest in home design trends. Proceeds from the event benefit the Children's National Health System.

It was actress Grace Kelly and the movie "To Catch a Thief" that inspired

Designer Marika Meyer's creation of the lady's retreat. "I thought of her elegance and her scarf blowing in the wind," said Meyer.

A collection of framed Hermes scarves line of the of the room's walls.

Much of the room's furniture, including two vintage, velvet chairs and a neutral sofa, surround a Lucite cocktail table, creating a balance between modern and traditional styles.

"When designing the room I thought, 'who would live in that room and what would she be like?'" said Meyer.

Meyer used custom-designed, hand-painted fabric from her own collection for

the room's drapes, pillows, stools and other accessories. One of her biggest obstacles was making the large room feel intimate. "I designed it to make it beautiful and functional, she said. "I created different destinations so it doesn't feel so overwhelming."

Among those destinations are a large secretary, a game table and a bar cart.

Dubbed A Study in Blue, the library by designer Kelley Proxmire draws inspiration from the library of New York socialite Brooke Astor. "I knew it was a classic and I had seen a recent picture and I knew it was a classic," said Proxmire. "Her books were probably antique, leather-bound and I knew that I something wanted something neat and tidy like that."

The room's dark wood paneling is brightened with natural lighting and accessorized with blue and white porcelain and painted books in varying shades of blue.

The designer's goal was to create a technology-free zone that allowed for uninhibited conversation. "Families need a place to sit and talk to each other without being on the telephone and watching television," said Proxmire. "I want all my rooms to say, 'Come and sit.' I don't want them to be too standoffish."

Marrying modern and traditional design elements, Alexandria-based design duo Todd Martz and Susan Nelson created a family room that is both energizing and relaxing, and is meant to be an electronics-free zone.

"The scale of the house is formal, but we wanted to created a room that is family friendly," said Martz. "We wanted to incorporate children's art, but display it in a way that's elegant."

The walls are covered with bright yellow wallpaper that provides an energetic backdrop for blue and white porcelain accessories. To accommodate the lives of a modern family, the white sofa is covered in Crypton fabric, which is stain-resistant and

easy to clean. Other furniture in the room, which includes two faux leather chairs are centered around a handmade, wooden coffee table.

Children's artwork hangs inside the bookcases among blue and white ginger jars. "It makes the book cases a little less serious," said Nelson.

The poolside oasis created by Kim Asner of Country Casual Teak allows visitors to be transported to a luxury spa. Lush greenery and teak lounge chairs surround the pool. An abundance of seating, a cabana and a pool house make the space ideal for entertaining a

**"When designing the room I thought, 'Who would live in that room and what would she be like?'"**

— Marika Meyer

crowd or enjoying the space's serenity.

"The area is large so we needed substantial furniture," said Asner. "The cabana looks grand and impressive, but it's also comfortable."

Located at 9004 Congressional Court, Potomac, Md., the home is listed at \$10.28 million by Long and Foster Real Estate. Open through Oct. 29, tickets are \$35. Visit [www.dcdesignhouse.com](http://www.dcdesignhouse.com).



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

**Bright yellow wallpaper energizes the family room by Todd Martz and Susan Nelson.**



**Todd Martz and Susan Nelson use felt flowers made by women in Nepal in the family room.**

PHOTOS BY  
MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Designer Marika Meyer used fabric from her own collection to make accessories, including this dog bed and bone, for the lady's retreat.**



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**Free Fall Seminars**

**Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2017**

**Big Impact, Small Space**  
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 Doors open at 9:00am - Seminar begins at 9:30am

**Kitchen and Bath Remodeling**  
**Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 - 11:00am**  
 Have you been thinking about remodeling your kitchen or one of your bathrooms? Let us update you on the latest design tips and trends. From layouts and new technologies to finishes and code requirements, Foster Remodeling Solutions will get you up-to-date. Seminar will begin at 11:00am.

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# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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](mailto:kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org) for more.

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

## 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/](http://www.gfhs.org/)

**Astronomy Lecture.** 7:30-9 p.m. at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Topics may include planets, open clusters, double stars, stellar color spectrum, globular clusters and galaxies. After class, view the objects that were discussed through the observatory's telescopes, if weather allows. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm/) 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](http://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](http://www.mcleancenter.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 14

**Watershed Cleanup Day.** 9-11:30 p.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](http://bit.ly/FCPAwatershedClean) or call 703-759-9018 for more.

**Watershed Cleanup Day.** 9-11:30 p.m. at Scott's Run Nature Preserve, 7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Visit [bit.ly/FCPAwatershedClean](http://bit.ly/FCPAwatershedClean) or call 703-759-9018 for more.

**Oktoberfest Marketplace.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Charles Wesley UMC, The Hunger Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. Benefit for community help agencies. Visit [www.thehungerchurch.org](http://www.thehungerchurch.org) for more.

**Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department Open House.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, 9916



## Pumpkin Fun

**Pumpkin carving lessons, Sunday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, McLean. Executive Chef Edwin Amaya shares his best-kept secrets for carving pumpkins and Emma Choi, student representative to Real Food for Kids, will be the special guest followed by a costume contest. \$20 per child and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to "Real Food for Kids." Call 703-442-9110 for more.**

Georgetown Pike. Activities for children, games, give-always, and the always popular fire truck and ambulance climb-aboard. Firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs will be on hand for demonstrations and information. The theme for this year is: "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" Call 703-362-9075

**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](mailto:Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## 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 St. 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](mailto:karen.emami@globalinfotek.com), call 703-938-6411 or visit [gfseniors.org](http://gfseniors.org).

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 18

**Tree Talks.** 7-9:30 p.m. at Churchill Road Elementary School Cafeteria, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean. Topic: "Trees in McLean's Changing Landscape—Planting and Protecting." Visit [www.mcleancitizens.org](http://www.mcleancitizens.org)

## FRIDAY/OCT. 20

**Drumming and Drum Circle Workshop.** 3:30-10 p.m. at The Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Teens can get in the Halloween spirit and spend a Friday night with the Old Firehouse. Only the brave-hearted are invited on this journey. The night will start with

a group dinner \$60/\$50 MCC district residents. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.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](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org).

**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](http://www.greatfallsstudios.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 21

**Astronomy Campfire.** 6-7 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Hear tales about the constellations and make s'mores over the campfire's embers. Ages 4 and up. \$8. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/) for more.

## OCT. 21-22

**18<sup>th</sup> Century Autumn Market Fair.** 11-4:30 p.m. at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Learn to dip candles and watch the blacksmith and rope maker at work. Children's games, puppet theater and live music. Meet staff and volunteers in costume and character. \$8; children and seniors: \$4; children under 3 free. Visit [www.1771.org](http://www.1771.org) for more.

## SUNDAY/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](http://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](http://www.amadeusconcerts.com).

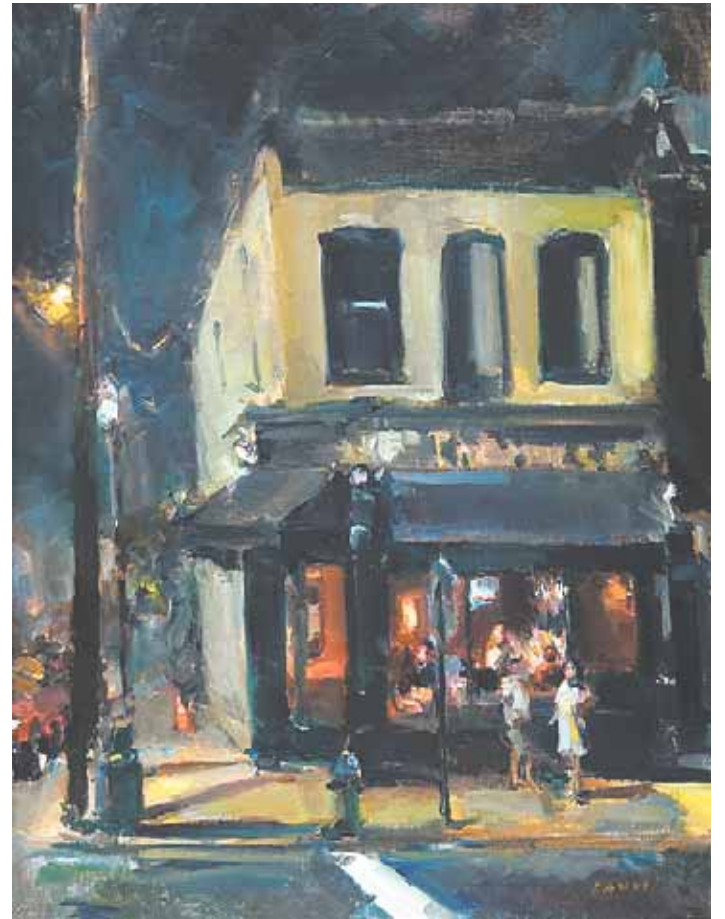


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**"Night Cafe," Oil Painting by Jill Banks.**

## Studio Tour Set for Oct. 20-22

FROM PAGE 4

series traces the subtle changes of the bay's waters and other local vistas over the four seasons. "You rarely see watercolors in a wide format," she says, "But I have found it is especially suitable for the broad vistas one sees when they get out on the water."

Still another group of artists seemingly have traveled back in time to resurrect and reinterpret methods used by artists of long ago and give them a new twist. Lithographer Will Tuthill will demonstrate how a finely detailed drawing on stone can be transformed into a fine art print using a century-old, hand-cranked cast-iron lithographic press. He will also demonstrate his approach to Moku Hanga, the subtly graceful, ancient art of Japanese woodblock printing that dates back 12 centuries.

Laura Nichols, a potter who was born and raised here, is the founder of Great Falls Studios and originated the concept of the Annual Tour. And she also takes visitors back in time.

"The key is this potter's wheel," she said while sitting before a small, circular spinning platform. "I throw a lump of mud onto the wheel and I can shape it into a wonderfully useful bowl or pot in a manner of minutes." The transformation happens before a visitor's eyes, almost like magic, yet what she is doing is little changed from its early origins. "The potter's wheel was invented by the earliest civilizations more than 6,000 years ago," she said.

On the Sunday of Studio Tour, people will be able to try their own hands on one of her five wheels. "It is as much fun to be a spectator as a participant," she says, "Both children and adults are welcome to give it a try."

Lochini Johnston, a painter, has gone back even further, beyond recorded history. She said, "This summer, I have been painting a series on stone, not the usual medium for a painter these days, but I was inspired by my recent encounters with the ancient paintings inside the prehistoric caves of Europe. When you think about it, those early paintings, drawn more than 30,000 years ago, represent the birth of human creativity. I find the depth and understanding they had of media are fascinating. I'm excited to show them to visitors during the Tour and I hope to share some insights into those age-old paintings that inspired me."

Further information about the Tour and each of the participating artists can be found at [www.GreatFallsStudios.com/studiotour](http://www.GreatFallsStudios.com/studiotour). The Great Falls Library (9830 Georgetown Pike) will serve as the Studio Tour Information Center where artist representatives can answer questions and provide directions.





PHOTO BY BRIAN SILVESTRI

Daniel Silvestri showcases his 2016-17 success.

## Langley Freshman Continues Success in Auto Racing

Most high school freshman are looking forward to driving in the next two years, but for Langley freshman Daniel Silvestri, driving, or should we say racing, has been a reality for eight years.

Daniel first stepped into a competitive racing kart at 6 1/2 years old and was hooked immediately. After multiple successes and a kart championship, he moved to the oval track racing in the INEX Bandolero series competing across the state and country. Last year Daniel won the Southside Speedway track championship as well as the Virginia State title for his division within the Bandolero Series and finished 12<sup>th</sup> nationally.

Now 14, Daniel and his parents decided it was time to move up to the faster, bigger and more challenging Legends race car. The Legends car was created in 1992 and is a 5/8-scale fiberglass full-fendered version of the famed NASCAR modifieds. The jump from Bandolero to Legends is extreme. Several current NASCAR drivers raced these cars at some point in their career. The Legend car is powered by a Yamaha 1250cc engine producing 132+ horsepower, in a 1,300-pound car (with driver), a 73" wheelbase and a 60" overall width.

"Talk to anyone in racing and they will tell you the Legends car is by far one of the most difficult cars to master," said Daniel. "My dad and I had some simple goals for our first year. Get used to the increased speed, get comfortable, and focus on finishing the race strong."

Daniel opened the Legend racing season at the 2017 INEX Winter Nationals in Tampa, Fla. During the five-day event, Daniel surprised many by both qualifying and finishing in the Top 5 against 20+ driv-

ers from across the nation, many of whom had more experience driving these cars. In the end, Daniel finished third overall and took home a Gator Trophy.

"That Florida event increased my confidence that I could compete in this series. It truly changed our direction," said Daniel. Coming back to his favorite track, Southside Speedway and repeating his 2016 achievements wouldn't be easy. From April through September he competed in 10 races at Southside Speedway not only against drivers in his class, but also Pro and Semi-Pro drivers several years older than him. Over those 10 races Daniel finished with two wins, three second place, four third place and one seventh place finish for a total of 286 points, just four points shy of the leader.

Brian Silvestri, Daniel's dad said, "Capturing second place in his rookie season exceeded all of our goals and expectations. Our goal was to have fun and learn the car. Mission accomplished. We'll raise the bar for next year."

When he isn't racing, you can sometimes find Daniel and his car at Katie's Coffee and Cars on Saturday morning in Great Falls. "We enjoy showing off our car and letting kids and adults jump into the race car. It's also cool to park next to some really unique cars," said Daniel.

Daniel's 2017 season ended on Sept. 30 at Shenandoah Speedway. With an 18-car field, he finished the season with a third place and second place in two races. Nationally he is ranked Top 10 in his division with higher goals for next year.

This success could not be possible without his 2017 sponsors, DC Capital Management ([www.dc-cm.com](http://www.dc-cm.com)) and Echo Company Marine Association.

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## Announcements

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

public school employees. Its unfunded liabilities surged 27 percent last year. Worse, this supplemental system entices good employees to retire as early as 52.

In short, four of five systems — not the Virginia Retirement system — are unduly generous. If the County were prudent with liabilities for which it ultimately is responsible, it would seek — and consider — serious pension options. But it has not. To be prudent, the County should seek impacts on its unfunded liabilities of:

1. Changing full pension ages to the first of the Social Security age or one satisfying the Rule of 90 (age plus service years),
2. Eliminating employee contributions to, and eligibility for, pensions for new and unvested employees,
3. Using realistic pension discount rates of 5.5 percent rate,
4. Capping cost-of-living adjustments at 2 percent,
5. Increasing contribution rates by both employers and participating employees by 0.5 percent over each of the next five years and
6. Enhancing returns by shifting funds to diversified low-cost index funds.

**Dr. David V. Pritchett**  
McLean

## Column As an Inspiration

To the Editor:

As a regular reader of Kenneth Lourie's "Cancer Column," I'd like to request the Editor to please consider giving the column a much-deserved face-lift. The Connection needs to shed more light on Lourie's illuminating accounts of dealing with the deadly disease, and overcoming the odds, instead of burying it in the shadow of the Business Directory with an Obituary-like black border! Also, a color profile picture would breathe new life into these weekly gems. I understand, Lourie is an Ad/Sales Representative, but more importantly, he is a Survivor and an inspiration to us all.

Considering the other cancers plaguing our society — fake news, mass shootings, and reality shows that are anything but real to most of us — it is all the more urgent to highlight real-life, first-hand accounts from people like Lourie who are fighting the real fight. If, perhaps, we read such stories of courage and positive determination, it could inspire a sorely-needed dose of consideration, empathy, and kindness in our community, or at the very least, give

us a much-needed reality-check.

To Mr. Lourie, thank you for sharing your story every week, and wishing you continued strength...

**Shaila Muralidhar**  
Great Falls

## Claims Up Against Facts

To the Editor:

*In response to Kevin R. Rose's Opinion: Letter to the Editor: Deer Hunting Effect Misrepresented (Connection, Sept. 6-12, 2017).*

How convenient for you to not mention that you work with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). VDGIF, your employer, profits from the sales of hunting licenses, so it is no surprise that the VDOT data that clearly shows hunting is increasing deer-vehicle collisions in our county bothers you so much.

As a resident in Fairfax County and one who is adjacent to a park where bowhunting is taking place, I also received the postcard you speak of and I requested data from VDOT to see for myself if the content in the postcard is correct and it is. Though it was time consuming to map out all of the deer vehicle collisions (DVCs) in our county over the last three years, which is all VDOT could provide for me, I did see a very obvious trend that did show how approximately 93 percent of all DVCs over the span of these three years is, in fact, within 1 to 1.5 miles of a bow hunted park or in a bow hunted park. Your claims are up against the facts — in this case the VDOT data which fortunately is not biased like you are.

Kudos to whoever mailed out these postcards. There are people in our county who are sick and tired of "higher officials" making uneducated decisions and putting the public's safety at risk. Whoever sent out these flyers seems to have noticed deer carcasses beside these bow-hunted parks and de-

cided to look into this. Everyone has a right to VDOT data and I'm glad the author of this postcard reminded us of this, since we clearly can't rely on people who are running this so-called deer management program or people who work with pro-hunting VDGIF.

You go on to argue that 92 percent of Fairfax County is within 1.5 miles of a bow hunted park. Please show us how 92 percent of Fairfax County is within 1.5 miles of a park. I grew up in Fairfax County and know well enough you are making this up. All we have to do is look at a map and see that.

As a VDGIF employee you also have access to data from 2005 to 2016. You are comparing 11 years of data that only you seem to have access to to three years of data (2014-2017) explained in the postcards. The postcard clearly states that the author could only obtain three years of data from VDOT. The data in the postcard is based on data collected between May 6, 2014 and April 25, 2017. I had a look at the VDOT data during this time frame and the postcard is accurate in terms of DVCs and locations. If you did your homework and looked at the same dates, you would have the same numbers as the postcard. This also goes for the dates of the deer sterilizations in Fairfax City. The postcard also gave accurate data for those three years.

Not a surprise that VDGIF, has several years worth of VDOT data, yet, we the residents of Fairfax County only have access to three years of VDOT data.

As for the research articles you clearly did not read, hunting does increase the overall deer population since hunted herds did have an increased incidence of multiple deliveries. In this case a significant increase of twins and triplets in deer herds that were hunted. Why do you call this insignificant?

**Rob Brooks**  
Fairfax Station

## FAITH NOTES

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

**McLean Bible Church.** Fitness Class at Body and Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. Email bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

**Haven of Northern Virginia** provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to

request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax,** 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, offers the Religious Exploration program for all children, from pre-K toddlers through high school seniors, emphasizing exploration of all religious traditions while developing a personal spiritual path. The program offers classes on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. 703-281-4230.

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# BULLETIN

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

## SUNDAY/OCT. 15

**Home Seller Seminar.** 1-4 p.m. at Lyons McGuire, 774-A Walker Rd. Great Falls Topic: "Are You An Overwhelmed Owner? Become A Savvy Seller." Visit [seminar.com/](http://seminar.com/) for more.

## MONDAY/OCT. 16

**Identity Fraud Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road (at Route 7), Vienna. Theme: Protect Yourself from Fraud and Identity Theft. Call 703-759-3509 for more.

## 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](http://www.McLeanNewcomers.org) or email [McLeanNewcomers@yahoo.com](mailto:McLeanNewcomers@yahoo.com).

**Tree Lecture.** 7-9:30 p.m. at Churchill Road Elementary School Cafeteria, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean. Introduction by Supervisor John Foust. Hear from county staff about infill development and tree protection rules, from the McLean Trees Foundation on how to plant to best kinds of trees for your yard, and from local developers in the area. Exhibits. Visit [www.McLeanCitizens.org](http://www.McLeanCitizens.org) for more.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 20

**Retailer Job Fair.** 1-8 p.m. at Tysons Corner Center-Fashion Court, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Tysons Corner Center will be hosting a multi-retailer job fair showcasing over 30 retailers and restaurants. Come meet the brands, engage with potential coworkers, and come ready for on-the-spot interviews. Email [becca.willcox@macerich.com](mailto:becca.willcox@macerich.com) or call 703-770-1123 for more.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 21

**Incarceration Lecture.** 4-6 p.m. at Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 Maple Ave E., Vienna. Dr. Vesla M. Weaver, Bloomberg, Associate Professor of Political Science and Sociology at Johns Hopkins University, will discuss how low-income Black and Latino communities experience policing and incarceration. Call 703-938-1555 for more.

## MONDAY/DEC. 11

**FCPS Community Conversations.** 6:30-8 p.m. at Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, Cafeteria (Region 2). Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand will host Community Conversations to hear what students, parents, employees, and members of the community are thinking about and what issues are important to them. Brabrand welcomes citizens to attend and take part in any of the upcoming sessions that are convenient for them. Citizens needing a translator can make a request for services online. Visit [www.fcps.edu/news/superintendent-brabrand-schedules-five-community-conversations-fall](http://www.fcps.edu/news/superintendent-brabrand-schedules-five-community-conversations-fall).

## 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](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net).

**Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group.** 703-941-7000, [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) or [havenofnova@verizon.net](mailto: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.

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## What To "Ware?"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently I received a very generous offer in the mail: a \$10 gift certificate from my local hardware store acknowledging my upcoming/now passed birthday. From what I could read, there was no minimum purchase, no exclusions and no small-type print, just a reasonable expiration date: Oct. 31, approximately six weeks out from the day I received this unexpected gift. More than enough time, one would imagine.

The only problem: what am I going to get at the hardware store, other than the employees' pity about how little I know about so much? Most of the time when I'm in a hardware store (typically I'm not browsing, unlike the cookie aisle at the supermarket), I'm attempting to solve a problem I have at home for which I have very little experience and extremely poor instincts at rectifying. Not only do I rarely know what I'm talking about, I don't even know the proper questions to ask to enable/assist the employee in figuring what the heck my problem actually is – other than me, that is.

I'm very much out of my element in a hardware store. A fish out of water doesn't begin to describe my situation. Tevye, from "Fiddler on the Roof" in speaking to his daughter, Chava, about marrying outside the faith came close: "a bird may love a fish, but where would they build a home together?" Build a home? I have enough difficulty maintaining one that's already built.

When I'm asked, or when I offer it, usually I say: "I know two things: sports and chocolate." I guess I could also add being a cancer patient/survivor, but I don't want to redirect a perfectly innocent conversation into a totally different direction: me and my druthers. Although, my situation has been publicly consumed in the Connection Newspapers going on eight and half years; in person, I try to not let it be the first or even second thing that comes out of my mouth. And I never initiate, though I'm happy to respond if asked. Generally speaking, I'd rather it not be about me and my cancer. As my mother used to say "It's enough already."

But none of this comes up in a hardware store. In fact, the only thing that comes up is my Adam's Apple as I sheepishly swallow and admit how incapable I am as a homeowner/do-it-yourselfer and how much help I need to do almost anything. At least the parking is free so it's not a total loss.

As you might imagine, this situation doesn't exactly lead to an easy conversation or a satisfying outcome. Quite the contrary. I know one thing for sure however, if left to my own devices, either I will cause additional and costly damage in my crude attempt to self-repair, or I will hurt myself in the process. And waste money as well, as the end of the day will likely find me and the problem no closer to a resolution than we were at the beginning of the day.

As William Shakespeare might have written: it will be much ado about nothing as nothing much will have been done. In these recurring circumstances, all I can hope for is a safe landing, so to speak, one in which, as pilots often joke: I can walk away uninjured.

Given that I'm a tool twit and have failed miserably at homeowner 101, what then could I possibly buy at the hardware store with my gift certificate? I just got an idea: lightbulbs. I couldn't possibly screw that up, could I? I mean, they're supposed to be screwed up – into the socket, right? What could be more natural for me?

One last question though: when I place the bulb into the socket, do I screw them to the right or to the left?

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





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