

Great Falls CONNECTION

Great Falls artist, Linda Cameron next to one of her spin-art paintings for the Great Falls Studio Arts Tour Saturday. Annual event featured 22 local artists, variety of styles.

Great Falls Studios Open to Neighbors

NEWS, PAGE 13

Saxons Unveil New Library and Fine Arts Wing

NEWS, PAGE 5

Who Will Help Dreamers and Refugees?

NEWS, PAGE 4

HALLOWEEN FUN

PAGE 12

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NEWS

Great Falls Historical Society Marks Oktoberfest, Announces New Events

The Great Falls Historical Society held its Oktoberfest event on the Oct. 11 at the Grange Hall. There was also a talk by Jim Lewis on the process of deciding the border between Fairfax and Loudoun Counties.

Lewis spoke about the history of the formation of Loudoun County in 1757. It was originally split off from Fairfax County along a line near Difficult Run. Great Falls was in Loudoun County for 42 years before the line was moved west to its present location near the end of Seneca Road. The development patterns of Great Falls in particular and generally of Northern Virginia that are still ongoing were clearly affected by the border location.

The next Historical Society event will be at the Grange and the Old Forestville Schoolhouse on Nov. 8. Joan Wehner will speak about the purchase, restoration and transfer of the Schoolhouse to the Fairfax County Park Authority. Wehner lived in and was active in Great Falls for many years and led much of the community-wide effort to

raise funds to purchase and preserve the Forestville School. This event is free to the public. Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m.

Next year the Great Falls Historical Society will have four events open to the public for \$5 per person. A \$350 membership will enable the entire family to attend the events for an entire year. Visit gfhs.org for more details.

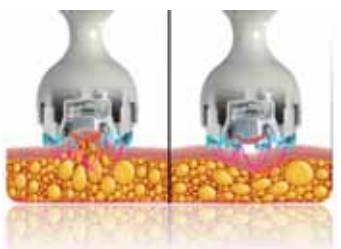
❖ Jan. 10, 7 p.m. at the Library: Elaine McRey, expert on genealogy at the Virginia Room will demonstrate how to start your search.

❖ March 14, 7 p.m. at the Library: historian Karen Washburn will delve into Great Falls history including the evolution of the upper Seneca Road area from wilderness to farming, commercial hub.

❖ April 8, 4 p.m. at the Library: Greg Wilson will talk about his new book on Jon Mosby and his escapades in Fairfax County.

❖ May 9, 7 p.m. at the Library: local author, Carole Herrick will speak about the burning of Washington and the flight of President and Dolly Madison through Great Falls and McLean during the War of 1812.

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Shifting Political Battlefield for General Assembly

Solid blue urban areas separated by political beltway from solid red exurbs.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Northern Virginia has more competitive seats than any other part of the commonwealth, a ring of districts that forms a beltway of sorts separating the inner solid blue in Arlington and Alexandria from the solid red in rural and exurban seats in Loudoun and Prince William. That puts Fairfax County squarely in the driver's seat this November, when Democrats hope to pick up seats in an election that has balanced local issues like schools and roads with the ongoing reaction to President Donald Trump. That battle will be won or lost in suburban Northern Virginia, where the Washington suburbs are sprawling into areas that used to be farmland and orchards.

"We have a transportation beltway around D.C. in Northern Virginia, and we also have a competitive political beltway," said Quentin Kidd at Christopher Newport University. "It's the fault line between old Virginia and new Virginia, and it's the trenches of our current political battlefield."

The region has many incumbent delegates who are running unopposed, all Democrats: Mark Keam (D-35), Ken Plum (D-36); David Bulova (D-37); Vivian Watts (D-39); Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41); Mark Sickles (D-43); Paul Krizek (D-44); Mark Levine (D-45); Charniele Herring (D-46); Patrick Hope (D-47); and Rip Sullivan (D-48).

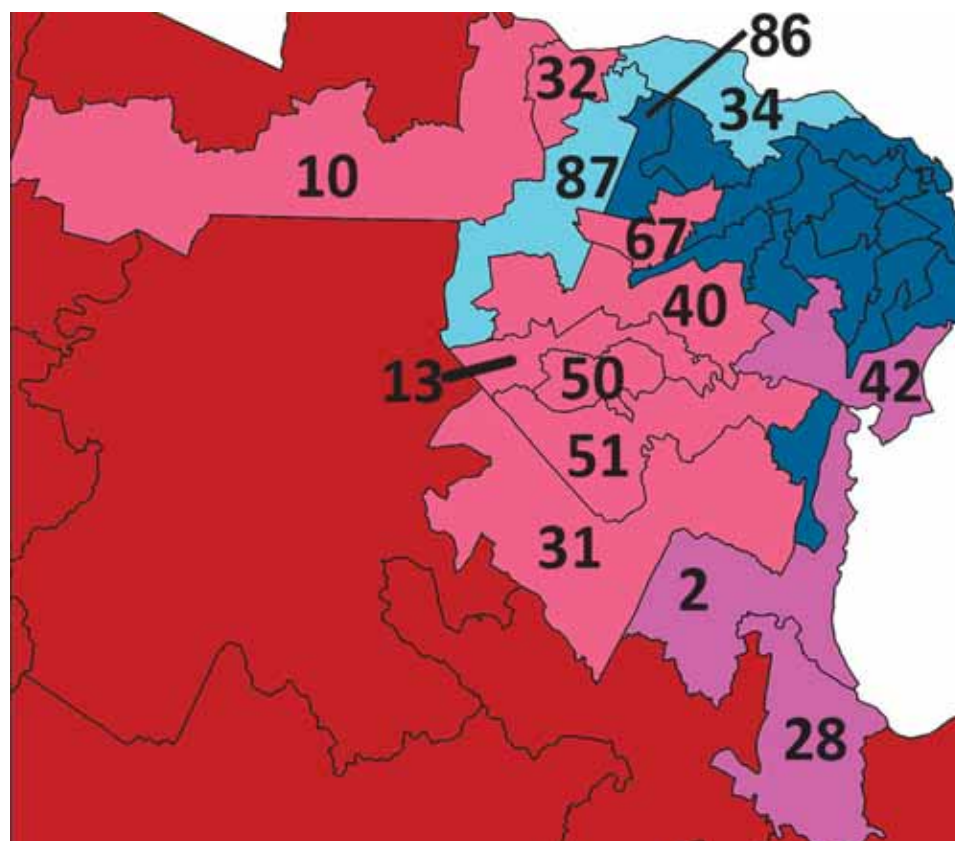
The decision of longtime Del. David Albo (R-42) to step down from public life after more than 20 years in office has created a vacuum that Democrats are eager to fill. Former Labor Department deputy administrator Kathy Tran emerged from a primary back in June, and she's been running hard against Republican Lolita Mancheno-Smoak ever since. Democrats have called attention to Mancheno-Smoak's early support of Donald Trump, whose candidacy she supported back in 2015 shortly after he declared his candidacy by calling Mexican immigrants rapists.

"Sometimes in order to generate change, in order to get new energy to actually feel passionate about a new beginning you need positive disruption," said Mancheno-Smoak in an interview with Connection Newspapers. "I see Trump as a positive disruptor."

Democrats pounced on that remark, issuing a press release in reaction.

"It's no surprise that she would call Donald Trump a positive disruptor as the most recent version of Trumpcare would disrupt access to affordable health care for 32 million people," said Virginia House Caucus spokeswoman Katie Baker in a written statement. "For Kathy Tran, on the other hand, health care is a moral issue."

ASIDE FROM HAVING three of the four open seats on the ballot this year, the region has more Republicans incumbents facing hotly contested races than any other part



MAP COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA CENTER FOR POLITICS

House districts of interest

Category:

- Potentially competitive open seats
- Potentially competitive seats with D inc
- Potentially competitive seats with R inc
- Safe D seats
- Safe R seats

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA CENTER FOR POLITICS



Cheryl Buford (R)



Kathleen Murphy (D)



Jennifer Boysko (D)



Linda Schulz (R)

of the state. The Center for Politics at the University of Virginia identified eight Republicans facing competitive challenges and two Democrats. The incumbent who seems to be facing the strongest challenge is Del. Jim LeMunyon (R-67), who sent out mailers emphasizing his work with Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

"This is probably the best chance Democrats have of taking out a GOP incumbent," said Geoff Skelley, media relations coordinator at the Center for Politics. "Jim LeMunyon occupies the most Democratic seat held by a Republican in the House of Delegates." He is opposed by Karrie Delaney.

Another Republican incumbent facing a competitive race this year is Del. Tim Hugo (R-40), who serves as the Republican caucus chairman. He's facing Democrat Donte Tanner, who raised more than \$350,000 to take on the popular Republican incumbent. That's a huge chunk of change, especially for a first-time candidate running against a

longtime incumbent. But it's about half of what Hugo was able to raise. That's only part of the value of incumbency. Hugo, who calls himself the "pothole delegate" for his support of constituent issues, has spent the last decade building goodwill among voters in the district.

"Folks like Tim Hugo have established a name brand and an identity in their districts, and voters generally have a favorable view toward them," said Mark Rozell, at George Mason University. "Democrats are energized, and they are counting on a big anti-Trump vote. But I think you can count on some split ticket voting, and perhaps many of those voters who are going to vote against the Republican at the top of the ticket will still vote for their local guy in the House of Delegates."

REPUBLICAN INCUMBENTS aren't the only General Assembly members facing challenges, though. Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) is one of two Democratic incumbents facing a challenge the Center for Politics has ranked as competitive. The seat was held for more than 40 years by Republican Vince Callahan, although it has been held by Republicans and Democrats since he retired a decade ago. The Republican in the race is Cheryl Buford, who struggled to answer questions about her own campaign platform in an interview with Connection Newspapers. She says she wants to reduce regulations, for example, but she couldn't name any specific ones she would spike. She also says she wants to tackle the opioid crisis, although she couldn't name any specific proposals on that either.

"While it will be tough for the GOP to win any seats currently held by Democrats in 2017, this is one of the few such seats with a recent track record of competitiveness," says Skelley. "So I don't think we can entirely count out Buford."

One race that is contested but not necessarily competitive is House District 86, where incumbent freshman Democrat Jennifer Boysko is defending the seat against Republican challenger Linda Schulz.

Two years ago, Democrats were able to flip the seat after the retirement of longtime Republican Del. Tom Rust (R-86), a former mayor of Herndon. Since that time, Boysko has become one of the most outspoken critics of the Republican House leadership, even staging a press conference to denounce how bills with little chance of passing the Courts of Justice were being killed without so much as a hearing. Despite the fact that the seat was held by a Republican for decades, though, the Center for Politics did not race this as a competitive race.

"Tom Rust was a moderate Republican who managed to hold that seat even as it became bluer and bluer," says Geoff Skelley at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "But now Jennifer Boysko controls it, and there's little reason to think she's in danger."

Who Will Help Dreamers and Refugees?

Individuals, religious groups and other organizations share same goal.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

The supporters all agree on one thing. As Imam Ali Siddiqui said, “Nobody asked these kids whether they wanted to come to America. They go to school, they work hard, build a career. It will be a loss to send them back.” Figures distributed by The Commonwealth Institute in October 2017 show that if all Virginians who are eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) became citizens, state and local tax contributions by young Virginians would rise from the current \$35 million to \$52.9 million a year.

As President Trump’s executive order released Sept. 5 threatens 800,000 DACA recipients with deportation, communities of supporters rally to their defense.

Individuals and groups converge from all directions to provide sanctuary, educational assistance, moral support, employment counseling and sometimes “in your face” advocacy for immigrant assistance. Each group has a plan and a niche but they are all working for the same goal — passage of the Dream Act, which will offer the opportunity for a long, but legal, path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Norma Kacen is part of the Northern Virginia Friends of Refugees, an Arlington-based group, which she co-founded with Wendy Chan in the fall of 2016. “I grew up on Federal Hill in Providence, Rhode Island, an ethnic ghetto. It was a closed world with circles of ghettos — Portuguese, Italian, French, German, Polish,” she said, drawing circles with her finger on the table.

Kacen has recently been up on Capitol Hill as a volunteer lobbyist with the American Association of University Women visiting key senators to urge passage of the Dream Act. “All of the comments were ‘we couldn’t afford it,’ but,” she says, pulling out a talking sheet, “ending DACA and kicking recipients out of the labor force would cost the United States \$433.4 billion in GDP and decrease Social Security and Medicare contributions by \$24.6 billion over the next decade.” This is according to the Center for American Progress, a self-described progressive independent nonpartisan policy institute.

As of November 2016, 645,000 DACA recipients nationwide are employed, and they pay taxes. Kacen said, “My challenge to the senators was yes, we pay for their education like anyone else who pays taxes.” But most of the senators were unmoved by the arguments. Kacen says it is

also important to acknowledge a breakdown of DACA by Congressional districts because “some our representatives only listen to their own constituents.”

Northern Virginia Friends of Refugees was established to combat the anti-Muslim rhetoric and to be a welcoming friend to all refugees. “We didn’t want to duplicate the efforts of others so we partner with other organizations,” she said.

RECENTLY THE GROUP held three advocacy workshops for people supportive of refugees. About 50 people attended one of the workshops at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church in Arlington and a Muslim site in Fairfax. These workshops are non-partisan with the purpose to teach the skills necessary for effective advocacy.

“I was really delighted and it was extremely heartening that millennials attended. Every organization is trying to figure out what they can do to attract the disengaged millennials,” Kacen said.

The second event, which was held in the spring, brought American professionals together with the often highly skilled immigrants to help the immigrants navigate the workplace. “So we connect the immigrants together with American professionals in their own field to allow the professionals to talk.” Many of the refugees were doctors, architects, engineers and entrepreneurs in their countries and now have low-level jobs in America. The purpose of these life skills programs is to increase connections to help the immigrants reach their potential.

The third focus for this year is a large community event planned for the spring. It would be intended to show the resilience of the immigrants by “focusing on the incredible skills in the cultural arts such as music, arts and fashion. It is to show the capacity to overcome, the triumph of the human spirit,” she said.

Are they making progress? Kacen paused, “It’s hard to say. But ... there are so many people engaged.”

Monica Sarmiento is executive director of Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Right (VACIR), a coalition that began in 2013 with eight organizations, now grown to 16. She says their organization is focused on how to have more comprehensive immigrant reform in Virginia. “Many organizations have their niches demographically or ethnically but we tend to be looking at what we’re doing statewide and collaboratively. The most important empha-



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Remembering her youth in Rhode Island, Norma Kacen of Arlington traces circles on the table as she describes neighborhood ghettos of people segregated by ethnicity.



Sumi Yi



Monica Sarmiento



The Rev. Laura Martin

sis is to push different community representatives at the table — African, Korean, Muslim.”

Sarmiento says since VACIR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization they don’t directly lobby but have encouraged people to call their members of Congress, and the 16 organizations who are part of the coalition often engage in advocacy. For instance the Commonwealth Institute has prepared a fact sheet outlining how DREAMers grow our economy with 61 percent opening a bank account, 64.5 percent buying their first car, 97 percent becoming employed or enrolled in school. It adds that young people with DACA status contribute nearly \$711 million to Virginia’s economy annually including nearly \$35 million in state and local taxes. The conclusion is that ending DACA could reduce Virginia state and local tax revenue by almost \$13 million a year.

Members of VACIR include such groups as Legal Aid Justice Center, SEEC, VOCOLAO, NAKASEC, The Commonwealth Institute and Virginia New Majority. These groups have focused on the constituents of two U.S. representatives in Virginia, Scott Taylor (R-2) and Barbara Comstock (R-10), who they are trying to convince “to do the right thing and support a clean Dream Act.”

Sarmiento says the VACIR board had decided for the first time to endorse a clean Dream Act, the first time they had endorsed

any legislation. “A clean Dream Act would not have such provisions as mandatory verification (death by 1,000 papers), an increase in ICE agents, increased money for deportation, funding for the border wall, inability to sponsor family members, no pathway to citizenship.”

She says there needs to be a much larger conversation to spotlight the injustices happening now with undocumented immigrants who have already lost their DACA status due to President Trump’s executive order or who will lose their Temporary Protective Status (TPS) if it is not renewed. These people could be deported any day. She says 300,000 of these are from Latin America; 200,000 of these are Salvadoran. Sarmiento was raised in Northern Virginia but her parents emigrated from El Salvador fleeing war. “They were fortunate my grandmother lived here and got her legal status through the Reagan amnesty act so my father got legal status.”

Sumi Yi, Virginia community organizer for National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), a community-based progressive Asian American and Pacific Islander organization, says their mission is to organize Korean and Asian Americans to achieve social, racial, and economic justice. She points out that out of the cur-

SEE WHO WILL HELP, PAGE 9



Langley High School Sophomore Hannah Yo, 15 (center), plays “Csárdás” on the violin with the Langley High School Orchestra during the grand opening.



Langley High School Librarians Kathleen Ortiz and Philip Clark did the honors of cutting the ribbon.

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Saxons Unveil New Library and Fine Arts Wing

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Langley High School debuted its new library and fine arts wing on Tuesday, Oct. 17, with a ribbon cutting, an array of hors d'oeuvres and music played by the high school's string orchestra.

“In many ways, this is the nerve center of the school; the life blood,” Langley High School Principal Frederick Amico said while standing in the library during the ceremony.

Administrators for the Fairfax County Public School district joined in the milestone.

“You are getting a beautiful new, 21st century school for these kids who are truly living and will be adults and thriving in the 21st century,” Superintendent Scott Brabrand said during the ceremony. “It is so great to see this next chapter that we’re going to celebrate today with the media center take fruit.”

Ryan McElveen, member-at-large of the FCPS Board, and Douglas Tyson, assistant superintendent, were also in attendance.

“When [the renovation] is all said and done, it’ll be awesome,” Amico, whose school is using 36 trailers for instruction while classrooms are being worked on, said. “As [new portions of the school] get released to us, they’re really nice. I’m happy.”

THE RENOVATION of Langley High School began back in November 2014.

“FCPS takes its time in design and permitting and construction because we do phased, occupied [buildout],” said Brian Donnelly, associate principal with Perkins Eastman, a planning, design and consulting firm. “We have to work around keeping kids safe and teachers safe during construction.”

A large two-story science addition, administration offices and a performing arts center with both a black box and full-size theater were built in the back of the school



Fairfax County Public School Superintendent Scott Brabrand (left) and Langley High School Principal Frederick Amico (right) speak at the grand opening ceremony in the library. “It’s beautiful and we’re really happy with it,” Amico said of the library or media center.



The rendering of the main entrance to the school shows the new library, which has tall windows on all three exterior walls, to the far left.

during the first phase of construction, which lasted approximately two years, according to Brady Rauch with the FCPS Office of Design and Construction Services.

This first phase was completed when a new gymnasium and auxiliary gymnasium were completed last summer.

“We simply moved into the instructional spaces vacated by moving into the large science addition for phase two,” Rauch said via email.

“We also began the library addition, fine arts wing and locker rooms.”

The locker rooms, miscellaneous class-

rooms, a weight room, a wrestling room and a student services area (where the old library was) are currently under construction, all of which will be completed by start of the 2018 school year, according to Rauch.

Construction of a kitchen, café, an outdoor amphitheater and remaining site work will be conducted over the summer break this school year, according to Rauch.

“There’s a big courtyard in the middle of the building,” Donnelly said. “When we started the design, nobody even knew it was there. From the corridors, you couldn’t even see it.”

The designers’ main objective was to use the courtyard and make it the heart of the school and have every program area connect to it in some way.

“Once this is complete, you’ll be able to see it from the library, you can see it from the weight room, from the cafeteria, from a science classroom; all of the different programs have some connection to that central hub,” Donnelly said. “I think that’s my favorite part of the building. The fact that we were able to organize all of the disparate parts of a high school, which are pretty sprawling, and connect everything back to one central space. I think that’s really critical in building community and helping the school feel like one space.”

THE LANGLEY HIGH School Parent-Teacher-Student Association is already planning to work on landscaping for the courtyard and other outdoor areas of the school. The group would like to incorporate benches, trees and other plants to the grounds.

“We’re working with the science department for the plantings and things that are going to be happening there,” said PTSA President Jennifer Feinstein. “We’re looking for an architect to work with who could come up with a plan for the entire property and then we could try to work on fundraising and installation in different stages.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF PERKINS EASTMAN

OPINION

Don't Stay Home

Your vote counts this round; nation is watching.

Every year is election year in Virginia. Virginia offers multiple examples that prove every vote counts.

This year, each Virginia voter will vote for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and their member of the House of Delegates. Virginia is one of two Governor's races, and many are watching the Virginia race to as a harbinger of what to expect in 2018.

No matter how you vote, polling shows that the Governor's race could be very close.

EDITORIAL While there are quite a few uncontested races for members of the House of Delegates, several races could also be close, with the outcome likely to depend on turnout.

There is every reason to get out and vote.

Absentee Voting in Person

Voting early if you qualify is a good choice.

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

There are two ways to vote absentee: in-person and by mail. To vote by mail, you will need to apply for an absentee ballot; if you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location.

See your locality's elections website for more.

Bring Photo ID, There Are Alternatives

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

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

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

General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7

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

card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

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

To find a registration office where you can obtain photo ID, even on the day of an election, visit: vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup.

Provisional Ballot Process for Voters Who Arrive Without Identification

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo

identification, don't panic or give up. You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

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

On the Ballot

Governor

Ralph S. Northam (D)
Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie (R)
Clifford D. Hyra (L)

Lieutenant Governor

Justin E. Fairfax (D)
Jill H. Vogel (R)

Attorney General

Mark R. Herring (D) incumbent
John D. Adams (R)

House of Delegates

34th District

Kathleen Murphy (D) incumbent
Cheryl Buford (R)

35th District

Mark Keam (D) incumbent, unopposed

36th District

Ken Plum (D) incumbent, unopposed

37th District

David Bulova (D) incumbent, unopposed

38th District

Kay Kory (D) incumbent
Paul Haring (R)

39th District

Vivian Watts (D) incumbent, unopposed

40th District

Donte Tanner (D)
Tim Hugo (R) incumbent

41st District

Eileen Filler-Corn (D) incumbent, unopposed

42nd District

Kathy Tran (D)
Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R)

43rd District

Mark Sickles (D) incumbent, unopposed

44th District

Paul Krizek (D) incumbent, unopposed

45th District

Mark Levine (D) incumbent, unopposed

53rd District

Marcus Simon (D) incumbent
Mike Casey (I)

67th District

Karrie Delaney (D)
Jim LeMunyon (R) incumbent

86th District

Jennifer Boysko (D) incumbent
Linda Schulz (R)

Fairfax County School Bonds

Voters will vote yes or no on a \$315 million public school bond referendum on the Nov. 7 general election ballot. If approved by voters, the Fairfax County Public Schools' current plans to use this bond money are to plan and/or construct two new elementary schools, one in Fairfax/Oakton area and another in the northwest county area; relocate one modular building; plan additions at three existing high schools to add capacity at Madison, Stuart and West Potomac; plan and/or construct renovations of 10 elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools. See www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/2017-school-bond-referendum.

Fairfax County Office of Elections

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections
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Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725
Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov
Election Officer Info: 703-324-4735, TTY 711

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar at least two weeks before event.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at McLean

District Station, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Drop off unused or expired medications at a Fairfax County Police district station. Pills or liquids only, no pressurized canisters or needles. Safe disposal of unused or expired medications prevents drug

abuse and misuse, accidental poisoning, and protects the environment. Disposal is free, convenient, confidential, and safe. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/ or www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/

drug_disposal/takeback/index.html.

MONDAY/OCT. 30

AARP Dinner Meeting. 5-8 p.m. at Mylo's Grill, 6238 Old Dominion

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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LETTER

Preserving Character of Great Falls

To the Editor:

(Re: Comments Sought on Georgetown Pike Walkway, Great Falls Connection, Oct. 11-17, 2017)

I read subject article with great interest. I have lived in Great Falls since 1974, and find it interesting but not surprising that people move to Great Falls from Reston, McLean, Vienna and want to change everything Great Falls was (country) into what they are attempting to move away from, high

density government provided amenities. As an example, the path going from Seneca Road towards the Village ends at Utterback Store Road, and can not continue towards the Village on the north side of 193 unless future planning takes property from the home owners between Utterback and the Village using "eminent domain." At Utterback heading on the path towards the Village one one has to cross Georgetown Pike (193) to attempt continue walking/running towards the Village. In reality, try crossing 193 safely regardless of the day/time with the hopes of surviving.

Additionally, the "fine path" is now blacktop when the original

intention was to have running/equestrian paths throughout Great Falls (horses don't do well on asphalt), but that is a minor detail when one does not ride horses in the first place — welcome to Reston. One might remember that Great Falls was once horse country before it became a suburb/mirror image of Reston. Again, as Great Falls becomes more or more like Reston/McLean lets print honest articles rather than gloss over the truth as to the changes to what used to be Great Falls. I have lived in Great Falls since 1974, and the changes I have seen are not necessarily for the better.

Dudley Losselyong
Great Falls

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Garden Club Seeks Poetry Contest Entries

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. invites all students in kindergarten through ninth grade to participate in their 2017-2018 poetry contest. The competition is an opportunity for youth to embrace their creativity through the art of writing.

Using the theme "Let It Grow," poems may be written in traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limericks or Haiku.

Winners will be selected and notified by the National Garden Clubs. Each entry will receive a Certificate of Participation. Questions about the contest can be submitted to www.gfgardenclub.org

under the 'Contact Us' tab.

Contest rules:

- ❖ Each entry must be typed and titled on a separate sheet of paper

- ❖ Each entry must include the name, address, age, grade and participant's school. This information should be included on the back of the poem.

Mail entries to: The Great Falls Garden Club, P.O. Box 1412, Great Falls, VA 22066.

All entries must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2107. All entries become the property of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUIHE/THE CONNECTION

A Lucky Dog Indeed

Oliver wags his tail to the tune of "Sweet Georgia Brown" played by the Adam Acosta band at the Fall Heritage Festival held at Gulf Branch Nature Center and Park on Military Road in Arlington. Five-year-old William Miller Incardona from McLean gives Oliver a hug as his father, Chris, explains Oliver is a new family arrival, a shelter dog from South Carolina rescued by Lucky Dog. Since the South Carolina facility was a state evacuation site, they had to move out dogs so that dogs impacted by Hurricane Irma had a place to go. Oliver was a lucky dog; Chris says most of the other dogs in the shelter didn't make it.

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Facing – and Fighting – the Opioid Crisis

Connolly and Bulova host Opioid Crisis Roundtable.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The inbox of any member of Congress overflows with information on hundreds, if not thousands, of issues and requests to address the problems that plague their constituencies. So how did the growing opioid crisis and its effects on local communities find its way to the top of the pile for U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11)?

Connolly found himself “so taken aback” when doing a “little data reading.”

“I knew it was bad. I knew it was affecting a lot of people,” but the numbers stunned him.

Connolly and his staff dug deeper. Calls, meetings, research, and even some drive-alongs with law enforcement followed. Then it was time to bring together the experts, the policy-makers, the front-line responders, representatives of those personally affected, and the public at large. Joining forces with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Connolly and Board Chairman Sharon Bulova hosted a roundtable event on Saturday, Oct. 21 at the Fairfax County Government Center, that was aired live, as well as recorded and available for viewing on the County’s Channel 16.

“This ... is an opportunity for our community to come together and bring the opioid epidemic out of the shadows,” said Connolly, “... and by bringing this panel of experts together we hope people will know they aren’t alone in this fight.”

TO START THINGS OFF, both Connolly and Bulova shared some of those numbers that so affected the congressman.

❖ Since 2000, the opioid and heroin epidemic has claimed more than 200,000 lives — more than three times the number killed in the Vietnam War.

❖ According to the National Center for Health Statistics, more than 64,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016 — an increase of more than 20 percent over the previous year.

❖ Deaths from the synthetic opioid fentanyl have increased by 540 percent in just three years.

❖ In the Commonwealth of Virginia, opioid overdose deaths rose by about 40 percent from 2015 to 2016, and synthetic opioid deaths rose from 262 to 692 during that time.

❖ Northern Virginia is not immune from



At the roundtable addressing the Opioid Epidemic. Speakers included U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Fairfax County Board Chair Bulova, and members of law enforcement, the medical profession, nonprofits, treatment providers, and state Secretary of Health and Human Services William Hazel.

Nick Yacoub, a recovery coach, addresses the panel, recounting his own struggles with addiction from an early age: “Part of the problem [in combating the opioid crisis] is that addiction is seen as a moral failure.”



the epidemic, with Fairfax County ranking number one in opioid-related deaths during the 2015-2016 period. Prince William County (parts of which are included in Connolly’s district) reported a doubling of their opioid-related deaths during that same year.

Bulova added that between January and September last year, Fairfax County Emergency Medical personnel reported 369 uses of the drug Naloxone, used to treat people suffering from opioid overdose. “That’s more than one per day,” said Bulova. “These are disturbing numbers.” The overdoses were the result of prescription drug usage, heroin, and synthetic opioids like fentanyl. “And as many of you may know,” noted Bulova, “fentanyl is 10 times more potent than heroin.”

Some studies have reported fentanyl as being as much as 50 times more potent than morphine.

THE ASSEMBLED PANEL illustrated the depth and breadth of the crisis. Joining Connolly and Bulova were state Secretary of Health and Human Resources William Hazel; John Cheseck, battalion chief, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department EMS Division; Maj. Amanda Lambert, director of

Dr. Husam Alathari, medical director of INOVA’s CATS program, says that the medical profession needs to do their parts in fighting the opioid epidemic: “Addiction needs to be treated like the chronic medical condition that it is.”



Support Services, Prince William-Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center; Ginny Atwood-Lovitt, executive director of the Chris Atwood Foundation; Dr. Husam Alathari, medical director, INOVA CATS program; Jennifer Lofland, field intelligence manager with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency; Lyn Tomlinson, assistant deputy director of the Fairfax Falls Church Community Service Board; and Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, director, Fairfax County Department of Health.

Each speaker brought their own perspective to the issue, highlighting the profound negative effects being felt at all layers and levels of society, strengthening the argument that it will take the efforts of all of these elements of the community, along with the public, to wage an effective war on the opioid epidemic.

“We can’t arrest our way out of this,” said Hazel. “This is an addiction epidemic, not an opioid epidemic, and there are really only three outcomes to addiction: live with it, recovery, or death.”

Hazel, and other panel members, spoke of the effects of the crisis, beyond the immediate loss of life and the heartbreaking impact that loss has on family and friends.

Drug addiction also causes or exacerbates

other medical conditions. Drug addiction in pregnant women often leads to the birth of addicted infants, or babies suffering from other medical problems. In addition to the human cost to these innocent lives, Hazel pointed out that neo-natal care for these afflicted newborns can cost about \$70,000 per child.

To highlight that point, Lambert reported that 100 percent of the pregnant women currently incarcerated in Prince William County are in need of methadone to counter addiction.

Often-times, elevated crime rates are found in areas experiencing high addiction levels, and “there’s certainly a negative impact on the workforce and productivity,” said Hazel.

Cheseck spoke of the added dangers now facing first responders when called out to drug-overdose emergencies.

Some of the new drugs can be transferred to the responder through touch, or even through inhalation. New gear and new methods of protecting police and emergency personnel, as well as hospital staff, are now required, and the chief expressed his gratitude for a grant from the state to provide doses of Narcan to help protect those on the frontline, as well as the victims they assist.

The panelists were in agreement that the first step in stopping the epidemic is to end the stigma attached to addiction.

MANY OF THOSE suffering from opioid addiction came to their situation as the result of legally prescribed medications to alleviate pain, often following a surgery or as the result of some accident or injury.

“You have to understand,” said Alathari, “that these drugs can literally re-wire your brain.” Alathari cited studies showing that even limited use of opioids can lead to changes in brain chemistry that makes the drug user willing to “give up food, water and sex — the main life drivers — for the drug.” The doctor said that physicians need to do their part and recognize addiction as a chronic medical condition. “These patients struggle every day. There are FDA-approved medications that can help, but the because of the stigma, the patients are often encouraged to stop taking them.”

Atwood-Lovitt also pointed to the stigma associated with addiction as an obstacle to those engaged in the war against it. Atwood-Lovitt lost her brother Christopher to an opioid overdose. During the years that Christopher and his family struggled with his addiction, Atwood-Lovitt recalled the friends and family members who “turned their backs,” no longer wanting to associate with Christopher because he was “one of those people.” Employment and normal

SEE ROUNDTABLE, PAGE 11

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Dreamers

FROM PAGE 4

rent 800,000 DACA 135,000 are Asian-Americans. The current efforts focus on DACA with phone banks, vigils and visits to Virginia legislators urging them to support of the Dream Act. “Representatives Barbara Comstock and Scott Taylor are on the fence about whether to co-sponsor the legislation,” said Yi. NAKASEC is planning a day soon when they will join with other organizations and knock on every door they can find. “Come on; we can do this,” she said.

Yi says that Korea is a land of opportunity with a great educational system. “I can go there now and make a lot of money but what keeps us rooted here is liberty and freedom. In Korea,” she said, “You have to think a certain way. Culturally and value-wise, I’m American.”

Yi takes a moment to reflect on their recent 30-day vigil in front of the White House.

She said they slept on benches, talked to people, got signatures and even did the “DACA dance.”

“The Secret Service told us we were the weirdest demonstrators they had ever seen at the White House; we even had a karaoke night. But we raised a lot of money,” Yi said. “Some people were supportive but others were being really mean. We had kids with us and I could see they were so hurt. I don’t know what’s going to happen but we’re stronger together. We have to do something.”

She declares they’re going to get education and driver’s licenses for everyone in Virginia. “This moment is bigger than all of us.”

SIXTY FOUR PLACES of worship joined together after the election with the announcement of upcoming anti-immigration legislation. Imam Ali Saddiqui, who is part of a transitional leadership team for the group, says Sanctuary DMV (D.C., Maryland, Virginia) includes a number of Protestant churches as well as several synagogues, Catholic churches and his Muslim Institute. One of their actions has been organizing rallies in support of DACA and immigrant rights. “I was just there last week at the Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in D.C. and at the mayor’s office.” Since there was just a raid where ICE went after 500 undocumented immigrants and 14 were arrested, the group was asking for their release and for the mayor not to cooperate with ICE officials.

In addition, they have been visiting congressional offices in support of the Dream Act and phoning members of Congress. “Actually this is on a party line. Democrats are very supportive and Republicans not.”

He says you hear the argument that immigrants cost the government money and don’t pay taxes. “Let me tell you my own story. I came here from Pakistan on March 23, 1969 originally as an asylee. I looked for a job and started working and paying taxes March 24 and have paid ever since.”

The Rev. Laura Martin, associate pastor for at Rock Spring UCC in Arlington and also a member of DMV Sanctuary, says there are a number of unresolved issues about the concept of offering sanctuary to an immigrant in a church building. “We are trying to come up with a wider definition of sanctuary such as offering solidarity or support for immigrants when they have an order for deportation. So in the spring another member of the congregation and I picked up a woman living in D.C. with her two children in a



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Imam Ali Saddiqui, transitional leader for Sanctuary DMV, demonstrates outside of ICE office in D.C.

small apartment with 13 people. We were there to support her for her deportation hearing. The woman had fled El Salvador, which is the murder capital of the world. We took her to Rosslyn to immigration court. All of us had to go through a metal detector including the children, and they took away the food in her purse.”

Martin says 80 different cases were all given the same 11 a.m. time for consideration. “It wasn’t a grand court — it was an institutional setting with low ceilings, bright light and so crowded that people, even with babies, couldn’t sit down. It was very procedural and you heard the same thing dozens of times. They took cases with attorneys first so we had to wait for a long time.”

Martin says somewhere along the way the woman’s heavy ankle bracelet started beeping because the battery was low. “There was nowhere to recharge it so it just kept beeping until we got to Subway for lunch in the late afternoon and she could plug it in.” When it came her turn the bilingual judge asked if the immigrant needed time to get an attorney and postponed her case until August.

Then they had to go to Vienna for a regular ankle bracelet check-in. “They could track where she was.”

Martin said the Sanctuary DMV group is not involved in case management so she doesn’t know what happened at the August court date. “The courts can’t keep up. They are rescheduling out to the end of 2018.”

An excerpt from a poem sent by Martin to the congregation concludes:

“I have known the grandmothers who Smile even though they have left Their country of spices and markets, Have left their open windows with blue curtains Have left the tramping of war, Have left their songs and language, And believed America when we said, “This is the land of the free.””

This is the third article in a series focusing on DACA.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Some 180 community members, including these young adults from Great Falls and McLean, attended the event.

Great Falls Gala Celebrates Bicentenary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh

The Bahá'ís of Great Falls held a gala celebration to commemorate the Bicentenary of birth Bahá'u'lláh, who was the prophet founder of the Bahá'í Faith. About 180 or so members of the Great Falls and McLean community attended the event.

The central theme of the gala was unity. Bahá'u'lláh, born in 1817, lived a life mostly as a prisoner of the rulers of the Persian and Ottoman empires. He taught that humanity is one, that men and women are equal, or as two wings of a bird, that racism is intolerable, that religions are one, and that all nations must come together to engage in collective peace and security.

The program began with a discussion on unity, in the context of harmony, where a youth trio performed a classical sonata, showing how single voices of instruments can come together in harmonious melodies.

The program included several discussions on unity and peace. Most notable were the artistic performances from all over the world – including Indian



Morgan Kim, a Great Falls resident and a ballerina with the Sterling Ballet Company, delighted the audience in the classic Russian style.

classical dance, Russian ballet, Spanish Flamenco, and Persian strings.

A portion of the video, "Light to the World" was presented, showing the extraordinary influence Bahá'u'lláh has had on the world, followed by a proclamation by the County Supervisor's office. On behalf of Supervisor John W. Foust, (D-Dranseville District) Benjamin Wiles presented the proclamation to Farzad Ghassemi, who is the Chair of the Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Great Falls.

An art project by children, titled "What Does Unity Look Like" was highlighted as a way for parents and children to engage in a discussion of unity, its features, and how to create unity.

The evening concluded with a talk by Dariush Hassan, a youth from Langley High School, discussing the virtues of unity in the context of science and the universe – unlike discontent and animosity which can harm communities, the physics of attraction and coming together, can build enduring civilizations. The event closed with the Prayer for America, penned in 1912, to "Let this American democracy become glorious in spiritual degrees."



Music and dance were performed from around the world. In this photo, the Kumar Dance Studio performs.



Classical Persian music celebrated the winds of change in the 1800s, the time of Bahá'u'lláh's Ministry.

Words of Wisdom on Publishing Your Book

Publisher/CEO and his team gather to share strategies, secrets to success.

By KRISTIN CLARK TAYLOR
GREAT FALLS WRITERS GROUP



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

So you've finally finished writing your novel. Maybe you've penned your first book of poetry or are considering writing your memoirs. What now? How do you move from inspired writer to published author? What are the next steps on this complicated journey – and when is the best time to take them?

On Saturday, Nov. 4, from 4 to 6 p.m., a panel of book editors, joined by their publisher/CEO, will come together at the Great Falls library to provide practical, next-step guidance on how to cut through the clutter of the competitive, sometimes-confusing world of book publishing. The panel will answer questions, discuss the publishing process and share strategies for breaking into the book-writing business.

Naren Aryal, publisher/CEO of Mascot Books, a full-service, fee-based publishing house in Herndon, will be joined by the company's top representatives

in acquisition, production and marketing. Aryal, himself a published author and lawyer, is pragmatic and practical in his approach to book publishing.

"Having a good idea for a book is just the beginning," he says. "Obviously, content is important but authors that also focus on distribution and marketing generally enjoy the most success."

Myrna Stuart, co-chair of the Great Falls Writers Group (who is hosting the event), agrees: "Having access to a publishing house as prestigious and comprehensive as Mascot Books is a real advantage to any writer in the Northern Virginia/D.C. area," Stuart says. "GFWG is excited about this local connection that leads writers from first word to final chapter."

Wherever writers are in the process – at the first word or the final chapter, as Ms. Stuart describes – they should come ready for a lively, informative discussion, and bring questions. No registration required. The event is free and open to the public.

Naren Aryal, Publisher/CEO of Mascot Books, will appear at the Great Falls library on Nov. 4.

FAITH NOTES

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

For those struggling physically or spiritually, on the first Sunday of each month, **Christ the King Lutheran Church** offers a rite of healing as part of worship; the opportunity to be anointed with oil and prayed over. During the healing rite, the pastor or another person says a short prayer while two people lay hands on the recipient. Then the pastor or helper anoints them with oil as a sign of God's healing and forgiveness. Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call 703-759-6068 or visit www.gflutheran.org.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, at the intersection of Lewinsville and Brook roads in McLean, invites you for a casual Saturday Service at 5 p.m., followed by conversation and fellowship or for Sunday Services at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Sunday School for Youth and Children takes place during the 10 a.m. Service. Check www.stthomasmcleanva.org for special events and services through the year. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, 703-442-0330.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, has Sunday services at 7:45, 9 and 11 a.m. with nursery care provided. In the summer, they offer musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including an 8 a.m. worship service without music and a 10 a.m. worship service with nursery care. 703-759-2082.

Roundtable Addresses Opioid Crisis

FROM PAGE 8

social outlets were suddenly beyond reach “when he needed them the most.” “Denial is deadly,” said Atwood-Lovitt. Stigma reduction, education and prevention is essential. The Chris Atwood Foundation is now engaged in advocating for opioid addiction education and treatment, and provides training in the use of Narcan, as well as helping to make the overdose revival medication more readily available.

Although in his opening remarks Connolly declared that the day’s proceedings would avoid putting politics on the table, there were a few occasions when the congressman felt compelled to address the need for “political will” as part of the solution.

“Expanding Medicaid in Virginia would bring an additional \$100 million to aid in the fight against opioid addiction. Another \$200 million would be available for mental health treatment and initiatives. We need all of the resources we can get to fight this.”

CONNOLLY also announced his introduction of the “Opioid Immediate Suspension Order Act (H.R. 4073).” The legislation is designed to restore the DEA’s authority to suspend a pharmaceutical distributor’s license if the Attorney General finds their actions to be causing an imminent danger to the public health and safety. H.R. 4073 is Connolly’s response to the potentially crippling effect of the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016 on the DEA’s ability to stop over-distribution.

Connolly doesn’t think this is the time to make it harder for the Drug Enforcement Agency “to do their

job,” citing an example in a small West Virginia town, with a population of 2,924, where one distributor was able to provide one pharmacy with 258,000 hydrocodone pills in one month, not to mention the fact that “more than 300 million opioid prescriptions were written in the U.S. last year – enough for every man, woman, and child to have their own bottle of powerful painkillers.

Members of the audience were given an opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Many of those who spoke, used their time to recount personal stories of family members or of their own struggles, like Nick Yacoub, who began his addiction at the age of 10 and who is now a recovery coach.

“Recovery is possible,” said Yacoub, who described himself as a successful product of the Fairfax Falls Church CSB treatment programs, “especially if we stop viewing addiction as a moral failure.”

The roundtable concluded with messages of hope and support, and promises by the speakers to continue the fight and to continue working with each other to end the epidemic. Bulova urged members of the public to share the information and to direct others to the video of the event, and to the county’s website for information and resources.

The Board of Supervisors has also recently established an Opioid Crisis Task Force that will be charged with developing plans to fight the epidemic.

“The prescription opioid and heroin epidemics are driven by biological, psychological, and social problems that require multi-dimensional solutions,” said Connolly. “We must never forget the human cost of these epidemics. We must win.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Great Falls Farmers Market.

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

McLean Farmers Market, Fridays,

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

Vienna Saturday Farmers Market,

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

THROUGH NOV. 18

Broadway Exhibit. Various times at Broadway Galleries, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Local photographer, Silvia Gonzalez Roman with a variety of work. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 25

71st Annual Halloween Parade. 7 p.m. on Maple Avenue, Vienna. Join friends and neighbors, ghouls and goblins for one of Vienna's traditions: the 71st annual Halloween Parade, hosted by the Vienna Business Association. Visit bit.ly/2huu6L0 for more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 26

Grand Reopening. 10 a.m. at H&M at Tyson's Corner, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Store is reopening after being remodeled. Visit www.hm.com for more.

Annual Trick or Treat Party. 5-7 p.m. at the Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Pet costume contest and "Hotel Transylvania" screening at 6:30 in Strawberry Park. Visit mosaicdistrict.com/ for more.

OCT. 27-28

Vienna Theatre Company

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

The Recital on Stage. 7:30 at 1st Stage Theatre, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Premiere of The Recital with live piano performed by MusicLink, Saturday's ticket includes access to the Post-Performance. \$30-50. Call 703-854-1856 for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

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

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



**Authors
Laura and
Peter
Zeranski**

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Taste of Poland at Great Falls Library

How does a sample of authentic Polish hunter's stew or kolazcki sound on a chilly November day? On Saturday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. Peter and Laura Zeranski will discuss their two books, "Polish Classic Recipes" and "Polish Classic Desserts" at the Great Falls Library.

Peter Zeranski will talk about growing up in a Polish household and Laura Zeranski will discuss how she learned to cook real Polish food. They will share stories about Polish holiday traditions and what a vital part food plays as they celebrate. Stories will range from Peter's childhood to the present day as

they continue their traditions.

In addition to the samples of hunter's stew and kolazcki there will be a Kielbasa Taste Test Challenge where audience members will attempt to guess which kielbasa is from a Polish deli and which is from the grocery store.

Peter and Laura will take questions and will also have books available for purchase and signing. Adults and families welcome.

— JAMES CULLEN
ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER, GREAT FALLS LIBRARY

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Pumpkin Carving Lessons. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3rd 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. \$20.00 per child and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to "Real Food for Kids." Call 703-442-9110

Spookappella Halloween Jam. 2 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave.

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

New Dominion Chorale. 4 p.m. at St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The program, "Songs Celestial," will be conducted by Thomas Beveridge, artistic director, and will feature organist Paul Skevington, baritone James Shaffran and countertenor Chris Dudley. \$35 for adults, \$30 for senior citizens, and \$15 for students

and children. Group tickets are available for groups of 10 or more at \$25 per ticket. All tickets are for general admission. Visit www.newdominion.org or call 202-244-7191.

FRIDAY/NOV. 3

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



WEDNESDAY/OCT. 25

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

THURSDAY/OCT. 26

Annual Trick or Treat Party. 5-7 p.m. at the Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Pet costume contest and "Hotel Transylvania" screening at 6:30 in

Trick or Treat Party

Spooktacular annual trick or treat party on Thursday, Oct. 26, 5-7 p.m. at the Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Pet costume contest and "Hotel Transylvania" screening at 6:30 in Strawberry Park. Visit mosaicdistrict.com.

Strawberry Park. Visit mosaicdistrict.com/ for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Pumpkin Carving Lessons. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3rd 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. \$20.00 per child and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to "Real Food for Kids." Call 703-442-9110 for more.

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

NOV. 6-JAN. 7

Textures Exhibit. Various times at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 8

Great Falls Historian. 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Joan Wehner will speak about the purchase, restoration and transfer of the Schoolhouse to the Fairfax County Park Authority. \$5. Visit gfhs.org for more.

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/ for more.

THURSDAY/NOV. 9

Meet the Artists. 7-9 p.m. at the McLean Project for the Arts, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. "Nature as Prototype" exhibition by Yoko K, Adam Nelson and Gretthe Whittrick. "Nature as Prototype" runs through Dec. 23. Visit mpaart.org for more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 11

Fall Bazaar. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, 400 Center St., South. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary is sponsoring this event with crafts, bake sale, holiday items. Email dancers1023@aol.com or call 703-309-3468.

NOV. 16-18

Christmas Craft Show. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Oakton Church of the Brethren's 24th Annual Christmas Craft Show is a three-day event featuring a wide variety of handmade creations, plus a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. Visit www.oaktonbrethren.org for more.

NOV. 17-19

Big Sale, Small Works. Various times at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. A variety of art available. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 19

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

TUESDAY/NOV. 21

Female Re-Enactors of Distinction. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Re-enactment, dramatic readings and various other educational programs in Civil War period clothing transport you back in time to share their stories. Email karen.emami@globalinfotek.com or call 703-938-6471 for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Home for the Holidays Musical. 7:30 at The Falls Church Episcopal, 115 E. Fairfax St., Falls Church. Tysons Mclean Orchestra performs with Melissa Mino. Call 703-893-8646 for more.



Laura Nichols speaks with Suzan Black in her pottery studio in Great Falls for the Great Falls Studio Arts Tour Saturday.



PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Brother and sister, Shawn Sidhu, 9, and Sarena Sidhu, 6, with their spin-art, that they made with the help of Great Falls artist, Linda Cameron, for the Great Falls Studio Arts Tour Saturday.

Great Falls Studios Open to Neighbors

Annual Studio Arts Tour features 22 local artists, variety of styles.

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

The 14th annual studio arts tour in Great Falls kicked off this weekend, giving art lovers the opportunity to visit the homes of 22 artists in the Great Falls community. The show lasted for three days – Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

“It’s about opening our studio, which is really private to anyone who wants to see,” said Begoña Morton.

Her home in Great Falls was stop four. Browsers were invited to come into her house as part of the tour to see her painting studio and buy small prints and watercolors all the way up to full sized oil on canvas paintings.

“I consider myself an oil painter, I like to do other things, but that’s what I do,” she said.

Art of all different types were featured on the tour, from printmakers to painters, potters and photographers. Some artists are classically trained like Morton, who grew up going to art school in Spain, graduating through the levels until she reached the final stage which was oil painting.

Other artists like Linda Cameron are more self-taught. Cameron uses an entirely original form of painting called spin-art, where she hangs upside down from a yoga trapeze, and drizzles paints over a canvass which is already spinning on a pottery wheel.

“It’s all about learning to be a kid again,” she said.

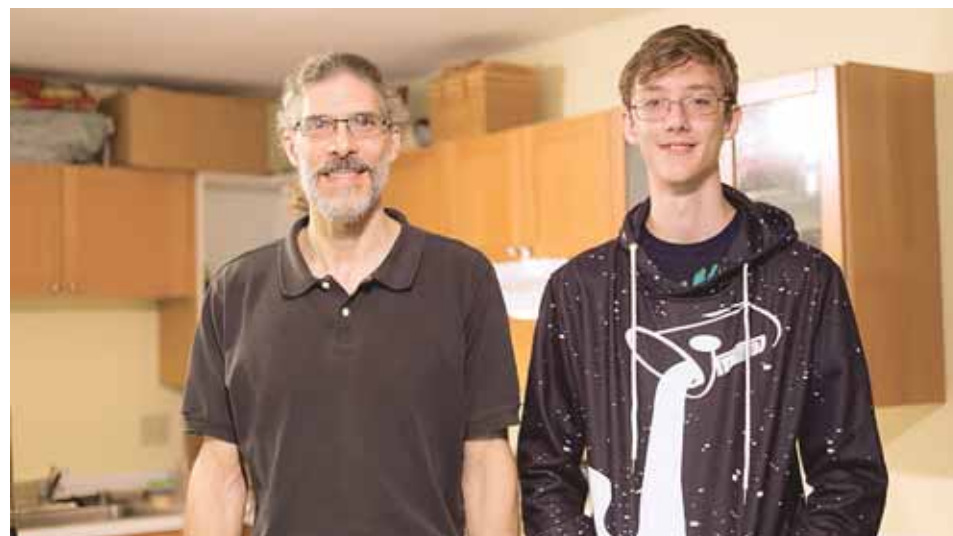
One of Cameron’s still paintings was made with real gold flakes. It was titled, “The Kiss Reimagined,” and she was selling



Artist Begoña Morton stands next to her oil painting in her home studio in Great Falls for the Great Falls Studio Arts Tour Saturday.



Artist William Tuthill applies paint to a wood block print in his home workspace in Great Falls for the Great Falls Studio Arts Tour Saturday.



Artist William Tuthill and his son Toren, 14, in their home during the Great Falls Studio Arts Tour Saturday.

it on the tour for \$32,000.

“This was a year of my life. As far as I know I’m the first person to put somebody

of African descent in “The Kiss,” she said. The painting also features her face and feet. Cameron lives on the Great Falls farm with

Laura Nichols, a potter. Nichols came up with the idea for the studio art tour 14 years ago, and it has since become much larger.

“I’m a potter when I’m not being a farmer,” she said.

Her pottery, which she bakes in a kiln outside of her house is Ruku in style, and incorporates Eastern European themes from the Balkans to seal the clay. “It’s supposed to be traditionally better for eating that way,” she said.

Another artist featured on the tour was William Tuthill.

He does lithography, a type of printing on a 100-year-old printing press that he keeps in his workspace.

“We are in our seventh or eighth year participating in the event. I recently re-joined the board of Great Falls Studios,” he said.

William Tuthill’s son, Toren, 14, also makes spray paint art of planets and galaxies. “It’s pretty cool, you get to meet all of the artists,” said Toren Tuthill.

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Guests attended the silent auction and celebration Saturday night, Oct. 7 at Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

Farm Celebrates Living History

Silent auction at Claude Moore Colonial Farm focuses on community.

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Not a lot of people know about Claude Moore Colonial Farm, formerly known as Turkey Run, which is hidden off of the George Washington Parkway. Even fewer people know what it was like to live in the 1800s in northern Virginia.

"The first time I heard about it, was back in the 1980s. I saw a sign for the farm driving down the highway and I love history," said President emeritus, James Callan, a member of the board of trustees for Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

"I love the farm" he said.

Claude Moore Colonial Farm is a living part of Virginia history nestled off of the parkway. Reenactors keep the farm running with real gardens, produce, livestock and other wares that would have been made back in the 1800s.

The farm is mostly self-sustaining, and receives no funding from the National Park Service. The farm holds an event every third weekend of the month, and sustains operating budgets through gift shop and bookstore sales along with private donations.

"Because the farm is the only privately funded national park in the United States, the fundraisers help us to support the farm," said Peg Jarman, board member in charge of the fundraising event.

Saturday night's silent auction and benefit dinner featured local beer and wine tastings, food, and of course traditional dress and music from the 1800s.

J. D. Engle, events manager at Claude Moore Colonial Farm and Lisa Berray were both dressed in traditional costumes from the 1800s. "It's great to invite folks who are in political office to show them what we do here at the farm, and so that we can get their continued political support," said Berray. "As a volunteer it's amazing to see how people in the community get involved and the people who come to these events energize me and what I do."

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) was also at the event and employees and benefactors hoped to gain his political support as the farm continues to



Re-enactor David Ludwinski, farmer at Claude Moore Colonial Farm and his wife, Cheyenne, a teacher pictured Saturday night, Oct. 7 at Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

operate between Federal government land area, and land for the parkway owned by the Federal Highway Administration.

Reenactors, supporters, and families enjoyed a night of relaxed fun where everyone could celebrate what it is like to have a unique place like the farm in this part of Virginia.

"We are delighted to get such a good turnout to keep the farm running" said Phillip Zane, a board member and volunteer at the farm for ten years. "I usually reenact as a member of the exchange office, playing a merchant or a lawyer at our market fairs. I own some of the clothes and my wife stitches," he said.

By charging admission, the farm is able to stay open and provide the northern Virginia community with living history.

"Quite a few board members are in costume," said Zane.

Oct. 21 and 22 is the weekend of the Autumn Market Fair, one of the farm's largest events. There will be dancing, food, re-enactors, and plenty of learning opportunities for the whole family.

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 6

Drive, McLean. Join AARP Virginia and the McLean Community: A Village for All Ages for Dinner at Mylo's Grill in McLean, 15 percent discount on entire check. Call 1-877-926-8300 or visit aarp.cvent.com.

MONDAY/NOV. 13

Community Meeting. 6-8:30 p.m. at the Oakton High School Cafeteria, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. Design Public Hearings on the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project regarding plans for the 22.5 mile corridor from I-495 to University Boulevard in Gainesville. Visit transform66.org 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.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmaf.org. The Center's website is www.scmaf.org.

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: <https://prsinc.org/caring-volunteering/>. Questions? Email lpdgett@prsinc.org.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.

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Weakened Wherewithal



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Say that three times quickly. Heck, say it one-time slowly. And then welcome to my whirled: the world of cancer treatment and survival. A 'whirled' in which, eight years and nearly eight months post diagnosis, I continue to live, breathe and write.

Occasionally it happens, as it is happening now, that some of the most excruciating demands of being a cancer patient, occur simultaneously – or a reasonable facsimile thereof. For me that means 24-hour urine collection, pre-chemotherapy lab work, chemotherapy infusion, CT Scan and then the appointment with my oncologist to discuss all the results; occurring over 13 days – with intermittent days off for good behavior.

Typically; meaning every minute, every hour, every day, every week, etc., maybe not every second, I am thinking about cancer; though I wouldn't say I'm preoccupied (others might). And of course, it's certainly understandable and reasonable to do so when every day over a fortnight, you are waiting – as we say in the sales world – "for the other shoe to drop."

Having endured this cycle over the last eight and a half years with varying regularity, I can honestly say that whatever symptoms have manifested themselves – or not – have never provided any consistent assurance that my life/life expectancy had not changed for the worse. It's not until the appointment with my oncologist occurs – or sooner if he emails me the scan results, that I learn the facts of my case.

All of that being said, as my friend Frank has often said to me: "You're in pretty good shape for the shape you're in." Don't I know it.

However, yes there's always a 'however' in the cancer-patient-surviving-against-all-odds 'whirled,' there are no guarantees. In fact, there are only two guarantees: death and taxes. The former is way too close for comfort and the latter, I'm already taxed to the hilt, emotionally. Somehow, I have to get through because "the alternative is gloomy" to quote Dr. Mobley, the doctor in Miles City who treated Augustus McCray in the epic miniseries, "Lonesome Dove." And so I try not to be gloomy.

However, there's that word again, circumstances/schedules randomly bring down the weight – and wait of my 'whirled.' These 13 days can never pass quickly enough. But that presumes a good result, which one would want to know as soon as possible. But what of a bad result, leading to an exponential increase in anxiety – and fear, ultimately leading to a treatment unknown. That I might not want to know so soon. Not that not knowing serves any point or helps coordinate the next treatment plan, I'm more afraid of hearing something I haven't heard much of since February 2009. To quote my late mother quoting somebody: "No one gets out of this life alive."

That of course is the point of this column, and the effect of having all this cancer stuff happen at the same time. I can take it, generally; as my late father used to say: "KB, I have confidence in you. You have broad shoulders." Nevertheless, I worry about the figurative straw breaking my emotional back. Cancer can do that. It did it to my mother-in-law, Peggy, where over a few days the situation went from bad to worse to finally, the worst.

Somehow, I have to compartmentalize all this negative energy and focus on the positive. And that positive turns out to be an early email from my oncologist basically saying that my lung cancer remains stable. Now we can go to my appointment on Monday "unencumbered," to once gain quote my late father. The pressure is semi off. Talk about relief.

Now maybe I can relax and try not to think about my next infusion, my next scan and my next appointment with the oncologist. There's no harm in trying, right?

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



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