

Great Falls CONNECTION

Bald eagle, reclaiming its territory, lands on the exact spot on the snag that the Peregrine falcon just vacated at Riverbend Park.

Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle Face Off at Riverbend

NEWS, PAGE 8

Interfaith Wedding In Great Falls

COMMUNITY, PAGE 10

Planning Changes to Planning Commission

NEWS, PAGE 12

ENTERTAINMENT

PAGE 13

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

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NOVEMBER 22-28, 2017

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‘A Disaster for Northern Virginia’

Connolly holds roundtable on congressional tax plan.

BY ANDREA WORKER

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) says that he and his Democratic colleagues are more than willing to work in a bipartisan effort on meaningful tax form. “As a leader of the New Democrat Coalition, a group of pro-business Democrats, I have written on several occasions to Speaker Paul Ryan and Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady asking them to partner with us ... to simplify the tax code, create revenue ... and provide middle class tax relief.”

Speaking at a roundtable gathering that the congressman hosted at the offices of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) on Monday, Nov. 13, to discuss the consequences of the GOP tax plans, Connolly says those overtures have been rejected.

“Congress had a real opportunity to pursue neutral tax reform that would lower corporate tax rates and benefit the middle class,” Connolly expressed “deep disappointment” at the House and Senate bills being proposed, categorizing both as “shameful, corporate giveaways” that will have unprecedented and far-reaching negative effects on Northern Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation.

Connolly reported that by using “dynamic scoring” – a method of analysis that includes the potential feedback effect certain tax cuts can have, and that he said Republicans often advocate “because it provides more generous deficit projections for tax cuts” — the proposals actually increase the country’s deficit to \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, “and somebody has to pay that bill.”

An assessment of the tax plans by Congress’ nonpartisan Joint Taxation Committee released on Monday, Nov. 20, seems to support the congressman’s concerns. The committee’s analysis projects that some 13.8 million moderate-income American households would actually see a tax increase as a result of the Senate plan by 2019. Households earning less than \$200,000 per year would face increases of \$100 to \$500. The tax liability rises even more for earners between \$75,000 and \$200,000. According to the analysis, tax increases would be felt by 21.4 million households by the year 2025.

Connolly likened the plans to previously failed “trickle-down” attempts at tax reform and economic stimulus.

“1981, 2001, 2003. The Reagan and Bush tax cuts. So disastrous that they had to enact tax increases in 1982, 1983, 1984, 1987 and 1990” to raise the needed funds. “Then in the early 2000s, President George W.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) meets with local leaders to discuss the consequences of the proposed Senate and House GOP Tax Reform Bills. Connolly admitted from the start that he wasn’t there to “sing their praises.”



Bob Adamson, chairman of the board of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, views the proposed legislation as “unfair to homeowners,” and that they will have a negative “ripple effect” on the local economy and residents of the community.

Bush took the record surpluses of the Clinton era and created record deficits.” Connolly added that the trickle-down theory is based on “the hope and the prayer that such tax cuts will someday pay for themselves,” but that history has already proven “that assumption to be false.”

TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT of the proposed legislation on the Northern Virginia region, Connolly convened a group of local business leaders, economists and financial experts, as well as participants representing social service providers, persons with long-term medical and care needs, economists, parents of students with significant student debt, and seniors.

Connolly set the stage for the discussion with a few more facts and figures, although he cautioned that “we still haven’t seen the whole of either proposed legislation.”

* The plans either repeal or limit several tax breaks that are crucial to Northern Virginians, including medical and dental expense deductions, premiums for long-term care insurance, in-home and nursing home care, and mortgage interest deductions.

* The state and local income tax (SALT) deductions would be limited or even repealed. In Connolly’s 11th District, 50 percent of tax filers claim the SALT deduction,

with 75 percent of the claimants being in middle income tax brackets. The number of SALT claimants throughout Fairfax County is as high as 280,000 households.

* The plans call for the repeal of Estate Tax, which only applies to about the wealthiest 5,000 decedents each year, while cutting adoption tax credits and credits for small businesses that invest in accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities.

* According to the Tax Policy Center, after-tax income for the top 1 percent of earners would rise by about 2.6 percent by 2027, while those at the bottom 80 percent would see after-tax increase of between 0.0 percent and 0.6 percent.

After Connolly’s remarks, Bob Adamson, chairman of the board of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, was the first of the gathering to offer comments.

Representing some 12,000 Realtors in the region, Adamson stated that the NVAR “wants to be part of the solution,” but finds the proposed legislation to be “unfair to homeowners,” disproportionately placing the burden of “filling in the financial gaps” directly on them.

NVAR Chair-elect Lorraine Arora agreed, adding that “real estate bolsters the economy” with so many related jobs and services, and that any plan that suppresses

home buying will cause a “ripple effect of harm.”

The Realtors at the table also worried that the proposed tax reform will actually lower existing house values. NVAR CEO Ryan Conrad said that in the NoVa region, that decrease could be as much as \$30,000 lost in home equity.

ADDITIONALLY, THE REALTORS foresee a decrease in housing stock that is already an issue, and even see Fairfax County’s successes toward ending and preventing homelessness, slip into reverse, as developers are less able than ever to profitably build affordable housing.

Continuing the “ripple effect” theme, JoAnne Carter, managing director of PFM Financial Advisors, LLC, said that the proposals threaten the means by which municipalities, nonprofits and other businesses fund their services and investments in improvements and expansion.

“Eliminating Private Activity Bonds and causing cuts to ‘advance refinancing,’” said Carter is severely hampering the ability to finance the basics, like “schools, roads, hospitals, transportation, airports, sea ports, all of it.”

That in turn “increases the burden on the counties,” said Adamson, while potentially depleting their main source of revenue. For municipalities like Fairfax County, that are, in essence, only able to raise funds through property taxation, the choices are dauntingly few. Either raise those taxes significantly, or reduce expenditure on infrastructure and public and social services.

“And if we damage our AAA Bond rating,” added Carter, “it costs more for these municipalities and service providers to borrow.” According to Carter, Fairfax County could save between \$3-12 million when re-financing with a Triple A Bond rating. “Losing that could mean that public structures just don’t get built.”

Nancy Mercer, a licensed clinical social worker and the former executive director of the ARC of Northern Virginia, and Ridge Multop, an economist, former AARP Congressional Affairs and former House Budget Committee staffer, both discussed the impact the proposed tax bills could have on seniors, those with long-term care and/or medical issues, and those most in need and most vulnerable in the community.

Multop “put a face” on the discussion, speaking about an economist friend. “He’s 85 years old, on a fixed income, in assisted living. He looked at how these bills would impact him based on his 2016 tax filing and said it would raise his taxes by more than \$3,000. How do people like him cope with that?”

Eliminating tax deductions for medical expenses and long-term care would be harmful to seniors, Multop said, possibly forcing more into custodial care and placing an additional burden on municipalities

SEE ROUNDTABLE, PAGE 15

Speakers at the event included Joan Wehner, Bob Mobley, Joan Bliss and Phil Stone.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

NEWS

Olde Forestville School History Recounted

GLEN SJOBLUM
PRESIDENT,
GREAT FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Nov. 8, Douglas Cobb, Vice President of the Great Falls Historical Society, introduced a panel of four speakers at the Wednesday night meeting at the Great Falls Grange – Joan Wehner, Bob Mobley, Joan Bliss, and Phil Stone.



Douglas Cobb introduces panelists.

They spoke about the 1983 community-wide effort 34 years ago to buy and then to renovate the Olde Forestville School House. They were instrumental in these efforts that allow the continued use by Great Falls residents for many years to come. Many other “old timers” also helped raise the \$50,000 toward the purchase and another \$50,000 for the restoration. The Fairfax County Park Authority put up another \$150,000 in bond money to complete the purchase from United Virginia Bank. Initially Supervisor Nancy Falck, and the Park Authority were not in favor of the purchase, but when they saw how committed the community was, they came to see it in another light.

JOAN WEHNER also showed a few pictures of the long and earlier history of the little school. The building had been a one-roomed school, then a two-roomed school, then a residence, long before conversion to a bank and our Post Office. Additional earlier history was spontaneously recounted by Caroline Miller, who lived there as a child, and was in the last graduating school class in what was then called Forestville School, prior to the 1959 relocation to the next Great Falls school where two fire stations have since been built. Perhaps we can devote another whole program to this some day.

Joan Wehner led the presentations and displayed the many newspaper accounts including in the local papers and the Washington Post, which had been diligently researched by Alex Brudno of the Historical Society staff, and organized into the power point by the Society IT manager, Rebekah Johnson.

Joan also described the historical evolution of Great Falls before the two shopping areas came, when there was only the Grange, the school, Buck Werner’s general store, the 7-11, two gas stations and the old fire station along Georgetown Pike.

Names of prominent Great Falls citizens from the past were remembered, including Jack and Mary Bird, Harrison Wehner, Frances Davila, George and Elke Summers, Milburn Sanders, Mack (Jack) Crippen. The list goes on, and does, on the plaques still on the school-house wall, naming the dozens of benefactors and contributors to the effort. Just looking at this list is a history lesson.

Phil Stone told how he and Don Zeigler had created Great Falls Heritage as a 501c3 organization to accept tax-exempt donations and negotiate with the First Virginia Bank and the Fairfax County Park Authority for the transaction. Many people of the Great Falls Citizens Association had devoted time to “preserving the semi-rural character of the area” since it was created in 1967, and joined this effort as well.

Joan Bliss told of the fundraising efforts that she managed with help from Mary Bird, Dorothy Horvath and Francis Davila and others, including mailings, two fundraising Galas, with cars given for auction by the Ford and Toyota dealerships.

Bob Mobley, our local decorated architect, described the efforts on the restoration of the school, including replacing the roof with the traditional standing seam roofing, some floor joists and interior wall coverings, and installing the ground level handicapped entrance, the electrical service and the heating.

A handicapped bathroom was also added. Joan and Bob organized and oversaw the restoration work, which was done by many local artisans working pro-bono to help preserve a piece of our beloved little community.

AFTER THE MEETING, the attendees moved from the Grange

SEE HISTORY, PAGE 5

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History, Future of the Olde Forestville School Discussed

FROM PAGE 4

for a tour of a little school, where all enjoyed home made cookies, apple cider, coffee and good company with good and friendly people.

Who knows what the future of our Best Little School House will be? It has not been utilized very often in recent years, ever since the Fairfax County Park Authority began charging an hourly fee for each use of the Grange and Olde School, particularly since the Library allows free use of the meeting rooms in the Great Falls Library. George Adeler has led a group the past few years, to form a local organization, which would assume management control from the Park Authority and possibly allow more beneficial community uses. Some of the uses discussed are a Great Falls Visitors Center, a location for businesses to meet and a home and museum for the Great Falls Historical Society. At the present time, our Olde Forestville School just sits there, waiting for someone to love



Olde Forestville School

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

and take care of her. If our readers wish to provide input to the Historical Society on these future uses, send in your suggestions it at www.gfhs.org.



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OPINION

Shop Locally, Give Locally

Every day is for shopping small and shopping locally.

An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year that is Nov. 25. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is promoted as a day of national zeal for shopping. Presumably the next day shoppers can focus on local shopping.

EDITORIAL There is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Supporting small businesses, locally owned businesses, has to be more than a one-day affair. And in this area, there doesn't have to be anything small about shopping locally.

But still, local families will shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of

places.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

The small business owner is often the leader for fundraising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the holiday spirit there.

See Connection's Holiday Calendar for great celebrations near you.

❖ Fairfax County:

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/16/holiday-calendar-2017/

❖ Arlington:

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/arlington-holiday-calendar-2017/

❖ Potomac:

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/potomac-almanac-holiday-calendar-2017/

❖ Alexandria:

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/20/alexandria-holiday-calendar-2017/

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Short Deadline for Children's Edition

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.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent via email, dropbox or google drive 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.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. To be published, we must have first and last name of the student. Please include the student's age and/or grade, school attended and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Provide submissions by Friday, Dec. 1.

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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Focus on Community Policing, Positive Outreach

To the Editor:

In response to: www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/08/commentary-independent-progressive-doublespeak-imm/

Fairfax County police officers do not conduct immigration enforcement sweeps or stop individuals solely to inquire about immigration status. Fairfax County police officers follow General Order 601 and cannot arrest someone unless there is reasonable suspicion that a crime was committed or is being committed.

Operation and policy decisions regarding the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center fall under the authority of the Sheriff, an elected constitutional officer, independent

of the Board of Supervisors. Per Code of Virginia 19.2-83.2, when individuals are arrested and booked into the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, their computerized fingerprints are automatically transmitted to the Virginia State Police's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), regardless of their immigration status. The Virginia State Police forwards the information to other state and federal databases per their guidelines. From there, it is up to ICE to determine who is a priority for deportation. Before 2016, ICE operated under the Priority Enforcement Program and focused its efforts on deporting undocumented immigrants with serious criminal records. Under

the Trump Administration, the Priority Enforcement Program no longer exists, and any immigrant who is in the country illegally may be selected by ICE for deportation.

If ICE places an arrest warrant and an order to detain on an inmate in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, the Sheriff's Office will hold that inmate for up to 48 hours (not counting weekends and holidays) past his or her scheduled release date. If ICE does not take custody of the inmate within that time frame, the inmate will be released.

The Board of Supervisors, the Police Department, the Sheriff's Office and all Fairfax County government agencies comply with state and federal laws, and immi-

gration is a federal matter. Any changes regarding deportations or the focus and direction of ICE must come from the federal level. On the local level, we continue to focus on community policing through positive outreach and building trust with the residents we serve. All residents of Fairfax County should know that Fairfax County police officers are here to protect and serve any and all community members, regardless of citizenship. No person should be afraid to call the police out of fear of deportation — our police officers are not in that business.

Sharon Bulova

Chairman,
Board of Supervisors

Great Falls
CONNECTION

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Around the World on a Plate

To the Editor:

Every year, during the holiday shopping season, we hear the call to support our local businesses – Think Outside the Big Box: Buy Local.

This year, in the spirit of building bridges, and breaking down barriers in our growing, diverse community, let us support our local eateries and extend our efforts to think outside the takeout box as well.

Tour the globe with your palate in our very own Great Falls Village Center. Within a half mile radius, fill your plate with a taste of India, Ireland, Japan, the Mediterranean, and Tex-Mex, and swill some drinks that make people happy around the world.

Say “Namaste” to India at Bollywood Bistro, and get your fill of flaming flavors with their chicken tikka/lamb kebob, my favorite aloo chole (potato-chickpeas) and dal tadka (yellow lentils), the Malabari chicken curry (from the southern coast of India), a Nutty Kulfi to cool down your palate, or the carrot halwa to warm your soul. Sip an Indian whisky or India Pale Ale.

Kowtow to the Land of the Rising Sun with Izumi’s pan-seared tilapia fillet and mango salsa or Miso salmon with orange mint sauce, a side of white/brown/fried rice, mochi ice cream/fried banana, and sip some soothing sake to really feel the sun’s glow!

Meet Othman, who manages the Village Grill with Mediterranean warmth, and enjoy a plateful of succulent Lebanese/Persian kebobs, hummus (mashed chickpeas with garlic), tart tabouli salad, and delicious dolmas (minced meat in grape leaves). Their Mezza Platter gives you a sampling of some of these delectable delights.

Say “Ola!” to the newest entrant to our local food world – El Tio. You can’t go wrong with chicken enchiladas/shrimp burritos, and try chanting “Chimichanga!” as you drive away the blues with a big glass of mango margarita!

Finally, salute our oldest favorite, The Old Brogue, heart and soul of our community, by trying their specials – Burger Mondays, Maine Lobster Tuesdays, Short Ribs Hump Day, and Fried Chicken Thursdays – accompanied by fried pickles, beer battered onion rings, Rhode Island calamari, to fill you with the confidence that, despite everything, all is well with the world.

So, this festive season, in addition to our traditional “comfort foods,” let’s make a conscious effort to step outside our comfort zone and sample cuisines from around the world, right here in our own backyard. And, as the Irish blessing goes: “May the road rise to meet you” and “the sun shine warm upon your face.”

Happy holidays!

Shaila Muralidhar
Great Falls

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6 PM
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6:30 – 10:00 PM
Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

WEEKENDS

SATURDAYS December 2, 9, 16, and 23
4 – 9 PM Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

SUNDAYS December 3, 10, 17
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THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

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...and much more!

Juvenile Peregrine Falcon perched above Bald Eagle on nest at Riverbend Park.

PHOTOS BY
SETH R. HONIG



Bald Eagle flies off its nest at Riverbend Park looking up at the unwelcome falcon.

Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle Face Off at Riverbend Park

Birders thankful to witness a rare encounter between two iconic birds of prey.

BY DONALD M. SWEIG
THE CONNECTION

Some friends and I walked upriver on the River Trail at Riverbend Park on a Saturday afternoon earlier this month to look at the Bald Eagle nest in the sycamore tree on Minnehaha island in the middle of the Potomac. We were surprised to find an adult Bald Eagle on the nest moving the sticks around, even

though nesting season is a couple of months off.

Walking about 50 feet further up the trail to get a different look at the nest, I noticed a raptor perched with its back toward us at the top of a snag right next to the nest. "It's a Peregrine Falcon," I exclaimed. Sitting quietly on the snag, the juvenile Peregrine occasionally turned its head to preen, clearly showing the distinctive malar/mustache stripe on the side of its face.

Meanwhile the eagle in the nest was staring up at the Peregrine, getting more and more agitated and continually calling. The Peregrine appeared to pay no attention. Eventually, the Bald Eagle flew up out of the nest, displaced the falcon, and landed on the snag exactly where the Peregrine had been, reclaiming its territory. The presumably surprised Peregrine dived off the snag, flew over the nest and down river close to the surface of the river, made a quick pass at some Bufflehead ducks, a favorite food, on the water and continued out of sight.

One can only imagine how agitated the eagle would have been if there had been

chicks in the nest at the time. The eagle was still sitting on the snag when we left 10 minutes later. We looked for the Peregrine but didn't find it again.

Bald Eagles are fairly seen frequently at Riverbend and elsewhere along this section of the Potomac. However, the perched Peregrine falcon was an unusual sighting. Perhaps it was one of the young birds from the nest underneath the American Legion Bridge. Perhaps it was a migrant.

For us it was a little adventure to be thankful for on an autumn afternoon.

SEE MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 9

**DON'T MISS THE
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Juvenile Peregrine falcon perched on a snag at Riverbend Park in Great Falls.



Juvenile Peregrine Falcon dives off its perch to get out of the way of the Bald Eagle



Bald eagle, reclaiming its territory, lands on the exact spot on the snag that the Peregrine falcon just vacated at Riverbend Park.

Faith Notes

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

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, announces holiday worship schedule. Visit www.gflutheran.org or call 703-759-6068.

Thanksgiving Day worship – Thursday/Nov. 23 – 10 a.m.

During Advent, Christ the King will present a series of three midweek Advent programs. The overarching theme of these evenings is “Peace for Our Time.” Each evening’s sub-theme will grow from a Reformation-era hymn. Each evening’s program begins at 5:45 p.m. with supper followed by discussion, worship and the lighting of the Advent wreath. All are welcome.

❖ Thursday/Dec. 7 – Peace Between Nations, hymn: “Savior of the Nations Come” (ELW 263)

❖ Thursday/Dec. 14 – Peace in politics, hymn: “Now to the Holy Spirit Let us Pray” (ELW 743)

❖ Thursday/Dec. 21 – Peace in ourselves, hymn: “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” (ELW 268)

Blue Christmas Service – a non-traditional service of remembrance and hope – will be held at Katie’s Coffee House 760 Walker Road, Great Falls on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3:30 p.m. brought to you by Great Falls Area Ministries. For more information call Carol Wright 703-582-1640.

Yoga Class with a Christian Focus is held Saturdays, 3-4 p.m., McGill Hall or the Library at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. This group is suitable for those with beginner and/or intermediate yoga experience. Dress comfortably and bring a mat. Feel free to bring a towel, block(s) or strap. Contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

Mom’s Group meets second and fourth Thursday of the Month, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Join the group for coffee and fellowship. The group meets in the Lillian Croy Room, near the Church Office. Childcare will be available just across the hall in the Childcare Center. If you are interested in joining the group, contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521 so that we can plan appropriately for materials and childcare.

Fairfax Water

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF BUDGET AND WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

December 14, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2017, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water’s offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2018, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,100 to \$4,150¹
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$11,685 to \$13,420
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,240 to \$1,260¹
4. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.81 to \$2.94 per 1,000 gallons of water
5. An Increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$44 to \$45
6. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge
7. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$35 to \$36

¹ Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8” residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$178.7 million budget² for calendar year 2018. Revenues are expected to be \$178.7 million in 2018. Water sales are expected to provide \$155.8 million. Approximately \$22.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2017	2018
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 54,270	\$ 55,983
Power and Utilities	10,468	10,670
Chemicals	6,846	7,732
Purchased Water	7,677	6,340
Supplies and Materials	4,850	5,102
Insurance	1,186	1,200
Fuel	595	655
Postage	611	614
Contractual Services	11,252	11,610
Professional Services	990	1,025
Other	2,280	2,503
Sub-Total	101,025	103,634
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,991)	(10,248)
Total	\$ 91,034	\$ 93,386

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:	
Debt Payment	\$42,981,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$31,087,000

² Fairfax Water’s Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes to the rates can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. A copy of the proposed budget can be found at www.fairfaxwater.org. Those wishing to speak or receive a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

**Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031**

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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The Children's CONNECTION 2017

This keepsake, award-winning issue will be filled with the artwork and writings of local children starring their families, friends, pets, schools and more. Our family readers are your best customers, who take time to savor this edition during the holidays and beyond.

Be Part of the Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

The edition has won many awards. 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. To submit material, 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 if applicable, name of teacher and town of school location. E-mail to editors@connectionnewspapers.com. To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please send all submissions by December 27.



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- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Chantilly Connection

COMMUNITY

Geneva and Raaj at the pithi (application of skin cleansing paste of turmeric, sandalwood oil and rose water) ritual at mehendi party on Sept. 29.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JESSICA LATOS

Dr. Raaj Mehta and Dr. Geneva DeGregorio Celebrate an Interfaith Wedding in Great Falls

Raksha and Dinesh Mehta of Great Falls have announced the marriage of their son, Dr. Raaj Mehta to Dr. Geneva DeGregorio, daughter of Maggie DeGregorio of Whately, Mass. and Peter DeGregorio of Montgomery, Mass. The three-day wedding celebrations started on Sept. 29 with the wedding rehearsal at the Vienna Presbyterian Church in Vienna followed by a welcome dinner party that included traditional rituals of Indian mehendi (henna design application) and pithi (application of a skin cleansing paste of turmeric, sandalwood oil and rosewater to bride and groom) at the Meadowlark Atrium in Vienna. A highlight of the event was the performance by a local Irish band led by Tam McGeady.

The couple was married on Sept. 30 first in a Christian ceremony at the Vienna Presbyterian Church, led by Rev. Judith Fulp-Eickstaedt. A lunch reception was held immediately after the Christian wedding.

SEE WEDDING, PAGE 11



Raaj arriving for the Hindu wedding ceremony on horseback as part of traditional baraat (procession of the groom's party) ritual.

Geneva being escorted by her father at the Christian wedding ceremony.



COMMUNITY

Geneva arriving for the Hindu wedding ceremony escorted by her maternal uncles.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JESSICA LATOS



Wedding

FROM PAGE 10

ding. The highlights included a video recap of the bride's and groom's backgrounds by their siblings. Subsequently, the couple was married in a Hindu ceremony at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, officiated by Pandit Ram SnehTripathi. The wedding ceremony included a Hindu baraat, a traditional arrival of the groom's party with the groom riding on horseback.

A cocktail/dinner reception was held immediately following the Hindu wedding. The festivities included several Bollywood and Hollywood inspired dances and performances by family members and friends. The party music was provided by a live band, Rhythm 6, and DJs from Dynasty Entertainment.

The following day on Oct. 1, the bride was welcomed at the home of Raksha and Dinesh Mehta by performing Laxmi Pravesh, a Hindu ritual symbolizing welcoming of new feminine energy. Following the Laxmi Pravesh ritual, guests were treated to Christian and Hindu devotional/inspirational music by local vocalists Nancy Scimone and Swati Kanitkar.

The couple first met in Boston through a common friend in a blind date while Raaj was pursuing his medical degree and Geneva was interning at a local hospital.

The bride, who is taking her husband's last name, is an intern in internal medicine at the Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston. She graduated cum laude from Tufts University and received a medical degree from the University of Massachusetts.

The groom is a resident in internal medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He graduated cum laude from Princeton and received a medical degree magna cum laude from Harvard. He was also a Fulbright scholar to Ecuador from 2010-11.



Geneva and Raaj at their Hindu wedding ceremony.



Geneva and Raaj at the wedding reception with their wedding cake. The cake was custom designed by Cakes by Linda of Falls Church with design inspirations from the invitation card, Geneva's Hindu wedding chunni and Geneva's Christian wedding dress lace.



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Janyce Hedetniemi,
at-large



James Hart, at-large



Karen Keys-Gamarra

Planning Changes to Planning Commission

Twelve-member commission endures multiple changes through grief, triumphs, retirement and more during 2017.

BY KEN MOORE

Two seats on the 12-member Fairfax County Planning Commission remain open.

And earlier this month, Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins announced Frank de la Fe's decision to retire at the end of the calendar year.

"After 16 years of dedicated service, the Hunter Mill District Planning Commissioner Frank de la Fe has announced his intention to retire," Hudgins told the Board of Supervisors at its meeting on Nov. 2. De la Fe has served on the planning commission since 2001, and currently is vice chair.

Hudgins will appoint a new commissioner to begin on Jan. 28, 2018.

"We will have lots to say about Frank in the future," said Hudgins.

Sully District Supervisor Kathy L. Smith will also search for a new planning commissioner.

"I guess it's a day for Planning Commission announcements," she said at the supervisors' meeting.

Smith's Planning Commissioner Karen Keys-Gamarra announced her resignation effective Oct. 25. Keys-Gamarra won a special election in August to fill the at-large

School Board seat vacated by Jeanette Hough two years into serving her four-year term. Hough resigned after her husband accepted a position overseas.

Of Keys-Gamarra, Smith said, "As much as I would have loved for her to continue as my planning commissioner, it's just not possible to do both jobs."

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herry followed.

"I have no news on my planning commissioner," he said. "That is good."

Herry's Planning Commissioner is Peter Murphy who also serves as chair of the Planning Commission and was first appointed to the commission in 1982.

MURPHY ANNOUNCED at-large commissioner Janyce Hedetniemi's immediate resignation at the opening of the Planning Commission's public hearing on Oct. 26.

"It's a great loss to the commission, she knows it, we all know it," said Murphy. "We appreciate everything you have done for us."

Chairman Sharon Bulova appointed Hedetniemi in 2013 and plans to appoint her successor at the Board meeting on Nov. 21.

Murphy read a full version of

Hedetniemi's statement to the commission:

"Tonight, I step away from this wonderful experience as an at-large member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission. ... From capital improvements to land use and parks, schools, the environment and more, here it is, we give it all, through regulations, procedures, judgement and intuition, always in public view, and sometimes until 2 in the morning."

"I am proud to have shared the title of commissioner with my esteemed colleagues," she wrote. "Commissioners, the honor has been mine. I wish you all the best in your continuing efforts for the betterment of Fairfax County."

THE PLANNING COMMISSION on Sept. 14 voted to change the start time of public meetings in January from 8:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in part to encourage additional citizen participation and to keep meetings from lasting as late into the night.

The Planning Commission advises the Board of Supervisors on all matters related to land use in Fairfax County, a particularly busy time right now reviewing redevelopment along the Silver Line. The commission holds public hearings, often multiple times a week, and often brings together residents, developers and county planners to work through concerns and conflicts.

This includes the location and character of public facilities; amendments to the Comprehensive Plan; amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, the Public Facilities Ordinance, and the Subdivision Ordinance; rezonings and special exceptions; approvals of final development plans; and also sometimes advises the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Planning commissioners are appointed by the Board of Supervisors for four-year terms



Kenneth Lawrence,
former
Providence
District
commissioner

on a staggered basis. Each of the nine supervisory districts has a representative, and three members are appointed at-large.

PHILLIP NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER replaced Kenneth Lawrence as the Providence Planning Commissioner on Jan. 11, 2017.

Lawrence died in December 2016 after serving 13 years on the Planning Commission.

"Ken had a difficult role, responsibility for Providence District at an exciting time, doing new and ambitious things in Tysons and elsewhere," said colleague James Hart, at-large planning commissioner.

"His public service responsibility was a part of his core being. He gave the County all he had," said Hart.

Hart and Lawrence were sworn in on the same day 13 years ago.

"I could count on one hand the number of votes Ken and I disagreed in that 13 years. I couldn't begin to count the number of hours we spent in meetings together, so many topics," he said. "Ken's legacy added so much to Fairfax County. ... We absolutely will have more and better parks in Tysons thanks to him. His commitment improved our quality of life."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Future Quest. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at GMU's Johnson Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. College and career conference for area middle and high school students with disabilities, as

well as their parents, teachers and other professionals. Featuring more than 40 workshops and exhibits related to successful life after high school. Free. There is free parking in Lot K, or in the Mason Pond Parking Garage for \$8. Visit www.futurequestgmu.org to register or email futurequestnova@gmail.com.

School Open House. 10 a.m. at BASIS Independent School, 8000 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Meet subject expert teachers and school

leadership, to learn more about the school's liberal arts and STEM program. This event features an information presentation, and a question and answer period. Visit info.basisindependent.com/ december-open-house for more.

THROUGH DEC. 3

Coat and Blanket Drive. Nova Relief Center is holding a blanket and coat drive for Syrian and Iraqi refugees

who have fled their homelands to escape the violence from the civil war in Syria. Paxton Van Lines and Maersk are donating their services this year. Donated blankets and coats should be new or gently worn, and may be dropped off at any designated drop-off location below. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit NOVA Relief Center's website at www.NOVAReliefCenter.org
❖ Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2719 Hunter Mill Road,

Oakton
❖ Office of Supervisor John Foust, McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean

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)

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

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.

Textures Exhibit. Through Jan. 7, various times at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

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.

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.

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

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

Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. 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.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Langley High Chorus will host its annual Renaissance Feaste at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, and Saturday, Dec. 2

Langley High to Host Renaissance Feaste

To kick-off the Holiday season, the Langley High Chorus will host its annual Renaissance Feaste at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, and Saturday, Dec. 2, for an evening of dinner theater and choral music.

More than 80 students from Langley's award-winning choir will take guests back to 16th century England, where they will be entertained by

minstrels, jesters, and ladies and gentlemen of the Langley Madrigals as well as Langley's Chamber, Concert, Treble and Select Choirs, who will perform in an English court setting.

Reservations are required. Tickets and more information are available online at www.langleychorus.com.

Fundamentals of Watercolors.

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

Evening Painting.

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

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/.

NOV. 24-26

Thanksgiving Weekend Show.

Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Spring Hill ReCenter, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Approximately 80 juried artisans offering original, handmade arts and crafts, including decorative painting, fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking handweaving, photography, paintings and drawings, clothing and functional textiles, jewelry and much more. All of the artists and artisans will be on hand to answer questions and talk about their work. \$5, free for children 12 and under. Email anneclark01@comcast.net or call 703-391-5611.

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/.

TUESDAY/NOV. 28

Canadian Musician Mappe Of. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E. Performing his debut album "A Northern Star, A Perfect Stone." Visit www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 1-2

2017 Renaissance Feaste. 7 p.m. at Langley Halle at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Holiday celebration featuring costumed servers, jesters, minstrels, musicians, and the Langley

Madrigals. Visit langleychorus.com. **Orphie and the Book of Heroes.** Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Oakton High School Robert "Skip" Bromley Auditorium, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. \$10. Visit oaktondrama.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Breakfast With Santa. 8:30-10:30 a.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Free community event open to all to benefit Housing Up and Samaritan Ministry. Suggested donation is a new unwrapped toy. Call 703-759-2082.

Live Puppy Nativity. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Bring dogs to dress up as part of the nativity. Costumes provided. Free. The church's youth group will be on hand to accept donations for Second Story. Visit www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

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

SUNDAY/DEC. 3

Victorian Christmas Fund Raiser. 1-4:30 p.m. at the Historic Mount Hope mansion, Oak Street, Falls Church. The Victorian Society at Falls Church is hosting "The Spirit of Christmas Past" at the Historic Mount Hope mansion on Oak Street in Falls Church to benefit Creative Cauldron, a non-profit performance arts organization. Email

vicsofc@hotmail.com or terryhooperknapp@aol.com.

McLean WinterFest Parade. Pre-parade entertainment begins at 2:30 p.m. and the parade will step off at 3:30 p.m. sharp. The parade route will be the same as previous years: Old Chain Bridge Road from Fleetwood Road to Elm Street. WinterFest 2017 will have food trucks again this year in the Langley Shopping Center. Visit www.mcleanwinterfest.org.

Christmas Concert. 4 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna. The Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah, presented by the Vienna Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir with soloists Leah Inger, soprano; Jennifer Matthews, alto; Tim Augustin, tenor; and Joshua Hong, bass. Commentary by Senior Pastor Pete James. Call 703-438-0718.

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.

FRIDAY/DEC. 8

Gift Collection. 9:30 a.m.-noon at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna. Collecting new, unwrapped gifts and gift cards for children and teens. The North East Vienna Citizens Association is sponsoring the event with help from Girl Scout Troop 2684. Visit nevca.wordpress.com.

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.

McLean Youth Orchestra. 4 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Community Building of Vinson Hall, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean. Visit www.tysonsmcleanorchestra.org or call 703-893-8646.

Christmas Concert. 4 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE, Vienna. A Cathedral Brass Christmas, music from Monteverdi to Gordon Goodwin. Call 703-438-0718.

Christmas Youth Concert. 4 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The youth choir leads with Christmas hymns, followed by reception. Call 703-356-4902 or visit stjohnsmclean.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 11

Santa's Ride for Children. Donate new and unwrapped toys, games, books and gifts to be distributed to children at Fairfax Hospital, Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center. Email Ruth.Rohr@viennava.gov or call 703-255-6324.

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

Night In Bethlehem Performance. 5-7 p.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Nativity scene with live animals. Visit www.andrewchapelumc.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 17

Christmas Concert. 4 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna. Glorious Sounds of Christmas, a Christmas celebration for the whole family led by the Vienna Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir, the Cathedral Brass, organ, piano, and noted soloists. Call 703-438-0718.

Correction

The Connection Holiday Celebration and Entertainment calendars mistakenly announced a performance by the McLean Tysons Orchestra. There is no concert at Vinson Hall on Dec. 2. The Tysons McLean Orchestra's next performance is a Christmas Holiday concert Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., at The Falls Church Episcopal in Falls Church with Melissa Mino, soprano. Miriam Burns will conduct concert and Warren Lewis will be an audience participant volunteer conductor. Visit www.tysonsmcleanorchestra.org.

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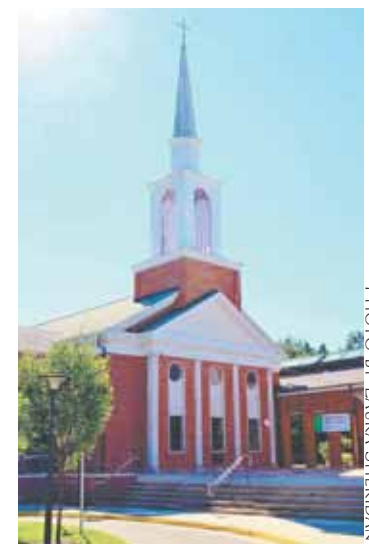



PHOTO BY LAURA SHERIDAN

Trinity United Methodist Church.

Club To Hold 'MarketPlace' Fundraiser

The Woman's Club of McLean will hold its free, annual MarketPlace fundraiser on Thursday, Dec. 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in conjunction with its annual Holiday Homes Tour the same day. The fundraiser, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. (Route 123), McLean, will feature more than a dozen vendors, as well as a silent auction of goods and services offered by 10 local businesses. In addition, lunch and tickets for the day's Homes Tour will be for sale. Ample car parking will be available at the church.

The following vendors will be present: Two Laughing Ladies (fun apparel), Entertaining Designs by Melanie Barry, Claude Moore Colonial Farm, With You in Mind, Chez Madame Forestier, Ginny's Gems (jewelry and accessories), Beauty Counter Cosmetics, Annalee Design Studios, Merry Stitches, USborne Books and More, Christmas Bakery and Christmas Gifts & Décor.

Silent-auction donors will include: Staybridge Suites, 1st Stage Theater, Mangan Jewelers, Fleming's Steak House, Clyde's Willow Creek, Your Dog's Best Friend, Lamps Unlimited and Great Falls Organizers. Bidding will close at 3 p.m., with drawings at 3:30 p.m. (You need not be present to win; however, you must be available by phone.)

Lunch at Café Noel will be available between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The menu will be chicken salad, chicken on a bun, wraps, chili (vegetarian and meat), chips and rolls. Coffee, tea, soft drinks, water and desserts will be available all day.

All proceeds of the MarketPlace and the Holiday Homes Tour will be donated to local charities.

Call 703-556-0197 or visit www.mcleanwomensclub.org.

— LAURA SHERIDAN

Roundtable

FROM PAGE 3

and nonprofits. “We are cutting our social safety network, one strand at a time,” said Mercer.

Multop donned his economist’s hat once more to also note that so far he had heard no mention from the GOP plan makers of the debt service on the increasing deficit. “That’s another \$200 billion in interest costs that I don’t hear them having accounted for.” Multop’s concern is that Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security benefits will become the targets to shore up the financial levee in the wake of these tax cuts and the domino effect of their implementation.

Another personalized example of the the proposed reforms was offered by attendee Edythe Kelleher. The executive director of Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, Kelleher could have spoken about impacts to development in that region, but instead, told how cuts to student loan interest deductions and a proposal to tax teacher’s assistant stipends would affect her graduate-school son.

“He works, he goes to school, he lives frugally. We provided him with a cheap car.” Kelleher says that if a tax on the modest teacher’s assistant stipend is adopted, “that’s \$6,000 more each year, and he doesn’t know where that money will come from.”

Connolly responded to this story by saying the need to educate for competitiveness in the world’s marketplace is greater than ever.

The congressman said that making getting an education even more difficult means “some will have to leave school. That’s hardly ‘making America great again.’”

As the session came to a close, NVAR CEO Conrad asked Connolly, “What’s your advice? What do we do next?”

In addition to the rally call to NVAR membership and AARP members, Connolly replied, “Run, don’t walk and immediately express your concerns to your representatives” at every level of government, and “tell everyone you know.

This plan does not reflect our values and priorities. We can and should do better than this.”

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 12

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 (UUFC) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838 jtarr5@verizon.net.

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Welcome to the Club



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

“Some club,” as my late mother would likely scoff. And the club to which I refer is, to spin an old Groucho Marx joke: a club you’d rather not join especially if they’d have you as a member. This is of course, the cancer club, a club whose membership continues to grow despite worldwide efforts to the contrary. According to Medscape.com, one in two men and one in three women will be affected by cancer in their lifetime. Hardly a statistic to be ignored. And so, even though I had a rather uneventful/healthy upbringing and further on into adulthood, in late middle age, 54 and five months, Feb. 27, 2009, I was impacted and rudely awakened with a non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV diagnosis – out of the blue, and given a “13 month to two-year” prognosis to boot. As a life long non-smoker with no immediate family history of cancer, whose parents both lived well into their 80s, I was more inclined to worry about the Boston Red Sox pitching depth than I was about cancer.

But cancer, for the past nearly nine years has been my life and amazingly, so far anyway, not the cause of my premature death (what death isn’t ‘premature?’). And what brightens my day and lifts my spirits more than anything else (other than a Red Sox World Series Championship) is when I meet a newly-diagnosed lung cancer patient who exhibits the can/will do positive-type attitude necessary to endure the inevitable ups and downs to follow. To be selfish, it empowers me and strengthens my own resolve to live life to the fullest (it’s not as simple as saying it) and damn the torpedoes.

Within the last few months, I have met, over the phone, two such individuals. The first man, Lee, I met before he even had his first infusion. The second man, Mark, a bit more experienced, I met a year and a half after his first infusion. Each man was engaging, outgoing, confident, enthusiastic and quite frankly, happy to make my acquaintance. You see, after being given a less-than-desirable prognosis, it’s helpful to meet someone who, despite having received a similar diagnosis, has nevertheless managed to live almost nine years post diagnosis. (If he can do it, I can do it kind of feeling.)

As for me, the nearly nine-year survivor, meeting cancer patients who are at the beginning of their respective cancer journeys, helps me to reconnect with my roots, so to speak, and share and share alike some memorable experiences, both cancer-related and not. In a way, we get to live vicariously through one another which for me reinforces how lucky I’ve been to survive for as long as I have.

And not that I need reminding, but it’s easy to take for granted one’s good fortune and forget – occasionally, the seriousness of my situation and the cloud that hangs over my head. The sword of Damocles has got nothing on me, literally or figuratively. Living with cancer is akin to nothing really. The chance that you’ll survive beyond your prognosis, maybe even have your tumors shrink, or see your scans show “no evidence of disease,” creates a kind of tease that cause your emotions to run the gamut. The possibility of living after being told you’re dying – and vice versa, perhaps more than once, over your abbreviated – or not, life expectancy, is simply too much to handle/absorb sometimes. It’s a roller coaster for sure, but one that rarely comes to a complete stop and never allows you to get off. Moreover, it’s not multiple rides, it’s one long, endless ride with no guarantees about what happens next – or where it even happens.

Meeting people who are ready, willing and able to confront their cancer future is just as important and stimulating as meeting someone like me who hasn’t succumbed to this terrible disease. It’s a win-win situation. Particularly significant when at date of diagnosis, it appeared to be a lose-lose. I’m proud to be a member of the cancer club, especially so when I meet people like Lee and Mark.

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



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