



Great Falls CONNECTION

The spirit of the Bavarian festival was alive and well in Great Falls with a 30-piece authentic Bavarian band, dancers, a roving authentic accordionist, unlimited authentic German food, bier and wine during the Saturday, Oct. 28, Great Falls Rotary Club celebration of Oktoberfest.

Great Falls Rotarians Celebrate Oktoberfest

NEWS, PAGE 10

HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 9

Running in the
Rain in Great Falls

NEWS, PAGE 3

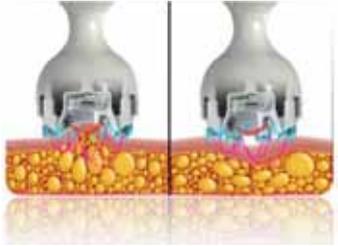
Words Not Enough

NEWS, PAGE 4

OPINION, PAGE 6 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

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PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

The finish line at the Great Falls Lift Me Up 5K Sunday morning in Great Falls village center.



First and second place winners, Wiehan Peyper, 31, of Great Falls, right, and Harry Morson, 14, of Burke, show off their medals at the Great Falls Lift Me Up 5K Sunday morning in Great Falls village center.

Running in the Rain in Great Falls

Lift Me Up 5K and Fun Run held Sunday morning at village center.

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Sunday morning, Nov. 5 was rainy, but spirits were high for the Great Falls Lift Me Up 5K and fun run. Competitive runners and children and families looking to enjoy some brisk morning exercise lined up at the starting line in Great Falls village center.

The Great Falls Lift Me Up 5K raised money for Lift Me Up, a local horse farm that helps disabled children and veterans achieve mobility through horse riding. The veteran riding program is called "Back in the Saddle." Bill Carbaugh, the president of Lift Me Up told the runners and families that Lift Me Up has been helping the community of Great Falls for 42 years. This year they have around 100 riders.

"We wanted to raise awareness of Lift Me Up and a fun run would be good for reaching out to a broader community," he said.

Great Falls has a unique equestrian history and Lift Me Up is attempting to carry on that legacy while serving the Great Falls community. "We employ volunteers from the community, they are part of our life blood," said Carbaugh.

Turner Farm is a historic farm that has existed in the Great Falls community for years as a horse farm for riding, and people like Carbaugh hope to see it stay that way. Great Falls is riddled with horse trails and farms for horses and riding.

"It's an effective therapy for wheelchair bound kids, to get them on the horse and their hips moving," he said.

"We had more runners than we expected with this weather" said Donna Zimmerman, a member of the board of Lift Me Up. "A lot

more people said they were going to do it next year," she said.

Wiehan Peyper, 31, of Great Falls took home first place, but second place winner, Harry Morson, 14, of Burke was not far behind him. "This is my training ground, so I better win on my own course," said Peyper.

"The race was pretty good and not too hilly," said Morson.

Langley High School's wrestling team also came to run Sunday morning. Their coach thought it would be a good idea for his team to get an early morning Sunday workout.

Lift Me Up's annual fundraiser gala this year will be help on Nov. 18. Their website for the event is www.liftmeupgala.com.



Alex Woltman, a freshman at Langley High School crosses the finish line followed closely by Will Leger, a sophomore at Langley High School at the Great Falls Lift Me Up 5K Sunday morning, Nov. 5 in Great Falls village center.



Donna Zimmerman, member of the board for Lift Me Up gives Wiehan Peyper, 31, of Great Falls a medal for winning first place in the Great Falls Lift Me Up 5K Sunday morning, Nov. 5.



From left: Lauren and Connor Hoffman, and their sons, Easton and Carden, pictured after completing the Great Falls Lift Me Up 5K and fun run Sunday morning, Nov. 5.



The Langley high school wrestling team came to participate in the Great Falls Lift Me Up 5K Sunday morning, Nov. 5 in Great Falls village center.

Words Not Enough

Advocates demand local change on immigrant interactions.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County “is making money off the suffering” of the immigrant community, said Matt Bakker.

“Worst of all, Fairfax County through its Sheriff’s Office maintains a contract with ICE [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement] to hold immigrants within the Adult Detention Center as if they were under federal custody,” said Bakker, who spoke on behalf of a coalition of advocates on immigration.

“They also act as informants and they tell ICE where to find the person,” said Diane Burkley Alejandro, of ACLU People Power.

“This is aiding and abetting,” she said.

Fairfax County has turned more than four times as many immigrants over to ICE in 2017 as they had by this time last year, including 100 people in September alone, according to Alejandro. Immigrants are often jailed when others would be cited and released, she said.

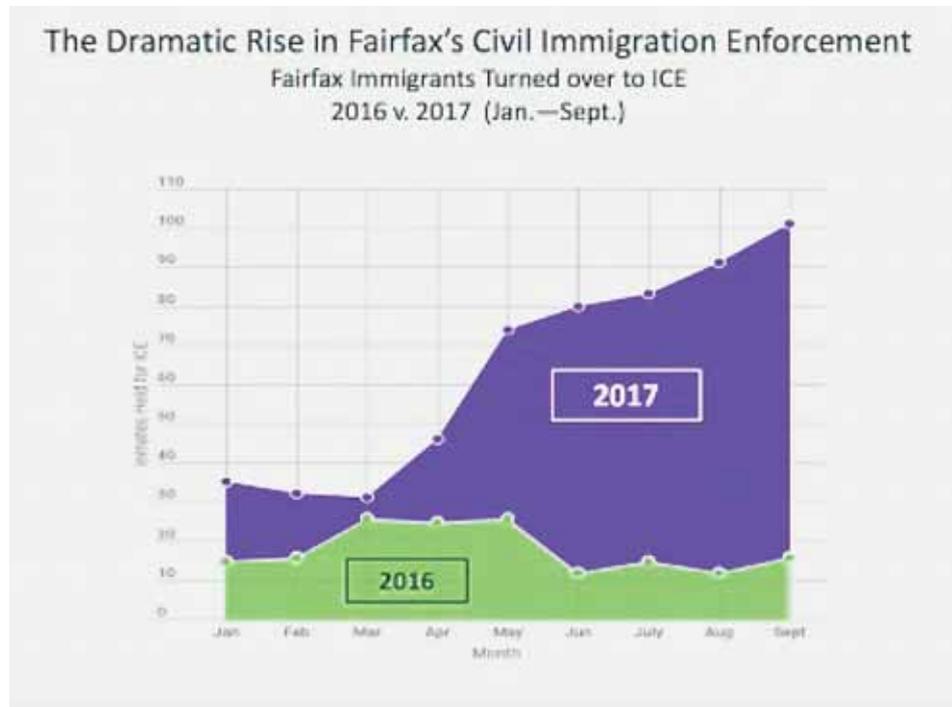
“These people end up in ICE custody through the police. Police send people to jails when I would be given a summons,” said Alejandro. “The Police and Sheriff admit they do not have to hand over a single person to ICE; they do it anyway.”

Six people waited more than eight and a half hours on Tuesday, Oct. 24, to speak before the Board of Supervisors during the public comment period at the end of its regularly scheduled board meeting.

“Current policies of cooperating with ICE are ripping holes in the fabric of our community. We’re better than this,” said the Rev. Alexis Vaughan Kassim, of the DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network.

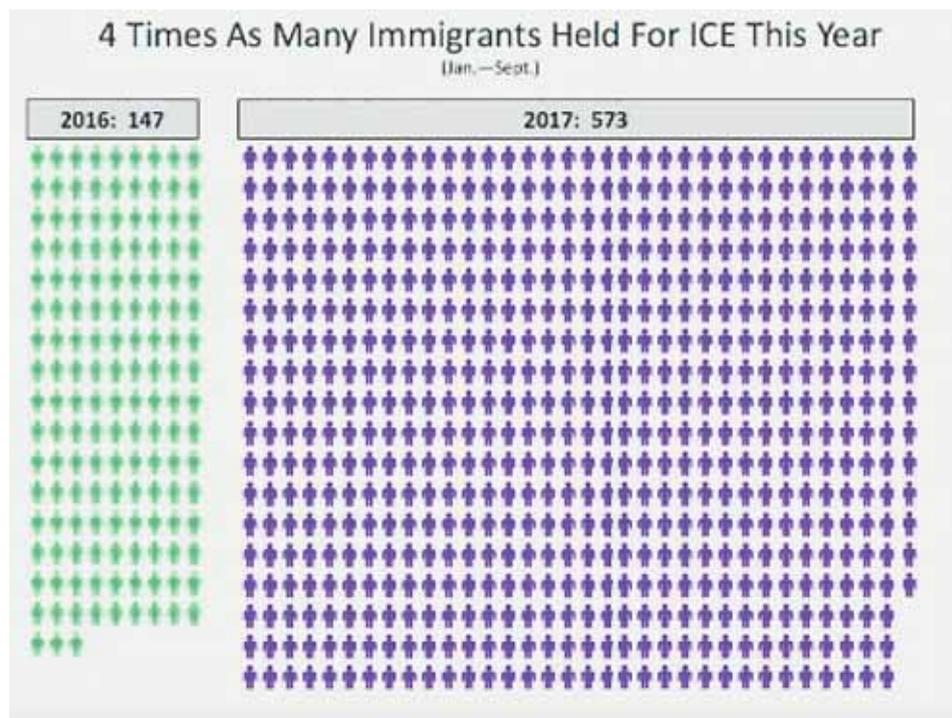
THE BOARD VOTED to adopt a resolution on April 4, 2017 pledging non-cooperation with federal government on immigration law except when serious criminal activity is involved.

“While immigration is a federal matter, Fairfax County does partner with federal authorities on serious criminal matters when required,” according to the resolution. “Whereas, we do not ask, nor do we have the resources for, our police officers to become immigration officials, nor for Fairfax County to assume the responsibilities of federal immigration officials.”



GRAPHICS FROM DIANE BURKLEY ALEJANDRO/ACLU PEOPLE POWER

An increase in civil immigration enforcement in Fairfax County occurred between 2016 and 2017.



Fairfax County has turned over four times as many immigrants to ICE in 2017 (573) as it did in 2016 (147).

Chairman Sharon Bulova stated in her Board Matter that same day: “Fairfax County is a welcoming and accepting com-

munity where residents of all backgrounds deserve to feel respected and safe. It is important that we, as local leaders, speak out

More

Immigrants in Fairfax County:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2017/immigrants.htm

when our constituents are concerned regarding policies or practices that may affect them. We are a safe, diverse and caring community, and if that harmony is threatened, I believe we have a duty to speak out and clearly articulate our values.”

WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH, the advocates said.

“County officials have assured us they will not collaborate nor enforce immigration law but recent actions put the lie to these assertions,” said Bakker.

“Fairfax by its actions has embraced ICE’s mission of ensuring the deportation of all undocumented immigrants whether or not they have committed a crime and the data will show that,” said Alejandro.

“Our demand is simple,” she said. “Equal justice and liberty for all. More specifically, the county needs to treat immigrants as they do all other people.”

“All of our faith traditions call us to stand up for the humanity of our neighbors, to resist labeling undocumented residents in our community as criminals and outsiders, and to oppose policies that lead to the detention and deportation of our families, friends and neighbors,” said Vaughan Kassim.

Being undocumented is not a crime, said Allie Boldt, senior counsel with Demos, which conducts analysis of how county policy must be strengthened to protect immigrant communities “who are facing unfair and terrifying policies at all levels of government.”

“The legal landscape allows the county to do a lot more to protect its immigrant residents who are represented here today. In fact, the Constitution even requires some of these changes,” Boldt said.

The 10th amendment protects county government from being forced to do the federal government’s bidding, she said. “What that means is if ICE asks the county government to do something, the county

SEE LOCAL STANCE, PAGE 5



Diane Burkley Alejandro, ACLU People Power



Matt Bakker



Allie Boldt, DEMOS



Jorge Mendez, CASA



Govind Nair, Northern Virginia Ethical Society



The Rev. Alexis Vaughan Kassim, of the DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network



“Who Are They?” Statistics on immigrants held in jail for ICE pickup and deportation.

Local Stance on Immigration

FROM PAGE 4

can just say no.”

Boldt asked the county to end arrests and detention based on civil immigration matters, to restrict when and how information about a person’s immigration status is shared, to accept a wider range of identification documents, and to ban county contracts and agreements to perform and facilitate federal immigration law enforcement.

A DECLARATION was read in English by Bakker and then in Spanish by Jorge Mendez, representing CASA.

They requested that the county terminate any agreement with ICE, including agreements between ICE and the Office of the Sheriff; that the police department update its general order so “it protects our community rather than attack it;” that traffic and safety policing no longer lead to detention and deportation of immigrants; that the Sheriff’s Department no longer honors ICE requests to detain immigrants unconstitutionally; that the juvenile detention authorities no longer share information with ICE; and that county buildings, including schools and courts, be “safe spaces” that “forbid entry to ICE officers.”

“With this declaration we demand that all authori-

ties in Fairfax County end their agreement and voluntary and unnecessary collaboration with ICE. In place of your ineffective statements of support, we need policies that guarantee non-cooperation with ICE,” said Bakker.

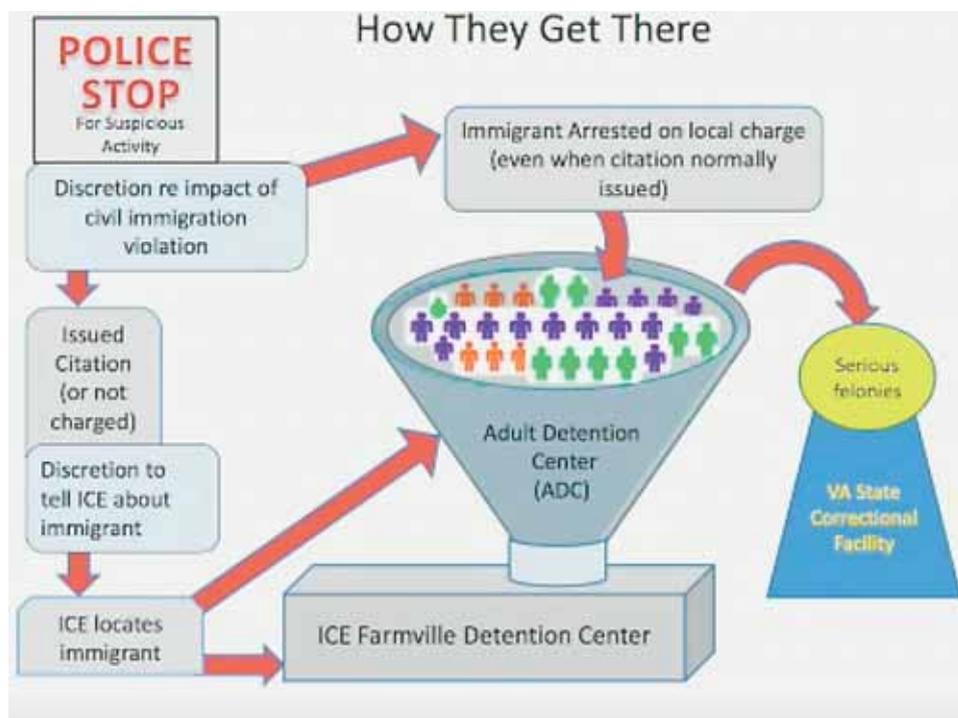
“An atmosphere of fear, intimidation, arbitrary detention and xenophobia is not compatible with the ethical basis of our ... community nor with the continued economic vitality and social progress with which Fairfax County has up to now been an exemplary model,” said Fairfax resident Govind Nair, of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society.

BULOVA THANKED thanked the speakers for their work, testimony and advocacy.

“This is a difficult time in our world and in our community and in this country,” Bulova said. The board is required to strike a balance “between making sure we continue to be a welcoming place, a tolerant place where people from all over the globe have felt comfortable coming to,” she said, and “making sure we are protecting the public.”

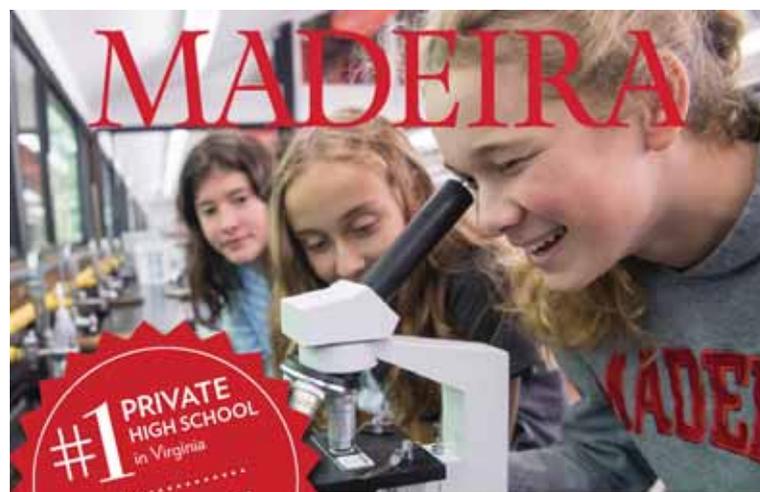
“We do have issues of human trafficking and gangs that do require our cooperation. Everyone deserves to be safe.”

She said the board awaits response from the police chief. “We should be hearing back.”



“How They Get There:” Interaction with local police can land undocumented immigrants in ICE custody in a variety of ways.

GRAPHICS FROM DIANE BURKLEY ALEJANDRO/ACLU PEOPLE POWER



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OPINION

Be Part of Children's Issue 2017

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

EDITORIAL

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

- ❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever been given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 1. The Children's Edition will publish the last week of 2017.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD or flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

- ❖ For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

- ❖ For Alexandria, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Mount Vernon, or Potomac, Md., email to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

See last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Poll Favors Housing

Voters believe people who work in their community should be able to find a home there.

BY MICHELLE KROCKER,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
NORTHERN VIRGINIA
AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLIANCE

The first-of-its-kind public opinion poll on housing was conducted recently by the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University to gauge Virginians' thoughts on policies and programs that address housing affordability in the Commonwealth. The poll was commissioned by the Campaign for Housing and Civic Engagement (CHACE), a statewide housing advocacy network led by the Virginia Housing Alliance and the Virginia Poverty Law Center.

A majority (54 percent) of respondents favor public sector investment in affordable housing at the state and local government level. That support includes maintaining and expanding the uses for the Housing Trust Fund, reducing

homelessness, facilitating "aging in place" modifications, and promoting energy efficiency in affordable housing.

A summary of some of the more salient points raised in the survey include:

- ❖ 82 percent of voters strongly believe that people who work in their community should be able to find a home there (economic diversity; access to opportunity);

- ❖ 56 percent of voters agree that housing affordability is vital to their community's economic success (economic competitiveness; diversity; access to opportunity);

- ❖ 58 percent of voters also believe that ending homelessness is an important government priority (access to opportunity);

- ❖ 89 percent of Virginians favor holding energy companies accountable by requiring them to meet energy saving goals for

SEE KROCKER, PAGE 14

Getting Ready for Company

BY JOE FAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF FACETS

The warm fall masks what's ahead: a cold winter that jeopardizes the lives of those who have no home. Despite the warmer than average temperatures, the annual community effort to protect and provide for Fairfax residents who are living in the woods, on the streets, in cars, and abandoned buildings is gearing up.

Since 2003, FACETS' Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program has provided a safe place to sleep and nutritious meals to men and women who are experiencing homelessness. This program is operated across Fairfax and Falls Church in partnership with the Fairfax County government and approximately 40 faith communities.

Planning starts months before as our team at FACETS, a nonprofit that opens doors by helping those who suffer the effects of poverty in Fairfax, meets with faith community and county partners on the logistics needed to serve hundreds of guests. Throughout the winter, each faith community partner takes a week when they open their



doors to provide shelter. In anticipation, churches and temples are preparing their facilities to welcome people in need during the cold months ahead — cleaning, getting supplies, and making fixes and upgrades. Other volunteers are

planning menus and meals to serve.

Over the years, the program has evolved from solely offering a safe haven to also offering life-enhancing programs. The cold winter means demand for our services goes up. It also means we have the opportunity to address these needs in a very personal way as more people come in from the cold through our hypothermia prevention effort. We use these interactions to connect even more people with housing solutions and critical services.

Last year, we served nearly 300 guests through the hypothermia prevention program. In addition, our case managers worked with 125 of these guests to connect them with health, housing, and job placement services as well as veterans and Social Security benefits.

In addition, we connected some

SEE FAY, PAGE 14

Great Falls CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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NEWS

Human Trafficking Seminar Scheduled To Be Held at The Madeira School

“Human trafficking is real and it is happening in Fairfax County,” said Just Ask President and former Fairfax County Police Detective Bill Woolf, noting that, “Teen sex trafficking is the second fastest growing crime in Fairfax County.”

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) will kick off a Human Trafficking awareness seminar on Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. at The Madeira School that includes training from Woolf.

Sponsored by the Great Falls Rotary and open to community members, Great Falls Rotary President Vishal Chawla said, “We have invited several human trafficking awareness leaders to come together to help our community prevent and protect their families from human trafficking. Education is the best and most important tool.”

The evening includes personal stories from survivor Alicia Kozakeiwicz, and author, advocate, and survivor, Barbara Amaya, as well as information on how to recognize and report potential human trafficking happening in Virginia.

Featured speaker Nancy Rivard, president of Airline Ambassadors said, “Each young person, parent and community member interacts with hundreds of people in their daily lives, at school, at the mall, grocery store and sporting events and knowing how to recognize trafficking indicators can help stop trafficking before it begins.”

Recognizing the importance of highlighting teen sex trafficking locally, Madeira Head of School Pilar Cabeza de Vaca, said, “Madeira’s seminar on human trafficking awareness brings to light the scope of human trafficking, and empowers participants to act locally and play an important role in the prevention of modern day slavery.”

Participants will be given resources for support including handouts, wallet cards and fact sheets to assist them in recognizing and reporting potential human trafficking.

To register for the free Human Trafficking Awareness Seminar at Madeira, go to madeira.org and register in the events section.



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Home LifeStyle

Light Up the Season

Tastemakers create holiday trees, mantel-pieces, wreaths and a menorah for charity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Some local designers are collaborating with patients at Children's National Health Center to deck the hall for charity. The tastemakers are creating holiday trees, mantle pieces, wreaths and a menorah for a community fundraiser called "Light Up the Season." The Creative & Therapeutic Arts Services at Children's National worked with the Children's Health Board to pair designers with patients for inspiration.

"We were very excited to learn about Light Up the Season and be able to take part," said Nadia Subaran of Aidan Design. "Over the years we've been regular participants in the DC Design House, another charity event benefitting Children's National. However, with this event we got the chance to interact and collaborate with the children that these events benefit. It's been a much more hands on experience for us. And who doesn't love decorating holiday trees?"

Subaran, along with Megan Padilla and Kelly Emerson also of Aidan Design created a holiday tree design called "A 'Wimpy' Tree - A Tree in Cartoons," which was inspired by a patient named Wesley and his favorite book series, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."

"Our tree will explore a black and white theme in keeping with the graphic novel genre," said Subaran.

The design team says that they used 2- and 3-D interpretations of classic Christmas décor combined with "striking graphic visuals, pops of color, and a good dose of wit, the tree will be both a throwback to a simpler time and on trend for young readers."

"A Guiding Light" is the name of the mantel design created by Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Proxmire, Inc.

and inspired by a patient named Cheyenne. In creating her mantel, the designer said that she, "tied in biblical references to light, which are shown throughout the display, and incorporated Cheyenne's favorite color: red for a red, white and silver-themed mantel."

Two sisters named Leilah and Ava were the inspiration for a tree design called, "A Colorful Family Christmas" by Annie Elliott and Christy Maguire of Annie Elliott Interiors. "When asked what they liked best about Christmas, the girls agreed that being together with their entire family was tops," said Elliott. "In that spirit, they inspired our theme, 'A Colorful Family Christmas.' Playing board games, reading stories, sitting around a fire and decorating the tree also are favorite family activities. You'll see all of these holiday traditions reflected in our



PHOTO BY RYAN MEDIA LAB

Annie Elliott (right) and Christy Maguire (left) of Annie Elliott Interiors, (pictured with Leilaha and Ava) will collaborate on a holiday tree for Light Up The Season 2017.

tree's decorations."

"Leilah and Ava have many favorite colors, but a winner for both is teal," added Maguire. "Therefore, teal drives the tree's color palette, and other of the girls' favorites, purple, blue, and green, also are included."

Other area designers include Lena Kroupnik of Lena Kroupnik Interiors, Allie Mann and Alexandria Hubbard of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., Camille Saum of Camille Saum Interiors of Bethesda, Md.; Victoria Sanchez of Victoria at Home, Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron, Ashley Greer of Atelier Ashley

Flowers of Alexandria; Pamela Harvey of Pamela Harvey Interiors of Herndon; Josh Hildreth and Tara Price of Josh Hildreth Interiors of Reston and Lisa Tureson of Studio Artistica in Oak Hill.

The holiday designs will be on display during a family-friendly community fundraising event to benefit Children's National at Four Seasons in Georgetown, 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1-4 p.m. There will be activities for all ages, such as holiday cookie decorating, ornament making, a visit from Santa and Children's National Dr. Bear mascot, musical performances and youth entertainers, silent auction, and light fare and libations. In addition, guests will be encouraged to write holiday cards for Children's National patients. Visit childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason for more.



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U.S., Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) with Great Falls Rotarian Gary Pan along with friends & family.



Great Falls Rotary Club Celebrates Oktoberfest

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

On Oct. 28, the Second Annual Great Falls Oktoberfest, presented by the Great Falls Rotary Club, was held at the River Bend Golf & Country Club.

What started as a simple idea between friends at an impromptu Rotary meeting has now turned into a successful event – bringing locals and travelers from across the country alike to Great Falls – to celebrate Oktoberfest. The Great Falls Oktoberfest raised funds to help many of the charities and initiatives supported by the Great Falls Rotary Club. The funds that were raised from everyone joining in the singing, dancing and celebrations of Oktoberfest helped to continue raising awareness and support charities such as: Stop Soldier Suicide, Madeira Human Traffic Seminar, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Embry Rucker Community Shelter and many more.

The event attracted nearly 400 individuals. Many of the attendees took it upon themselves to fully immerse in the celebration by wearing the traditional Lederhosen / Dirndl combination of clothing. The spirit of the Bavarian festival was alive and well in Great Falls with a 30-piece authentic Bavarian band, dancers, a roving authentic accordionist, unlimited authentic German food, beer and wine.

Great Falls Oktoberfest 2018 plans are already underway. To keep up with all of the latest developments, see pictures and video of this year's Oktoberfest, or most importantly, how to secure a place at next year's Great Falls Oktoberfest, visit www.GreatFallsOktoberfest.com and subscribe to the newsletter.

The Great Falls Rotary meets every Thursday morning at River Bend Golf & Country Club at 7:30 a.m. Visit the Rotary club website at www.RotaryGreatFallsVa.org for membership information.

The event attracted nearly 400 individuals.



Ed Barrientos and Tom Dungan



Gary Pan, Michele Sink, and Drazen Alcocer with friend.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left: Thor Kurzenhauser and Greg Gersony.

Great Falls Troop 673 Promotes Two New Eagle Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 673, sponsored by the Great Falls United Methodist Church's Men's Club, recently celebrated the promotion of two new Eagle Scouts, Gregory Gersony and Thor Kurzenhauser, on Oct. 29.

Greg, son of Cindy and Robert Gersony, joined Troop 673 in 2012 after earning the Arrow of Light as a Cub Scout. Since joining the troop, Greg has served in the leadership positions of Patrol Leader, Guide, Instructor, Scribe, and Order of the Arrow representative. While serving in these positions, he was accepted into the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society; completed the requirements for joining the Order of the Arrow Brotherhood; and earned 31 merit badges and the National Outdoor Award (for camping). He attended the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan in 2015, and participated in two of Scouting's High Adventures: Sea Base (sailing in the Florida Keys), where he was crew leader; and Northern Tier (canoeing in the Canadian wilderness).

For his Eagle Project, Greg constructed a 1,200-by-3-foot trail along the Jeffery Road boundary of Riverbend Park. The trail provides both safety and environmental benefits. Greg worked closely with John Callow and Gary Eisner of Riverbend Park. More than 60 volunteers worked on the project, which took place in June 2015. Riverbend Park named the path the Burdine Farm Trail, and Greg dedicated the project to Mark Waugh, a fellow Troop 673 Eagle Scout.

Greg is a junior at Langley High School where he is active

in the marching and jazz bands and is a member of Langley's Debate team. He plans to study history and international relations in college.

Thor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kurzenhauser, joined Troop 673 in 2012 after earning the Arrow of Light as a Cub Scout. Since joining the troop, Thor has served in the leadership positions of Patrol Leader, Instructor, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. He earned 23 merit badges and the 50 Miler Award. Thor also participated in two of Scouting's High Adventures: Sea Base and Philmont (hiking and camping in the mountains of New Mexico), where he served as the Leave No Trace and Wilderness Pledge Guide (Guide) for his crew. In addition, he completed the 180-mile C&O Canal troop bike trip and a troop canoe trip to the Adirondacks.

For his Eagle Project, Thor built a walking- and horse-bearing bridge over a culvert on the Burdine Farm Trail (Greg's Eagle project, described above). The purpose of the bridge was to make it safer to ride horses and for foot traffic alongside Jeffrey Road. The design of the bridge itself took many different architectural design drafts and many hours of paperwork, but was accomplished on time with the help of a number of volunteers in March of this year.

Thor is a junior at Langley High School where he has played multiple sports, including football, lacrosse, and wrestling, and has earned the Athletic Scholar award and an Academic letter. After high school, Thor would like to attend a military academy.

Local Girl Restores a Christmas Tradition

BY ADRIENNE WEST
THE CONNECTION

Mary Burke, a high-school senior and life-long resident of Great Falls, needed a local project for her American Heritage Girls award requirement. She wanted to give back to her community and incorporate manual labor, so she turned to the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation (CGFF) to see what they needed done.

Erin Lobato, director of CGFF, suggested the Santa House and Mary loved the idea of restoring the site of many childhood memories. And so began Mary's path to fixing the home of Santa and Mrs. Claus, and hopefully securing a prestigious award.

Mary is a homeschooled student with plans to attend Virginia Tech or the Coast Guard Academy. She has been in the American Heritage Girls (AHG) for many years and now finds herself at their highest level of recognition.

AHG's Stars and Stripes award is equivalent to the Boys Scout's Eagle Scout award. The year-long process to apply included getting project approval, raising her own money for materials, and finding local volunteers. Mary exceeded her fundraising goals in July, raising more than \$600 at the village Exxon. Local adult and youth volunteers did the manual labor portion of the project in mid-July.

The Santa House sits on the lacrosse field year round, covered by a tarp until early December when Santa and Mrs. Claus visit for the Celebration of Lights. After lighting the Christmas tree, they meet local children in the Santa House to hear their Christmas wishes. However, after more than 20 years, the Santa House had deteriorated and no longer reflected the love our community has for this tradition.

Erin Lobato, director of the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation, said, "We were thrilled that Mary Burke was willing to do the research and take the time to remove the old termite-infested flooring and then replace it with a sturdy, termite-proof solution. ... I think the project was a significant one but she did an amazing job raising money, soliciting volunteers to help build, and getting quality materials donated."

Afterward, Mary wrote a 20-page project report which passed a local review board, and now her packet sits at the organization's national level. Mary will find out this month if she won, which will make her the first girl in her troop (Sterling's Troop 1975) to do so.

American Heritage Girls

American Heritage Girls is a national character development organization for girls ages 5 to 18 that embraces Christian values and encourages family involvement. Visit www.americanheritagegirls.org for more.



Ripping the old floor up.



New foundation put down.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARY BURKE



Mary Burke



Floor done: Mary Burke at the home of Santa and Mrs. Claus.

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Great Falls Transportation Issues to be Discussed

The Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) is hosting a Town Hall meeting for members and the public on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike. William Dunn, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Project Manager for the Route 7 Corridor Improvements Project, and other VDOT staff will be speaking on major changes begin planned.

Almost seven miles of Route 7 is slated for widening from Tysons Cor-

ner to Reston Avenue. Construction is expected to begin in late 2018/early 2019 and last for about six years. While it is expected that planned improvements will increase capacity on Route 7, some residents have expressed concern that traffic congestion on Georgetown Pike could increase during construction. GFCA has been discussing this and other issues with VDOT.

As the last Design Public Hearing was in November 2016, the upcoming Town Hall

meeting is an opportunity to hear about changes to the plans that have made over the last year, the updated schedule, construction approach, and find out how the project may impact area neighborhoods.

Residents who have any issues, concerns or questions about the project should plan to attend. Previous plans and comments from the November 2016 hearing can be found at www.connectroute7.org under Meetings.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Broadway Exhibit. Through Nov. 18, 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.

Vienna-Wide Food Drive. Through Dec. 31, bring food contributions to Vienna Town Hall - 127 Center St. S; Vienna Arts Society-115 Pleasant St. NW; Bikes@Vienna-128-A Church St. NW; Caffe Amouri-107 Church St., NE; Evolution Fitness- 216 Dominion Road, NE; Rexall Drug Store-150 Maple Ave. W; Drs. Covell, Stack and Henon- 120 Beulah Road, NE; Patrick Henry Library (co-sponsored by Supervisor Cathy Hudgins) and the Vienna Community Center. Girl Scout Troop 2684 will be helping NEVCA by picking up the food. Sponsored by Committee for Helping Others. Call 703-281-7614.

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.

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

Fit for Life Classes. Wednesdays through Nov. 22, 11 a.m.-noon at Bruen Chapel United Methodist Church, 3035 Cedar Lane, Fairfax. Sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, to improve strength, balance and mobility for older adults, taught by instructor, Michele DeGarmo. \$5. Call 703-281-0538 or email eileentarr1@verizon.net

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 FreeTaiChi.org.

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

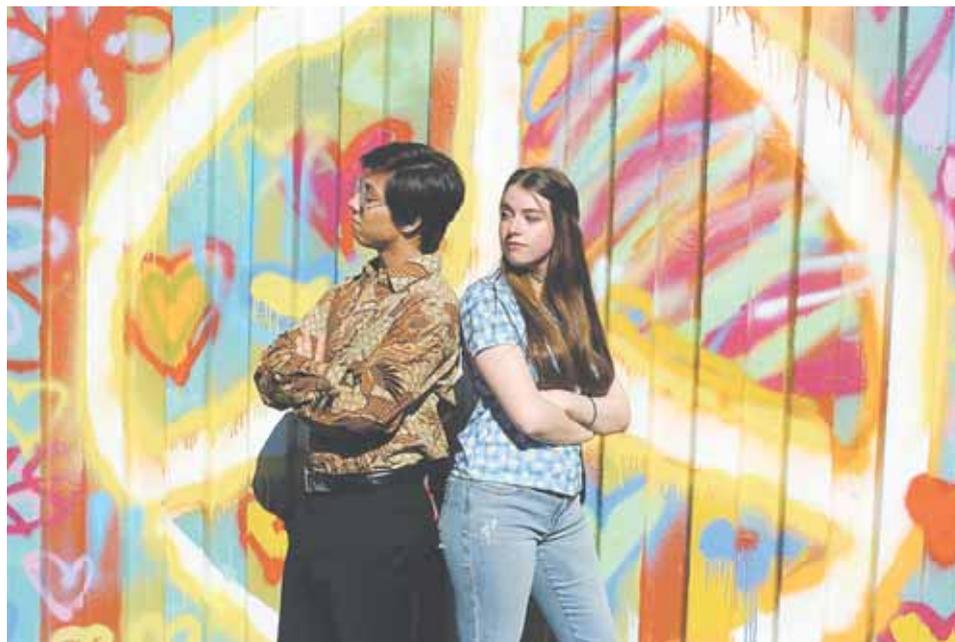
Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and titles vary. Free admission.

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

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

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 8

Great Falls Historian. 7 p.m. at the



'Much Ado About Nothing'

Oakton High School Theater presents Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing," Nov. 9-11, 7 p.m. at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road. \$10. Visit www.oaktondrama.org for more.

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.

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/.

THURSDAY/NOV. 9

Wildflower Folklore. 1-3 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Alonso Abugattas is a well-known naturalist, environmental educator, and storyteller will present "Wildflower Folklore" at the Great Falls Garden Club meeting. Call 703-759-2367 or visit www.gfgardenclub.org.

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.

NOV. 9-11

Oakton High School Theater. 7 p.m. at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road. Oakton High School Presents: Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." \$10. Visit www.oaktondrama.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 10

On Eagles' Wings Veterans Day 10K race. 10 a.m. at Grace Christian Academy, 3233 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Proceeds benefit Grace Christian Academy Scholarship Fund and Decorate a Vet. \$40. Visit www.gracechristianacademy.org/10K.

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.

Bowman House Pottery Show and Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Bowman House Arts and Crafts Center, 211 Center St. S. Pottery on sale from teachers and students from parks and recreation pottery classes. Visit www.viennava.gov.

Great Falls Veteran's Day Ceremony. 11 a.m. at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial behind the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike. The event will include a Marine Corps color guard, patriotic songs by the Langley Madrigals, and remarks by Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Timothy F. Ghormley. Call 703-248-0390 or email bruce@newdream.net.

TUESDAY/NOV. 14

Vienna Oakton Chapter of NARFE. 1 p.m. at American Legion Post 180, 330 North Center St., Vienna. The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will have Margaret Mensch of Arlington Ladies speaking. Call 703-938-9757.

Meet the Author. 7:30 p.m. at the Balls Hill Government Center 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Author and historian William Connery will address "Mosby's Raids on Civil War Northern Virginia." Call 703-356-8223.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 15

Meet the Silhouette Artist. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Barston's Childs Play, 1382 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Third Generation Silhouette Artist Karl Johnson will be on hand to create hand cut silhouettes. Call 703-448-3444.

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 and craft supplies for purchase, plus a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. Visit www.oaktonbrethren.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 17

Meet the Artist. 10 a.m.-noon at the



Meet the Artist

On Wednesday, Nov. 15 meet Silhouette Artist Karl Johnson who has done celebrity silhouette's in his career including this one of J Lo. Johnson will be at Barston's Childs Play, 1382 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 703-448-3444 for more.

Dolley Madison Library, rooms 1 and 2, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. Rachel Collins, a local watercolor artist and member of the National Watercolor Society, will be the presenter. Collins teaches classes at the Art League School in Alexandria, Va. and the Yellow Barn Studio in Glen Echo, Md. Call 703 653-9519.

Movie Double Feature. 3:30-10 p.m. at the The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road. Trip to AMC Tysons for two movies and dinner at the food court. \$35/\$25 McLean Community Center members. Call 703-790-0123, or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Smart Driver Class. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Oakton United Methodist Church, 2951 Chain Bridge Road. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna is sponsoring a refresher two-day driver course geared for drivers age 50 and older. \$15 for AARP members (bring AARP membership card) \$20 for AARP non-members. Call 703-281-0538.

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.

SATURDAY/NOV. 18

Peggy the Pint-Sized Pirate. 2 p.m. at the The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Live production with a pirate named Peggy. Free. Call 703-790-0123, or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 19

Turkey Trot. 8 a.m. Start and finish at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Dept., 400 Center St. S. Visit www.viennaturkeytrot.org/.

American Legion Breakfast. 8 a.m.-noon at Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Buffet includes omelets, blueberry pancakes, sausage, bacon and more. Adults \$9, children 12 and under \$3. Call 703-938-6580.

Peggy the Pint-Sized Pirate. 2 p.m. at the The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Live production with a pirate named Peggy. Free. Call 703-790-0123, or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

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 or call 703-938-6471.

FRIDAY/NOV. 24

Wagon Ride at Dusk. 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Sunset trip through the park. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/.

MONDAY/NOV. 27

Explore the Moon by Telescope. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Explore the lunar surface is marked by craters and lava flows billions of years old. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm/.

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.

STARTING DEC. 8

Watercolor Workshops with Joe Phillips. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Vienna Arts Society, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Class each Friday until Jan. 1. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

SUNDAY, DEC. 10

Blue Christmas Service. 3:30 p.m. at Katie's Coffee House 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. A non-traditional service of remembrance and hope, brought to you by Great Falls Area Ministries. Call Carol Wright 703-582-1640.

NEWS



Pat Menster Neuman, pastel on paper, "Queen Anne in the Field."



Richard Masaniello's jewelry.



A photograph from Lesley Hackman.

'Walking the Path' Exhibit at Great Falls Library

"Walking the Path" exhibit is open through November at the Great Falls Library – Large Meeting Room, featuring work of the members of Great Falls Studios (GFS):

- ❖ Lesley Hackman, photography and quilts, hackmant@starpower.net
- ❖ Richard Masaniello, jewelry, masaniellor@gmail.com, and
- ❖ Pat Neuman, pastels, kellpatkit@aol.com

Great Falls Studios, founded in 2003, celebrate creativity, serve the community and help local artists advance professionally. Visit www.GreatFallsStudios.com to learn more about the individual artists creating in home studios, unique spaces along back roads and wooded paths, and several "downtown" group ateliers in the village, more than 100 artists, producing quite special art — "Made in Great Falls."

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OPINION

How To Handle 'Nightmare Scenario'?

BY STEPHEN R. RUTH

SCHAR SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT
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We should fear Artificial Intelligence. Not in the future but now. Ask Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer of Facebook. She announced that her company, with its over 2 billion users, built software it cannot fully control. "We never intended or anticipated this functionality being used this way," Sandberg said, "— and that is on us." Facebook's operating systems had allowed Russian operatives to create accounts and ads aimed at influencing the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The gigantic network seems to have created systems that are ungovernable.

Facebook's problem hints at the extreme dangers lurking within Artificial Intelligence as it grows throughout the world. AI Experts are already talking about a "nightmare scenario," where nations' AI systems could ignite real-time conflicts. Consider, hair-trigger AI systems could eventually control several nations' military responses' and some error in any one algorithm could possibly lead to a nuclear catastrophe.

Between the Facebook case and the nightmare scenario is the immediate problem of millions of people losing jobs. Around the globe, programmable machines — including robots, cars and factory robots — are replacing humans in the workplace. Automation threatens 80 percent of today's 3.7 million transportation jobs, one U.S. government report estimated, including truck and school bus drivers, taxi drivers and Uber and Lyft drivers. Another report indicates AI is threatening aspects of the many different jobs, including call center operators, surgeons, farmers, security guards, retail assistants, fast food workers and journalists. A 2015 study of robots in 17 countries found that they accounted for over 10 percent of the countries' gross domestic product growth between 1993 and 2007. Consider, a major supplier for Apple and Samsung cell phones and computers, China's Foxconn Technology Group, is planning to automate 60,000 factory jobs with ro-

bots, replacing its existing employees. Meanwhile, Ford's factory in Cologne, Germany, not only replaced human workers with robots but also on some jobs stations position robots beside human workers — they are called cobots.

But these employment issues, as troubling as they are, cannot compare to the dangers envisioned by Elon Musk and Stephen Hawking. They are among the dozens of thought leaders who signed a letter harshly condemning governments' increasing reliance on AI for military use. Their chief concern is autonomous weapons, another example of AI. The U.S. military is already developing armaments that do not require humans to operate them. These weapons are being created to offer battlefield support for human troops. Autonomous arms are dramatically easier to develop and mass-produce than nuclear weapons. They will likely to soon appear on black markets around the world, certain to be favored by terrorist groups. To quote from the open letter, the new autonomous weapons would be ideal for dark actions including "assassinations, destabilizing nations, subduing populations and selectively killing a particular ethnic group."

There are some economic optimists like MIT's Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, who feel that AI will eventually bring long term prosperity to the world, but even they admit that finding common ground among, economists, technologists and politicians is daunting. Obviously, it will be very difficult to craft legislation about AI without more agreement about its potential effects.

We should definitely be fearful of artificial intelligence, not just because it is clearly destined to affect the number of available jobs, including those in middle and even upper middle class domains, but because its potential military use can lead to a perilous future, if not controlled. As the open letter signed by Musk and Hawking concluded, "Starting a military AI arms race is a bad idea, and should be prevented by a ban on offensive autonomous weapons beyond meaningful human control."

The author is director of the International Center for Applied Studies in Information Technology (ICASIT) <http://policy-icasit.gmu.edu/>

Krocker

FROM PAGE 6

their customers (sustainability);

❖ 61 percent of those surveyed are also willing to pay a 50 cent surcharge on their utility bill to help fund weatherization and energy efficiency programs (sustainability).

The CHACE campaign was planned to coincide with the November 2017 elections for all 100 members of the House of Delegates and the Governor's race. We applaud this effort and hope it's the beginning of a multi-year endeavor to speak more broadly

and frequently about the community and economic benefits of housing affordability to the Commonwealth. We urge all housing and community development organizations and individual housing activists to promote this survey and utilize the messages incorporated by the CHACE campaign. It is only through our collective efforts that we will move the issue of housing to a higher priority in local and state government planning and resource allocation.

See the full survey results at chaceva.files.wordpress.com/2017/09/chacesurveyreport.pdf.

Fay

FROM PAGE 6

guests with market-rate apartments or houses in the community, where they received rental subsidies and/or services that were tailored to their specific needs, including a caseworker to help ease the transition. Last winter, 34 hypothermia prevention program guests found a home through the interaction.

Fairfax has the second largest population in the region experiencing homelessness, a surprise for many who live in this county with so much abun-

dance. But we also have a caring, strong community filled with volunteers willing to give of their time and talents to make life better for all. These volunteers — who are cooking and cleaning to prepare for company that will arrive after Thanksgiving — are great hosts and an important part of our community's efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

To learn more or volunteer, visit us at www.FACETSCares.org.

Joe Fay is Executive Director of FACETS, a Fairfax-based nonprofit working to prevent and end homelessness.

BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY/NOV. 9

Transportation Project Closes Oakton Community Park. The Fairfax County Park Authority has closed Oakton Community Park to all visitors effective immediately. Oakton Community Park and all facilities including the playground, parking lot, and historic schoolhouse will be closed through April 2018 due to a transportation improvement project to be built by the Fairfax Utilities Design and Construction Division. Call 703-324-8662 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/ir152-17.htm for more.

Lecture: Saving, Investing and Avoiding Fraud. 7:30-9 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E., Vienna. Experts from the US Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) will teach how to be an informed investor, avoid scams and save effectively for retirement. Free. Email dsm11@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-938-0405 for more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 11

SALT Fall Advocacy Training Conference. 9-11 a.m. at the Virginia International University, Conference Room (VD-301), 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Sister Simone Campbell, will be the keynote speaker on "21st Century Poverty: Needed Action." Del. Ken Plum will address "Advocacy is moving to the state levels, Are you moving with it?" and Gay Gardner, with Interfaith Action for Human Rights will speak to "Making Solitary Confinement Truly a Last Resort." Free. Visit the SALT web site at www.S-A-L-T.org.

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.

DEADLINE NOV. 13

Apply for Fuel Assistance. The Virginia Department of Social Services is currently accepting applications for fuel assistance. To qualify for fuel assistance, the maximum gross monthly income for a one-person household must not exceed \$1,307. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income is \$2,665. Families and individuals can apply through their local department of social services office. To apply online or to check eligibility for services, visit the CommonHelp website at commonhelp.virginia.gov. Applications may also be submitted by telephone by contacting the Enterprise Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. at 855-635-4370.

TUESDAY/NOV. 14

Community Forum. 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Inn, 120 E. Maple Ave. Laurie DiRocco will host her quarterly "Mayor at Your Service" meeting. There will be a round table discussion about the history of the Vienna Inn with several panel members, including the Inn's original owners, Molly Abraham, as well as the current owner, Marty Volk. Visit www.viennainn.com/ for more.

THURSDAY/NOV. 16

Vietnam Veterans Chapter 227 Meeting. 7 p.m. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Gregory D. Foster, West Point graduate and Vietnam War veteran, will discuss senior U.S. military constitutional command responsibility. Visit www.vva227.org for more.

Police-Public Forum. 7-9 p.m. Heritage Human Resources Center, 7611 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The forums will provide information on the panel as well as the Independent Police Auditor, the scope of their responsibilities, how complaints can be submitted, and how complaints will be investigated and processed. Another forum will be held Dec. 12. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/ for more.

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Infusion Schedule is all Fowled Up



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Previously, chemotherapy only had anecdotally-described memory loss: "chemo brain" as proof of a missing fragment. Recently however, clinical studies have confirmed the link. Yet, I still feel as if I haven't forgotten that I don't recall any prior infusions occurring on the day after Thanksgiving, as my next infusion is presently scheduled. If I remember correctly, and there are occasional disputes, this would be the first Friday after a holiday when I've needed to be local, and infused. And yes, the Infusion Centers are open for business on the weekdays following major holidays.

Having recently had my quarterly, post-scan, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist and survived the ordeal, we moved on from discussing the scan results to being examined to scheduling future appointments - including a brain MRI and CT Scan, and of course, my next infusion. And looking at the calendar, Nov. 24 is that next date. Generally speaking, per previous conversations with my oncologist, rescheduling my infusions by a week or two, here or there, had not been much of a problem (my oncologist is a strong proponent of quality of life), and pretty much up to me. However, as I've gotten older and presumably wiser - and well aware of my creatinine level/kidney issues, my current infusion schedule is what it is for a reason - protecting my kidneys. Moving the infusion up a week or back a week is not an arbitrary, Kenny-made decision any more, despite my holiday wish least. Sure enough when I asked my oncologist if he had any thoughts on my possibly rescheduling my next infusion to five weeks or seven weeks (vs. the current six weeks), he had a specific preference: five weeks. This would mean infusing the Friday before the following Thanksgiving Thursday (the effect of which would likely cause some eating challenges for yours truly - on my favorite meal of the year no less) rather than extending the infusion interval to seven weeks.

His thinking, as he explained it to us was: he didn't want me to wait any longer for my infusion/medicine than was absolutely necessary. Not that I don't realize how precarious my situation is but I am sort of going merrily along of late. His rebuke, so to characterize, to me about not extending my next interval to seven weeks reminded me yet again of the seriousness of my underlying diagnosis. The last thing one can do is take cancer's inactivity for granted. Even though I've been stable for four years since I was last hospitalized in August 2013, I do have an incurable disease: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, and I was initially characterized as "terminal," so hardly am I "N.E.D.," no evidence of disease.

So my next infusion date is up to me, just not as 'up' as I thought it was/has been. Either I can keep my original six-week interval infusion appointment as currently scheduled or I can advance one week to five weeks (my previous regular interval). Extending it to seven weeks is not recommended. According to my oncologist, this is good news. Since my creatinine level/kidney function has not appreciably improved while extending the interval from five to six weeks, shortening the interval back to five weeks is not a concern to him which means my kidneys are up to the challenge, which is very reassuring since kidney damage is permanent.

And even though waiting a seventh week for my next infusion might allow my kidneys more time to filter the chemotherapy a bit longer, it might also give the cancer some time to activate - and we certainly don't want that.

However, nothing lasts forever, and cancer cells in particular are pretty resourceful and often figure out what's being done to them and start doing something else which leads to different treatment. At the moment, the drug I'm infusing, alimta, is working miracles. Perhaps the next drug will be as successful, perhaps not; and that of course is the problem, the unknown.

What I do know is this: a definite is better than a maybe. If I infuse the previous Friday, I definitely won't feel like eating on Thursday. If I infuse on the Friday after Thanksgiving, maybe I won't feel like driving. So what! A bird in hand ...

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



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