



**Hadeed**  
ORIENTAL RUG CLEANING  
AND IN-HOME SERVICES



Winter Has NOT Been Kind to Your Rugs  
**GET ALL THE SALT, DIRT & GRIME OFF YOUR RUGS!**

**OUR BEST OFFER EVER!**

**In-Plant Oriental Rug Cleaning**  
Have **2** Rugs Cleaned And Get The **3rd** Cleaned **Free!**



**703-836-1111 | JoeHadeed.com | FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY!** Expires 3/5/18. Same size or smaller rug free. Not valid w/any other offers. †Some restrictions apply.



# Great Falls CONNECTION

## Area Historian Recognized in Great Falls

NEWS, PAGE 5

### Northern Virginia's Report Card Unveiled

NEWS, PAGE 3

### Diving into Black History with Books

A+, PAGE 8

Area historian Carole L. Herrick, of McLean, received the Great Falls Historical Society's Jean Tibbitts Award.

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10  
CONNECTION FILE PHOTO



# THE GREAT FALLS TEAM

## KW

### KELLERWILLIAMS®



Licensed in  
VA/MD/DC



Bob Nelson



Bob Nelson, Jr.



Bridget Schmitz  
Commercial Agent



Tim Heil



James Dodson

www.GreatFallsTeam.com • (c) 703 999-5812 • (o) 703 636-7300

774A Walker Road Great Falls, VA 22066



**Sold**

FX10080790 - \$790,000 - Great Falls

1092 Loran Ct: 4 BR, 2.5 BA

Nicest Home in Great Falls at this Price! Spacious & Light Filled Gourmet Ktchn w/ Skylight. Large MB w/ Large Walk-In Closet adjoins a MBA.



**Sold**

FX9853078 - \$4,000,000 - Great Falls

Utterback Store Rd: Approximately 68 Acres of Vacant Land w/ 2 Acre Zoning Located in Great Falls. Breathtaking Views of Tysons Corner, Bethesda, & the Washington Monument.



**Sold**

LO9932796 - \$2,125,000 - Round Hill

35336 Appalachian Trail Rd: 3 BR, 1.5 BA

Nearly 280 Acres in 3 Parcels Farm House & Barns Situated at the Base of Short Hill Mountains. Property is Approx 85% Open w/ Fenced Pastures & Crop Lands.



**Sold**

FX9962498 - \$1,269,000 - Vienna

1284 Cobble Pond Way: 5 BR, 6 FB, 2 HB

Captivating Details Abound in this Updated/Restored Home. Master Suite Offers a Sitting Room w/ Fireplace, Spa Bathroom, & Walk-in Closet. Minutes to Tyson's, Reston, & the Metro.



**Sold**

FX9997116 - \$289,900 - Reston

1505 North Point Dr #1: 2 BR, 2 BA

Meticulously Maintained Condo near Reston Town Center. Brand New HVAC Installed Prior to Listing. Kitchen Includes Granite Counters & SS Appliances. Walk-out Patio w/ View of Private Wooded Area.



**For Sale**

FX10001560 - \$899,000 - Great Falls

748 Kentland Dr: 5 Acre Parcel of Land with Eas Access to Route 7. Soil Eval Test in 1992 Showed Percolation for a 3 BR Home. Must See Opportunity for Anyone Looking to Build a Home in Great Falls.



**Under Contract**

FX10127483 - \$495,000 - Falls Church

3229 Holly Hill Dr: 4 BR, 2 BA

Beautiful Screened In Porch Overlooking the Large Side Yard. Gas Fireplace in Living Room. LL Includes Large Family Room w/ Kitchenette, Office, & Utility Room.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HOT 2018 SPRING MARKET...CALL US NOW!**

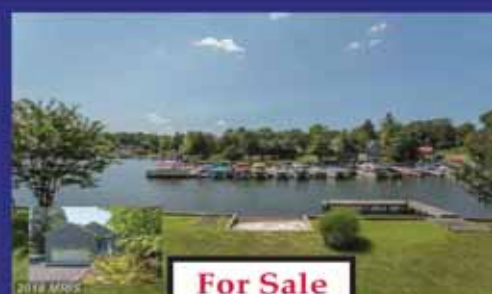


**For Sale**

OR10051883 - \$265,000 - Lake of the Woods

408 Liberty Blvd: 3 BR, 2.5 BA

You'll be Wowed by the Custom Quality & Unique Features of this Home. Inside & Outside Space Perfect for Family Gatherings.



**For Sale**

OR9932277 - \$599,999 - Lake of the Woods

248 Washington St: 5 BR, 3 BA

Fantastic Water Views are Just the Beginning...Enjoy Sailing or Swimming/Floating from Your Private Dock. You'll Love the Lake of the Woods Lifestyle!



**For Sale**

OR10119426 - \$2,000,000 - Lake of the Woods

422 Wilderness Dr: 5 BR, 3 FB, 2 HB

700ft of Waterfrontage w/ Spectacular Sunsets & Panoramic Views. Closest You'll Come to Owning Your Own Island in Lake of the Woods.

Join us on Monday, March 12th at our:  
**Military Appreciation Monday (MAM)**  
Event at The Old Brogue in Great Falls.  
We will be raising funds for the group:  
**CIA Officers Memorial Foundation**  
and

Join us on Wednesday, February 28th at our:  
**Law Appreciation Wednesday (LAW)**  
Event at Brx American Bistro in Great Falls.  
We will be raising funds for the group:  
**Officer Down Memorial Page**

Bob Nelson  
Realtor, Keller Williams Realty  
A Lifetime of Service to Community & Country  
Office: (703) 636-7300  
Cell: (703) 999-5812  
Bob@BobNelsonTeam.com  
www.GreatFallsTeam.com





# Northern Virginia's Report Card Unveiled

**“Shape of the Region” Conference reviews area’s Opportunity Index and gathers leaders to discuss successes and challenges.**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Community Foundation for Northern Virginia (CFNOVA), partnering with the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, filled an auditorium on Feb. 15 at Valo Park in Tysons Corner with representatives from nonprofits, public office, academia and business to “unveil a new, dynamic data tool” and to encourage “a deep dive” into the challenges facing the region.

CFNOVA has been connecting donors to community needs throughout Northern Virginia since 1978. In conjunction with its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the foundation commissioned a report from the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis to provide detailed data about the region today, and the changes that have taken place to demographics, economy, education and community and civic life. The result of that research and reporting is the Opportunity Index for Northern Virginia.

The data, like the CFNOVA, encompasses the entire region: Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park, and examines 26 indicators of local social, economic, educational and civic wellbeing. The online report can filter its information by race, ethnicity, age, nativity and jurisdiction, and by date range. According to leadership at the CFNOVA, the Index serves as something of a “report card” for the region, highlighting where progress toward opportunity for all Northern Virginians has been made, and where it would be fair to grade the current state of affairs a “Needs Improvement,” and in some cases disturbingly close to failure.

Kevin DeSanto, chairman of the CFNOVA board of directors commented in his opening remarks that the Index “tells big, important stories about our region.” The conference focused on only two of the most critical — workforce development challenges and opportunities, and the region’s growing income inequality — but before the speakers and the panel discussions began, Michael Cassidy, president and CEO of the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis introduced the Index and highlighted several of the findings to “set the stage and provide the background.”

**FORTY-SEVEN PERCENT** of youngsters in Northern Virginia are living with at least one foreign-born parent/guardian — a percentage that is significantly higher than the rest of the state or even of the nation. “That means the region’s future depends in part on the ability of the children of immigrants to flourish.”



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**Attendees at the “Shape of the Region” Conference, hosted by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia with the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, are introduced to the Opportunity Index – an interactive reporting system offering detailed statistics on the area’s social and economic wellbeing.**



**Holly Seibold (left), of Vienna, founder and executive director of nonprofit BRAWS and Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Britepaths, share some “shop talk” before the conference.**

The research indicates that if current trends continue, the Minority-Majority Transition, where people of color will become the majority as a share of the region’s population will take place as soon as 2020. In 1980, 85 percent of Northern Virginians identified as Non-Hispanic White. In 2015, from when the most recent figures are available, that number is now 40 percent.

Cassidy gave a demonstration of the Index in action, showing how to maneuver through the site, and how to filter the data. He also challenged the attendees to a “mini-quiz,” asking them to use instant audience survey devices to test their knowledge on some of the collected statistics. In most cases, the majority of the audience missed

there has been no real change in income growth or quality” while the top 20 percent are pulling further and further away. “Basically, poor people are staying poor, rich people are staying rich, and in many cases, getting richer.” Worse, says Reeves, America’s class system, most evident in educational opportunities, helps create a self-perpetuating barrier to opportunity for many. Showing a graph that illustrates “College Attendance Rates vs. Parent Income Rank in the U.S.,” Reeves called it “one of the most beautiful and terrifying charts.” As a Brit, Reeves states that he “knows a bit about a class system” and that it does exist in the U.S. — the country where he became a citizen in 2016. “And it’s every bit as ruthless as the class system in the U.K. — just less acknowledged.”

The second phase of the conference featured two panels, the first focusing on “Opportunity and Inequality” in the local education system and the second on “Tapping the Workforce Assets in our Own Backyard.” The panelists all acknowledged the challenges being faced in both those arenas, but offered some creative actions that they are taking in their areas of influence, from public education to workforce skill development, and inside major area employers.

One critical necessity that all of the panelists in the Workforce discussion agreed upon was the need to “upskill in place,” as Ken Eisner, senior manager, Worldwide Education Programs Amazon Web Services described it. “It’s getting harder and harder to get in [to our region] and with the lack of affordable housing.”

Scott Ralls, president of Northern Virginia Community College agreed that it was imperative to enhance the skills and abilities of the people already in our communities.

**AFTER THE CONFERENCE**, some of the attendees reacted to the event.

Lisa Whetzel, of Fairfax City, is the executive director of nonprofit Britepaths. She admitted that even with her in-depth association with the most vulnerable of the region’s populace, some of the data from the Opportunity Index still came as a surprise, “but this is just the kind of information we all need. It’s local, granular.”

Whetzel also found the event “inspiring and uplifting. Together we can do things.” Immediately following the conference, Whetzel attended the quarterly meeting of her peers in other nonprofits. “The conference got us going with great conversation and idea exchanges. We will be really looking to see if we have taken a deep enough dive through the equity lens.”

Martha Wilson, of Fairfax, was a representative of the business community at the conference, as a vice president with EagleBank in Tysons Corner. “EagleBank is already a major philanthropic organization, doing quite a lot for the community. It’s a major reason why I joined them, but I see



**Martha Wilson, VP, C&I relationship manager for EagleBank, asks a question of a conference speaker. Wilson says the event “gave me an idea on how EagleBank might even further enhance their philanthropic corporate culture.”**

the mark.

Cassidy was followed at the podium by Richard Reeves, senior fellow of economic studies and co-director of Center on Children and Families for the Brookings Institution. Speaking on “Economic Mobility and the American Dream,” Reeves congratulated the event organizers for including so many members of the business community, saying that too often business leaders were excluded as being “part of the problem of income equality, when, in fact, they are a major contributor to the solution when brought to the table.”

In a series of slides and charts, Reeves, a British-American, offered proof that for “the bottom 80 percent on the economic scale

SEE REPORT CARD, PAGE 5





**Free Home Seller Seminar**  
**“Secrets of a Savvy Seller”**  
 Presented by Kathy Shea,  
 Lindene Patton, and Lynn Toloczko  
 of Weichert Realtors, Great Falls.

**Weichert Realtors**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4 2-4 P.M.**  
**731-A WALKER ROAD, GREAT FALLS**

Learn the secrets of a stress free home sale from the experts including a professional stager, appraiser, home inspector, photographer, and more!

**RSVP by March 1 to 703-626-6669**  
**ltoloczko@weichert.com**

REALTOR



**Carole Herrick, second from left, with husband Phillip Herrick, son Charlie and his wife Gina Herrick. Carole has in her hand the 2018 Jean Tibbetts' History Award given by the Great Falls Historical Society.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF GLEN SJOBLUM

## Historian Recognized in Great Falls

### Historical Society's Jean Tibbetts Award presented to Carole Herrick.

The Great Falls Historical Society held its annual award banquet at the Old Brogue Restaurant in Great Falls Tuesday evening, Feb. 13 to present the Jean Tibbetts History Award to Carole Herrick of McLean. Jean Tibbetts, who passed away in 2004, was a former president of the Great Falls Historical Society, a historical researcher, and author of “This Land at Cornwell Farm.” In her memory, the Great Falls Historical Society established this award, which is accompanied by a stipend of \$200 from funds donated for this purpose. The award recognizes and appreciates the work the recipient has done to promote and preserve local history.

The names of past recipients are inscribed on a plaque displayed in the Great Falls Library. Now, Carole Herrick will be added.

This year's Tibbett's Award judges had an outstanding group of nominees to consider. Each and every one was accomplished and well qualified to receive the award. Betty Schwartz, Jan Schar and Kathy Heberg joined Jack Nutter in the judging process.

Speaking about the award and its recipient, Nutter said, “Carole is, among other notable things in her life, a true and committed historian who has devoted a great deal of time to tell and preserve the history of the area we call home. We are all benefactors of her efforts of bringing new insight and information into the place where we all live.”

Herrick received her Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Los Angeles State College. After moving to McLean many years ago, she got involved in writing the history of her local church and, as they say, the rest is history. Herrick has chaired the Fairfax County History Commission and continues to serve on it and is a past and current president of the McLean Historical Society.

She has been active in many community organizations – too many to name – but includes the Govern-

ing Board of the McLean Community Center, Chair of Friends of the McLean Community Center and McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia, an organization that sponsored large-scale signature events.

Some of her favorite areas of interest are the War of 1812, particularly Dolly Madison and James Monroe. And she takes the interest in Dolly seriously as she is a Dolly Madison re-enactor.

Herrick has written numerous articles about Northern Virginia. She has authored eight books including:

- ❖ August 24, 1814: Washington in Flames
  - ❖ Ambitious Failure: The Story of Chain Bridge the First Bridge Across the Potomac River
  - ❖ A Chronological History of McLean, Virginia
  - ❖ Yesterday, 100 Recollections of McLean and Great Falls, Virginia Vol I and II
  - ❖ Legendary Locals, McLean
- Herrick lives in McLean, married to her husband Phillip.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Carole Herrick**

“In addition to her other talents, she was a superb tennis player being inducted in 2012 into the National Women's Tennis Intercollegiate Hall of Fame. As a nationally ranked player, she participated in tennis's premier events such as Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. Her athletic talents reached into other arenas, such as running, as she actually finished the Boston Marathon,” said Nutter. “Besides being born on Christmas Day, she has also tried her hand at elective politics, running twice for Virginia House of Delegates. Always busy, she is working on her next book about McLean, tentatively titled ‘Before and After.’ She has also developed a talk on the C&O canal, whose grand history deserves much attention. This is more than a talk though as it involves actually walking the banks of this important and iconic symbol of the early commercial development of our area.”

After reception and dinner, there was entertainment by a barbershop quartet, with songs suitable for Valentine's Day, prior to the award presentation.

**G. STEPHEN DULANEY**  
**State Farm Insurance**  
 IN GREAT FALLS

**State Farm**  
 AUTO • HOME  
 LIFE • HEALTH  
 FINANCIAL SERVICES

Like A Good Neighbor,  
 State Farm Is There.®

[www.gstephendulaney.com](http://www.gstephendulaney.com)




**703-759-4155**  
 731-C WALKER RD. • GREAT FALLS, VA  
 State Farm Insurance Companies  
 Home Office Bloomington, Illinois



# Report Card Unveiled

FROM PAGE 3

that we can do even more if we get the word out about our efforts, especially to our own employees.”

She also has an idea about the internships that Reeves discussed during the conference. Reeves noted that employers highly value internships when making hiring decisions, but many less-advantaged youth and young adults cannot afford to take unpaid internships while they struggle to pay for their education and for the basics of daily life. “I have a suggestion on how we can help those young people, and possibly assist some of our area non-profits at the same time.” Wilson plans to get with her management colleagues at EagleBank and try to put her proposal into action.

Holly Seibold of Vienna is the founder and executive director of BRAWS — Bringing Resources to Women’s Shelters and to low income and homeless young women. Seibold found the event motivational. “It was a great event. Right after it was over, I sent an email to Dr. McDade [superintendent of Manassas Park Public Schools and a panelist at the conference] asking if his school district would like to pilot a program where BRAWS would provide free feminine hygiene products in the restrooms, at no cost to the schools.”

Julien Bois of Springfield, a partner with



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**Julien Bois, of Springfield, partner with JustinBradley, had positive feedback for the event.**

JustinBradley, a financial executive search, recruiting and interim staffing company, gave the conference a thumbs up, and kudos to speaker Reeves for his “candid responses to my questions.”

As the Commonwealth Institute’s Cassidy reminded the conference attendees, the Opportunity Index wasn’t developed to just tell a static story about the greater community, but rather as a tool that will help engaged citizens shape the future they want to see in Northern Virginia. The Index is available on line and access is free at [www.cfnova.org/opportunityindex](http://www.cfnova.org/opportunityindex).



Please join BrightStar Care, Fox Rehab & Arbor Terrace of Herndon for our  
**FALL PREVENTION CLINIC**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>**  
**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Fall Prevention Clinic at Arbor Terrace of Herndon  
1100 Dranesville Rd, Herndon, VA 20170

Free Admission • Free Parking • Open to the Public  
Includes Refreshments & Hearty Soup from 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

**FALL PREVENTION  
ACTIVITIES**

- > Balance Testing
- > Fall Screening
- > Vital Sign/Medication Review
- > Fall Prevention Jeopardy (with prizes)

To reserve your spot, please contact Sandra Fields at:  
[sfields@arborcompany.com](mailto:sfields@arborcompany.com) • 703.956.6512



## Fairfax Propane<sup>®</sup>

“Your Hometown Propane Company”<sup>®</sup>

only  
**\$2.40<sup>\*</sup>**/gallon.

Check your gauge and call Jim with your percentage today.

9754 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA

**(703)352-5777**



Valid for current, former and new customers.

Amount will be pre-authorized on credit card before delivery.

Price only valid for the filling of customer owned tanks 500 gallons and larger.

No extra delivery or hazardous material fees.

Regular automatic delivery service available.

Please allow three days for delivery and offer subject to expiration without prior notice.

(C) 2018, all rights reserved.



# OPINION

## Another Assault on Common Sense

Perhaps this time might be different.

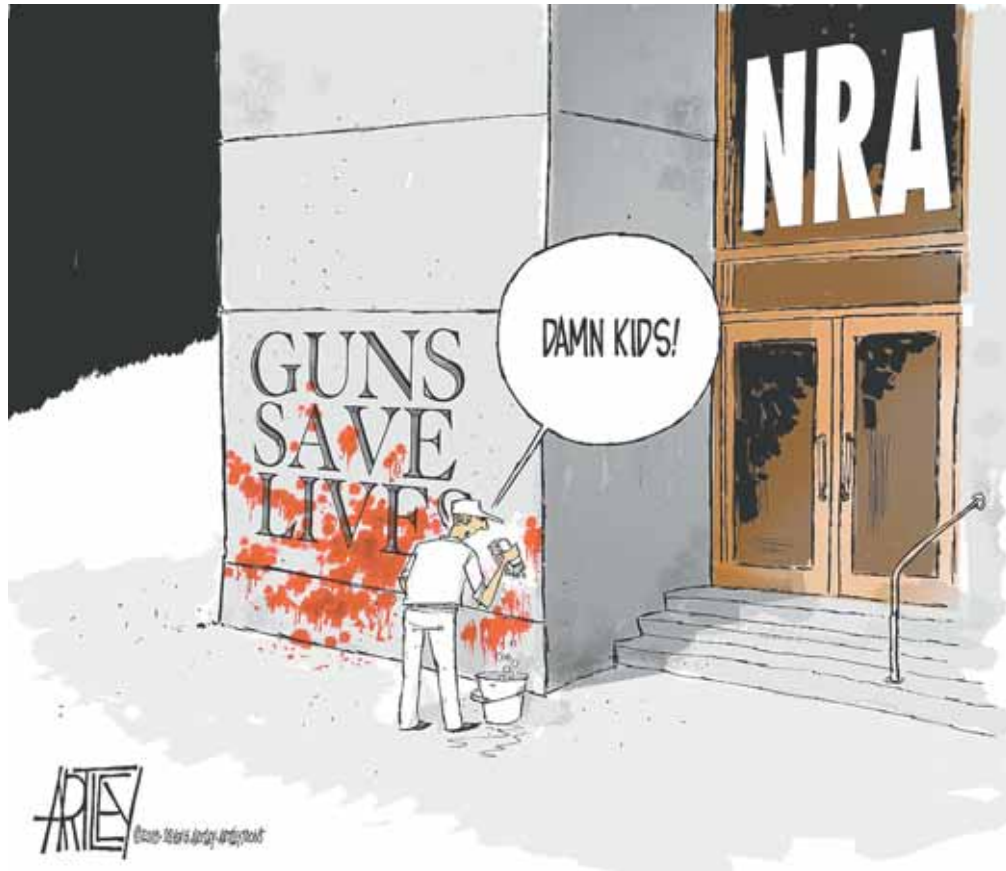
**Y**ou can feel the change in the air. This time the victims — teenagers — are outraged out loud about the deaths and wounding of their fellow students, the terror, horror and trauma that will haunt each of them in different ways for the rest of their lives.

Instant activists from last week's school shooting massacre in Florida, now connected to so many others around the country, know that this was preventable, that mass shootings can be stopped.

**EDITORIAL** Common sense tells them that the shooter, a former classmate, shouldn't have had access to guns of any kind, never mind an assault rifle. Common sense tells them that the absence of the most reasonable safeguards is a failure of elected officials at both the federal and state level. Common sense tells them it's time for real accountability.

Gun control of course will be complicated. No one is trying to take guns away from the millions of Americans who are gun owners, but the mavens of divisiveness, seeking to stoke the ire of gun owners, will tell them that what activists, what Democrats, what moms want is to take their guns away. It's not true. But gun reform is more complicated and runs deeper than donations from the NRA to elected officials.

Anyone with common sense knows that if we don't have systems in place to keep weapons capable of so much carnage in three minutes out of the hands of someone so openly troubled as the teenage shooter in Florida last week, then we are doomed to relive that day in other tragedies, over and over.



“Wash, Rinse, Repeat.”

Demonstrations of hundreds of protesters turned out in multiple places in the last few days. At NRA headquarters in Fairfax, at George Mason High School for a candlelight vigil, in front of the White House.

“I’m with hundreds of Northern Virginians at the NRA headquarters to mourn those lost at Parkland and to demand common sense gun safety measures to protect our children from massacre and violence,” U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly tweeted from the demonstration

there. “As a nation, how can we continue to allow this to happen?”

“I’m with the students calling for gun reform outside the White House,” said U.S. Rep. Don Beyer. “So proud to see America’s young people leading the way. Stay mad, and stay focused. ... Don’t let anyone tell you that there isn’t hope, that we can’t fight for change and win. There is and we can.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Congress’s Failure on Mass Shootings

To the Editor:

Congress sits on its hands while the latest school shooting takes the lives of more innocent children and school personnel.

If members of Congress do not believe in protecting the health, safety and welfare of the American people, why do they hold their office? They swore to defend the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic — “So help me God.”

We need legislation, not hollow platitudes. Congressmen can support the Second Amendment and still support reasonable gun control, such as universal background checks, and controls on automatic weapons and bump stocks.

The vast majority of Americans

— Democrats, Republicans and NRA members alike — all support such policies. But members of Congress are too afraid of the NRA’s threats to fund a primary candidate against them lest the Congressmen even talk about any form of gun control.

Congressmen should get wise and relish such a debate, because the voters would support them.

If Congress does not do anything then We The People certainly can. We can exert our own Constitutional power and vote for candidates in the upcoming 2018 election who have the courage to stand up to the NRA.

**Barbara Glakas**  
Herndon

## Terrifying Talk

To the Editor:

I remember having drills in my school when I was young, hiding

under desks in case a nuclear attack was unleashed. I remember wondering if my family would be alright and if they could find me after the bomb, and if my desk would protect me.

And now we have these nervous and easily irritated world leaders who talk so casually about starting a nuclear exchange. Terrifying. Let us hope that cooler heads will prevail. There are no desks big enough to protect us from a nuclear war.

**Meg Wallace**  
Herndon

## Protections Dismantled

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Our Elected Representative:

It is not hysterical to suggest that every protection the aver-

age American has is being systematically dismantled. The environment, civil liberties, health care, safe infrastructure guarantees, financial oversight — everything of value that we have achieved is being thrown open to the markets, which are not noted for considering anything beyond profit.

Please vote your conscience when it comes to leaving behind a world in which your children can live and prosper. Our futures are in immediate jeopardy. We need to be guided by something other than greed. This is a time for statesmen, not yes men or women.

There is only one America. Please protect what keeps us unique and irreplaceable in the world.

**Lynn Mobley**  
Great Falls

## 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

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to  
connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

**Andrea Worker**  
Contributing Writer  
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

**Jean Card**  
Production Editor  
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
sales@connectionnewspapers.com  
703-778-9431

**Salome Howard-Gaibler**  
Display Advertising  
703-415-5394  
salome@connectionnewspapers.com

**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

**Classified & Employment Advertising**  
703-778-9431

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**CIRCULATION**  
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com







PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT  
**Fire Chief Richard Bowers announcing his retirement to HQ staff and to field personnel via conference call.**

## Fairfax County Fire Chief Announces Retirement

On Friday afternoon, Feb. 16, Fire Chief Richard Bowers announced his retirement to the men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. After his announcement, he sent the following message to personnel:

“Good afternoon Fairfax County Fire and Rescue personnel!

I have proudly and honorably served in the Fire and Rescue profession for almost 41 years. Of those 41 years, 10 years have been as a Fire Chief for Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Departments.

“I want all the men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Service, career, volunteer and civilian staff to know you are outstanding people and I respect each and every one of you. You are hard workers and I am so proud of everyone and of this department! I thank you for the opportunity to be your Fire Chief and serve you and the residents of Fairfax County. We have built a strong foundation and achieved so much

by working together.

“I have informed County Executive [Bryan] Hill and Deputy County Executive [David] Rohrer that effective April 30, 2018 I will retire as Fire Chief of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I will be pursuing other personal and professional endeavors and opportunities.

“I have made a commitment to County Executive Hill, Deputy County Executive Rohrer and Chairman [Sharon] Bulova that there will be a complete and thorough leadership transition between now and April 30, 2018. I need everyone to keep focused on the mission and in making sure we take care of each other and the residents who we serve. I need you to respond to the needs of our residents and in turn, I will always support and take care of everyone in the department.

“We move forward! I will always stand up for and behind the men and women of this department!”

### COMPLIMENTARY SPRING BRUNCH

For Families Interested  
in Senior Living

**Sunday, March 11 • 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**  
Brightview Great Falls • 10200 Colvin Run Road

Join us for a taste of Brightview and discover how our gorgeous community, assisted living services, and specialized dementia care make life fresh and bright for area seniors and their families.

**Brightview.  
Bright Life!**

Call Carolyn for information.  
**703.759.2513**  
[www.BrightviewGreatFalls.com](http://www.BrightviewGreatFalls.com)

**BRIGHTVIEW  
SENIOR LIVING  
GREAT FALLS**

f y+ in

**You're Invited**

**Come.  
Listen.  
Learn.**

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EDUCATIONAL EVENT.

**Hear from an MS expert and learn about  
an oral treatment option for relapsing MS.**

**Date and Time:**  
2/26/2018 at 6:30 PM EST

**Speaker:**  
**Meagan Adamson, DNP, FNP-BC, MSCN**  
Fairfax, VA

**Location:**  
Maggiano's  
2001 International Drive  
McLean, VA 22102

**Event Code:** PEP-01431

#### PLEASE RSVP\*:

- [RelapsingMultipleSclerosisEvents.com](http://RelapsingMultipleSclerosisEvents.com)
- **1(877) 895-1136**

\*Registration is limited.

Photo ID may be requested at event entrance.

**Complimentary parking option may be available.**

Copyright ©2015  
GZUS.MS.15.05.1423(2)

**Home & Auto  
go together.  
Like you & a  
good neighbor.**

**Kyle Knight Ins Agcy Inc**  
Kyle Knight, Agent  
11736 Bowman Green Drive  
Reston, VA 20190

ACROSS FROM RESTON TOWN CTR.  
[WWW.KYLEKNIGHT.ORG](http://WWW.KYLEKNIGHT.ORG)  
703-435-2300

Some things in life just go together. Like home and auto insurance from State Farm, and you with a good neighbor to help life go right. Save time and money.  
**CALL ME TODAY.**

**State Farm**

State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL.



# Diving into Black History with Books

Local educators suggest books to read in celebration of African American History Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**T**hroughout the year, but more intensely during February, Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., uses literature to teach aspects of African American history that are often overlooked or forgotten.

While slavery and the Civil Rights Movement are two of the most poignant periods of Black history, Intondi, a professor of history and the director of the Institute for Race, Justice, and Community Engagement at Montgomery College, and other educators say reading books about lesser known figures and periods in African American history is one way to paint a complete picture, not only of the history of African Americans, but American history as a whole.

"For example, while we focus on Malcolm X, after spending time with his daughter, Ilyasah, I came to realize just how much his wife Betty did and what she meant to the family. Therefore having a book that focuses on her is important," said Intondi, who is the author of "African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and the Black Freedom Movement."

"One could argue that there wouldn't



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

have been a March on Washington were it not for Bayard Rustin, but we don't learn about him because he was gay," continued Intondi. "So part of what's important about these books is not only that they are well written and have amazing illustrations, but because of who they specifically focus on."

Infusing reading with dramatization and memorization, particularly with young children, is a technique that Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University uses in her lessons. "I like to recommend award-winning books or books by

award-winning authors," she said. "I also pick books that can be part of a program [and] can be recited, can be dramatized, can be retold."

"Books that I made students memorize [include] 'I, Too, Am American' and 'My People,' both books of poetry by Langston Hughes; 'I Have a Dream,' [speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. published as a book]; 'Lincoln's Gettysburg Address,' [speech by President Abraham Lincoln published as a book], 'Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.,' 'Tar Beach' and 'Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky,' [both by Faith Ringgold] and 'If a Bus Could Talk, the Story of Rosa Parks' are book that my youngest students can dramatize," said Lado.

"Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom" by Shane W. Evans is another book that Lado encourages students to read. "This is the absolute easiest way to dramatize the Underground Railroad," she said. "I even use it with students with special needs and beginning English learners."

One quality to look for is books about modern day African American heroes who will likely go down in history. When compiling recommend books for African History

Month displays, Henrik Sundqvist of the Arlington Public Library said, "We try to pick titles which have been published within the last five years."

Among the books Arlington County Libraries is recommending are: "Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance Like a Firebird" by Copeland.

One book that offers a historical perspective and deeper understanding of a current issue, says Intondi, is "The John Carlos Story" by Dave Zirin and John Carlos. "There is arguably no one better to write about sports, race, and politics than Dave Zirin," he said. "The book is great for a wide range of audiences. If one wants to understand Colin Kaepernick and what is happening today in sports then they should read this book."

Using such narratives offers a deeper understanding of America's past and puts current happenings into perspective. "Students can learn and appreciate those who came before them, sacrificed, fought, put themselves on the line and paid with their freedom and lives for equality," said Intondi. "Students will learn that they are part of the long movement for freedom and they too can change the world."

**Inside or out...**

**...Tech Painting's got you covered!**

Serving:  
VA  
DC  
MD  
OBX

**703-684-7702**

**www.techpainting.com**

Since 1987

**HADEED** SINCE 1953 | **HANNA & AYOUB** SINCE 1929  
Oriental Rug Cleaning & In-Home Services | Oriental Rug Cleaning Co.

Winter Has NOT Been Kind to Your Rugs  
**GET ALL THE SALT, DIRT & GRIME OFF YOUR RUGS!**

**OUR BEST OFFER EVER!** In-Plant Oriental Rug Cleaning  
Have 2 Rugs Cleaned | And Get The 3rd Cleaned **Free!** SAVE up to 33%

In-Plant Rug Restoration <b>10% OFF*</b> <small>*Hurry, Offer Expires 3/5/18.</small>	Wall to Wall Carpet Steam Cleaning <b>20% OFF*</b> <small>*Hurry, Offer Expires 3/5/18.</small>	Hardwood Floor Cleaning & Polishing <b>20% OFF*</b> <small>*Hurry, Offer Expires 3/5/18.</small>
---	---	--

**Free Pickup & Delivery!** Includes: Furniture Moving & Rolling & Laying the Rugs! †  
**We Hand-Wash Your Fine Oriental Rugs!**

535 W. Maple Avenue Vienna, VA | 4918 Wisconsin Ave. DC/MD | 3206 Duke Street Alexandria, VA | 6628 Electronic Dr. Springfield VA | 3116 W. Moore Street Richmond VA

**703-836-1111 | JoeHadeed.com**

\* Expires 3/5/18. (3) for the price of (2) same size or smaller rug free. Not valid w/any other offers. †Available in MD, DC, & VA. Min. order required, some restrictions apply. Doesn't include breakables. Call for details.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

## Adopt Donate Volunteer

Volunteers needed for adoption events, fostering, transportation, adoption center caretaking and more.



[lostdogandcatrescue.org](http://lostdogandcatrescue.org)



# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Art Exhibit.** Through March 31 at Great Falls Library (Small Conference Room), 830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. View an exhibit of watercolors by Artist Betty Ganley featuring her love of nautical scenes. Visit [bettyganley.com](http://bettyganley.com).

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

## THURSDAY/FEB. 22

**KGB Dead or Alive?** 7-9 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena, 1020 Springvale Road, Great Falls. An evening with Jack Dziak. Learn about the history of the KGB and Putin's Russia. Dziak has had a career in intelligence, counterintelligence, counter-deception, national security affairs and technology transfer. Free. Email [bfroio@gmail.com](mailto:bfroio@gmail.com) for more.

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 22-25

**Captioned Performances of "The Farnsworth Invention."** See detailed schedule online. 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Writer Aaron Sorkin's signature style lends itself to the story of the invention that changed our lives. In 1929, two ambitious visionaries race against each other to

## Winter Traditional Celtic Concert

The Old Brogue Irish Pub of Great Falls and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 29th season of family friendly, Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. Featuring internationally recognized Celtic musicians, the concerts are performed in a listening room by the fireside. The March 4 concert will feature IONA. The band has just released their 30th anniversary CD, "Signature" featuring traditional music from across the Celtic diaspora. Concert seatings are at 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the link at [oldbrogue.com](http://oldbrogue.com): \$18 general admission/ \$12 children under 12. Season ticket: \$96/\$60 children. Call 703-759-3309.

invent a device called "television." Who will unlock the key to the greatest innovation of the 20th century: the ruthless media mogul, or the self-taught Idaho farm boy? \$33 general admission, \$30 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Purchase at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 703-854-1856.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 23

**Strumming and S'mores.** 4-6 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Take a wildlife hike, sing nature-themed campfire songs accompanied by a guitar, and eat s'mores around the fire. This family campfire program is for participants age 3 to adult. \$10 per person. Call 703-759-9018 or visit



PHOTO BY STAVE PARKE

**From left: IONA – Chuck Lawhorn, Barbara Ryan, Bernard Argent, and Jim Queen.**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 23-24

**"Little Women."** Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at The Stage at Holy Trinity Church, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Oakcrest School presents "Little Women." In celebration of 40 years of theatre, Oakcrest is offering free tickets to the matinee performance on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. Tickets available online or at the door: \$15 general admission, flat rate of \$50 for families of six or more. Free for 13 and under at the Saturday matinee are only available

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2020 Programs



**Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.**

The Governing Board and Staff of the McLean Community Center are **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at a Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2020 (which runs July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020). MCC programs are scheduled to return to the newly renovated Ingleside facility in 2019.

**The Board and Staff are interested in hearing residents' suggestions for class offerings, community events, theater programs, art exhibits, tours, youth events and teen activities when they return home to the Center.**

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list.

You also may submit comments in writing to: [george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov).

The hearing will be followed by the regular monthly meeting of the Governing Board.



**The McLean Community Center**  
6631 Old Dominion Dr., McLean VA 22101  
703-790-0123/TTY: 711  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

## Home of the \$6,850 Bathroom Remodel From Now to WOW in 5 Days Guarantee

10% down  
nothing until the job  
is complete for the  
past 17 years

### TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



Select your products from our Mobile Showroom and Design Center

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Since 1999



**Free Estimates  
703-214-8384**

Visit our website: [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com)

## Robert Beatson II

Attorney/Accountant,  
Former IRS Attorney  
Admitted to DC, MD, VA & NY Bars  
All Types of Federal, State,  
Local & Foreign Taxes

Individual • Business  
Trusts • Estates • Wills  
Amended & Late Returns  
Back Taxes • IRS Audits  
• Civil Litigation  
Business Law • Contracts

**703-798-3590 or  
301-340-2951  
[www.beatsonlaw.com](http://www.beatsonlaw.com)**

## Visit These Houses of Worship

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

450 ORCHARD STREET, NW  
VIENNA, VA 22180  
703-938-8525  
email: [fbcvoffice@fbcv.org](mailto:fbcvoffice@fbcv.org)  
[www.fbcv.org](http://www.fbcv.org)

SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM  
CHRISTIAN LEARNING ACADEMY (SUN.) 9:00AM-9:45AM  
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

To Highlight Your Faith Community, call Don at 703-778-9420

## THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online Special Edition



### PET Connection

Publishes: Feb 28, 2018 • Ads close: Feb 22, 2018

Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets.

The Pet Connection will publish on February 28, 2018, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 16.

This edition provides a great advertising opportunity to reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention - be sure to take advantage of our different advertising options.

Find more information about submissions online at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets).

For advertising information, call 703.778.9431 or Email [SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM) for more specials, digital advertising options and pricing.

**LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online  
703-778-9431  
[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

- Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Arlington Connection
- Burke Connection
- Centreville Connection
- Chantilly Connection
- Fairfax Connection
- Fairfax Station/Gloucester/Lorton Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Hemdon Connection
- Potomac/Arlington
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection



**Announcements**

**We pay top \$ for STERLING,  
MEN'S WATCHES,  
JEWELRY, COSTUME JEWELRY,  
FURNITURE, PAINTINGS AND CLOCKS.**  
**Schefer Antiques**  
703-241-0790  
theschefers@cox.net

**Find us on Facebook  
and become a fan!**  
[www.Facebook.com/  
connectionnewspapers](http://www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)  
**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online  
The Connection to Your Community  
[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

**Employment**

**Forget Daily  
Commuting**

Print and digital media  
sales consultant for area's  
most popular and trusted  
local news source

Manage your own hours from home  
Enjoy flexible schedule  
plus no daily commute  
Help local businesses grow  
Unique opportunity to be a  
voice in your community  
Competitive compensation

Call Jerry Vernon  
**703-549-0004**  
Connection Newspapers & Digital Media  
Trusted Connection to Local Communities

**Announcements**

**Donate A Boat  
or Car Today!**

BoatAngel

"2-Night Free Vacation!"

**800-700-BOAT**  
(2628)

[www.boatangel.com](http://www.boatangel.com)

sponsored by boat angel outreach centers STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN



**Announcements**

**Announcements**

**Lifetime  
METAL  
ROOFING**  
by VA CAROLINA BUILDINGS, INC.  
**40 YEAR WARRANTY ON THE FINISH - ENERGY EFFICIENT  
SUPERIOR DURABILITY - SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT  
FACTORY DIRECT - WE FINANCE - CALL NOW!**  
**WWW.METALROOFOVER.COM 1-800-893-1242**

**Learn About Advertising  
in the Connection  
and Digital Options!**  
Advertising in the Connection  
and upcoming special sections:  
**CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING**  
or call **703.778.9431**

**NEWS**

**Tax Relief Workshops To Be Held in  
McLean, Reston and Vienna**

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors announced they are hosting a series of free 2018 Tax Relief Workshops for older adults and people with disabilities in late February and March at several locations throughout the county. Both real estate and vehicle tax relief are available for adults over 65 years of age and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications.

The fairfaxcounty.gov website states staff from the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration (DTA) will be at the locations to assist with filling out the application form, as well as answering questions. No appointment is necessary.

Two workshops will be hosted by Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville), March 12 and March 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McLean District Office, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Call 703-356-0551.

Three workshops will be hosted by Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), two in Reston and one in Vienna. The Reston workshops are March 8, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston - 703-478-0283 and on March 20, 10 a.m. to noon at the North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. A Vienna workshop is on Feb. 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Madison High School (Lecture Hall), 2500 James Madison Drive in Vienna.

According to the Fairfax County Government, "To qualify for real estate tax relief, you must be at least 65 years of age, or permanently and totally disabled...The gross income from all sources of the owners of the dwelling and any relatives of the owners who reside in the dwelling may not exceed \$72,000...The total combined net assets of owners of the dwelling and of the spouse of any owner who resides in the dwelling may not be greater than \$340,000, not including the value of the home, its furnishings and the homesite (up to one acre of land).

Renters, who meet the age, disability, residency, and income requirements, as well as other require-



**Dranesville  
District Supervisor  
John Foust  
(D)**



**Hunter Mill  
Supervisor Cathy  
Hudgins (D)**

ments, can qualify for tax relief under the Tax Relief Program. The county reminds applicants when they come to a workshop to be sure to bring with them a copy of their lease agreement and rental receipts or canceled checks for each month of the previous year documenting the amount of rent paid.

As for vehicle ("car") tax relief, the county states applicants must be at least 65 years of age, or permanently and totally disabled, as of Jan. 1 of the application year and reside in Fairfax County; the exempted vehicle must be owned and used primarily by the applicant, and tax relief will only be granted on one vehicle. Also, the gross income of the applicant may not exceed \$22,000. The total combined net assets of the ap-

plicant and spouse may not exceed \$75,000. Other conditions also apply.

Tax relief is available on mobile homes used as full-time residences.

Fairfax County reminds individuals that returning applicants must file between January 1 and April 1.

For more detailed information and qualifications go to [fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/relief/tax-relief-seniors-people-with-disabilities](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/relief/tax-relief-seniors-people-with-disabilities).

— MERCIA HOBSON

**SCHOOL NOTES**

Send school notes to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com) by noon on Friday.

**Thomas House**, of Vienna, was named to the East Stroudsburg University (Pa.) fall 2017 dean's list. House is a senior majoring in business management.

**Mamie Henshaw**, of Vienna, an exercise and sport science major, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.).

**Michael Kerr**, of Vienna, a hospitality, resort, and tourism management major, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.).

**Nicole Papathanassiou**, of Vienna, a marine science major, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.).

**Charles Welling**, a resident of Vienna, has been named to the Emerson College (Boston, Mass.) dean's list for the fall 2017 semester. Welling is majoring in media arts production.

**Cathleen Pfeiff**, of Oakton, was named to the dean's honor list for the fall semester of the 2017-2018 academic year.

**Sophia Deguzman**, of Vienna, was named to the dean's list for the fall semester of the 2017-2018 academic year.

**Eva Glick**, of Vienna, was named to the dean's honor list for the 2017-2018 academic year.

**Douglas Streeten**, of Vienna, was named to the dean's honor list for the fall semester of the 2017-2018 academic year.

**Katharine Olson**, of Vienna, was named to the dean's list at Furman University (Greenville, S.C.) for the fall 2017 semester. Olson is the daughter of Deborah Malac and Ronald Olson.

**Longfellow Middle School's Model United Nations Club** earned the Outstanding School Award at the 13th annual Gar-Field High School Model UN conference in Woodbridge.

Delegates sought resolution to issues such as the world-wide poaching crisis and the South China Sea conflict along with one committee set in the future focused on the potential of life in space. In addition to the United Nations com-

mittees, there was one centered on the Justice League.

Individual awards included **Chanyoo Lee**, Outstanding Delegate award as Superman on the Justice League committee; on the UNI Space 2068 committee: **Erika Li** and **Valerie Li**, Outstanding Delegate representing Chile, and **Kacy Lee** and **Odessa Zhang**, honorable mention for their representation of the Russian Federation; on the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, **Nyla Marcott** and **Anna Raymond** earned a verbal commendation representing the Philippines; honorable mentions went to **Eve Ginsberg** and **Cathy Zhang** for representing Cuba, **Jin Shin** and **Kyra Li** for representing Colombia, and **Julia Tan** and **Cynthia Ma** for representing the United Kingdom. In the Special Political and Decolonization committee: **Justin Dong** and **Jeanie Qi** earned the Best Delegate award for representing France; **Blaire Zhao** and **James Hoadley** earned a verbal commendation for representing the United Arab Emirates, and honorable mentions went to **Yusuf Gunter-Rahman** and **Simal Mann**, who represented the United States, and **Kevin Fan** and **Elliott Lee**, who represented Japan.



# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

online at oakcrestuslittlewomen.eventbrite.com.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 24

**Hike and Mediate.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Work off those stubborn holiday calories with a quick hike and then relax for with meditation exercises designed to help find one's inner winter calmness. For adults. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).

**Ric Ocsek: Abstract Reality.** 7-9 p.m. at Wentworth Gallery, Tysons Galleria, 1807 U. International Drive, Tysons. Wentworth Galleries presents Ric Ocsek: Abstract Reality. The collection will be on exhibition and available for acquisition. Ric Ocsek of The Cars will make an in-person artist appearance. Complimentary and open to the public, with RSVPs strongly suggested. Visit [www.wentworthgallery.com](http://www.wentworthgallery.com).

**Winter Wine Tasting.** 7-10 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Enjoy fine food, wines and friendship at a new venue and with Classic Wines of Great Falls and the chefs at Passionfish and Barcelona restaurants over in Reston. In addition, a selection of cheeses and wines by the glass will be available. Email Erin Lobato or Missy Perkins at [info@celebrategreatfalls.org](mailto:info@celebrategreatfalls.org) about volunteering. This event has sold out in the past. \$75. Tickets at [www.celebrategreatfalls.org](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 25

**Maple Syrup Boil-Down.** Noon-2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. The sap is rising and the maple trees are tapped. Now it's sugaring time at Colvin Run Mill. Watch and learn as sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an open fire. This is an outdoor program, dress for the weather. \$5 per person. No reservations required. Call 703-759-2771 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill/maple-syrup](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill/maple-syrup).

**Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts.** 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Robin Bullock and Sue Richards perform fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the link at [oldbrogue.com](http://oldbrogue.com): \$18 general admission/\$12 children under 12. Season ticket: \$96/\$60 children. Call 703-759-3309.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 27

**Beatrix Potter Tea.** noon-1:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Learn about the famous author who brought Peter Rabbit and his family to life at a Beatrix Potter Tea. Nibble on cupcakes and sip fruit punch or tea while enjoying stories about Potter's precocious bunny family. Children age 2-6 will have a chance to meet a real white tail rabbit and learn what wild bunnies do in the winter. \$15 per child; children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-759-9018.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 3

**Live Music.** 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Nora Jan Struthers and The Party Line perform. Tickets \$15-25. Call 877-987-6487 or visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 4

**Awards Banquet.** 2:30 p.m. at the McLean Hilton Hotel, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. The Executive Board of the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame will celebrate their 28th Annual Awards Banquet. Festivities will begin with a social gathering at 2:30 with dinner at 3:30. The awards ceremony will immediately follow. This event draws celebrities and supporters from all over the area. For tickets, call 571-238-3565 or email [maryesmall64@gmail.com](mailto:maryesmall64@gmail.com). For general info., call 703-273-3216 or email [bpowe1@aol.com](mailto:bpowe1@aol.com).

**Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts.** 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. IONA celebrates the release of their new album "Signature." Tickets must be purchased in advance through the link at [oldbrogue.com](http://oldbrogue.com): \$18 general admission/\$12 children under 12. Season ticket: \$96/\$60 children. Call 703-759-3309.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM  
TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS, CALL KAREN AT 703-778-9422

<b>LANDSCAPING</b> <b>A&amp;S CONSTRUCTION</b> SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. <b>703-863-7465</b>		Good is not good, where better is expected. <b>-Thomas Fuller</b>	<b>LANDSCAPING</b> <b>Patios &amp; Drainage</b> Your neighborhood company since 1987 <b>703-912-6886</b>	
<b>ELECTRICAL</b> <b>K &amp; D ELECTRIC</b> <b>COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE</b> Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...		<b>ELECTRICAL</b> <b>Licensed/Bonded/Insured</b> Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 <a href="mailto:lektrkman28@gmail.com">lektrkman28@gmail.com</a>		
<b>GUTTER</b> <b>GUTTER CLEANING</b> Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned Small Repairs • Gutter Guards <b>PINNACLE SERVICES</b> Lic/Ins 703-802-0483 free est. email <a href="mailto:jamil@lawnsandgutters.com">jamil@lawnsandgutters.com</a> web: <a href="http://lawnsandgutters.com">lawnsandgutters.com</a> Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!		<b>GUTTER</b> <b>BATHROOM REMODELING</b> by Brennan Bath and Tile Partial or Full. Kit. Floors, Backsplashes. Specializing in Ceramic, Porcelain, Glass Tiles and Natural Stones. Also repair work. 35 yrs exp. <b>www.brennan-tile.com</b> <b>703-250-2872</b> Licensed • Bonded • Insured		
<b>IMPROVEMENTS</b> <b>Power Washing</b> Go from green to clean, do you have mold on your siding rotten wood that's a hoa violation? We do houses, decks, fences, side walks, etc. Deck and fence repair, deck staining and sealing. Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates email: <a href="mailto:jnave@comcast.net">jnave@comcast.net</a> <b>703-987-5096</b>		<b>IMPROVEMENTS</b> <b>Quality Tree Service &amp; Landscaping</b> Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured. <b>Summer Cleanup...</b> Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc. 25 years of experience - Free estimates <b>703-868-5358</b> <b>24 Hour Emergency Tree Service</b>		
<b>A&amp;S Landscaping</b> • All Concrete work • Retaining Walls • Patios • Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions • French Drains • Sump Pumps • Driveway Asphalt Sealing <b>703-863-7465</b> LICENSED Serving All of N. Virginia				
<b>RN. CONTRACTORS, INC.</b> Remodeling Homes, Flooring, Kitchen & Bath, Windows, Siding, Roofing, Additions & Patios, Custom Deck, Painting We Accept All Major Credit Cards Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic <b>Phone: 703-887-3827</b> <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:rncontractorsinc@gmail.com">rncontractorsinc@gmail.com</a></b> <b>www.rncontractors.com</b>				
An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. <b>-Werner Heisenberg</b>				
<b>ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:</b> expand your audience beyond our weekly print edition with <b>THE CONNECTION DIGITAL</b> ► Email Marketing ► Social Media ► Sponsored Content FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 703.778.9431 OR VISIT <a href="http://CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING">CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING</a>				

## His Pillow



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Either it was the programming on CBS we were “demanding,” or the recorded programming we were watching from PBS; but for the week it was, repeatedly, and I mean REPEATEDLY, we were subjected to the same commercials over and over again. Torture doesn't begin to describe the excruciating reaction I had every time I saw the same people saying the same words. Instead of turning me on to the product or services, it had quite the opposite effect: it tuned me off. Buy what they were selling? More like good-bye.

Not that I understand the strategy behind television and/or radio advertising/promoting as I have zero experience. But I do have some experience, 21 years in fact, selling newspaper/display advertising. And what knowledge I've gained says advertising frequently in multiple media platforms is the key to success. Picking and choosing results in hitting and missing. But hitting me constantly without missing a beat is hard to take too, and not necessarily managing the consistency desirable for most businesses to thrive. Moreover, bludgeoning me into submission/buying is not creating a positive experience either and one not likely to lead to repeat business.

With respect to this test – of will power, I can't help wondering if there's a tipping point of sorts when the consumer/watcher/listener becomes less interested/more antagonistic to the message and by association, perhaps even less tolerant of the medium. Not that one can, generally speaking, blame the messenger, but when under the constant barrage of repetition, which in this instance I was forced to endure (“on demand” disables the fast-forward function so it forces you to sit and squirm), you want to blame someone, anyone. Too much of a good thing is not, after awhile, a good thing; and I'm being kind in my characterization.

Having seen the same commercial for what seemed like a dozen times, over a condensed period of time, during nearly every commercial break, I can't imagine how I could place my head on this pillow and not see this man from Minnesota, his warehouse staff, and most disturbingly, his presence when I open my medicine cabinet. Sleep? Hardly. More like shock and not awe as I lay my head down to rest. Visions of sugar plum fairies or sheep prancing over a fence I'm accustomed to, but a man with a moustache telling me what he knew he would about my reaction to his pillow, I can't quite abide.

Relax? More like reacts. Presumably if the message, messenger or medium is somehow disturbing in its consumer/market penetration; rather than being clear, concise and effective, all that was hoped to have been gained is lost in the muddle. And precious dollars wasted in the process. I imagine the question becomes: How much is too much, and how much is not enough? (Other than sports and chocolate, I wouldn't know.)

All I know is what my reaction has been to seeing and hearing endless (or so it seemed) repetition: almost visceral. I'm sort of angry and put upon for having had to listen so much to learn so little. And though I can certainly appreciate its context and presumptive strategy, I still can't help feeling like a victim of sorts; the cost of doing business, I suppose. I understand that watching what I want requires watching some of what I don't want; it's a trade. A trade I can balance except when what I don't want to watch has a stronger/more negative impact on me than does the programming I want to watch.

Remember the goal is to capture my attention, not abuse it.

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



# If you're buying or selling a home, think of this as a defining moment.



**447 Walker Road, Great Falls \$1,650,000**  
Stunning details, outdoor Mediterranean terrace. In-Law/Au Pair suite over garage with private terrace.



**10859 Patowmack Dr., Great Falls \$1,649,000**  
Upgraded and improved in virtually every way! Designer bathrooms...new outdoor living area.



**11144 Rich Meadow Dr, Great Falls \$1,688,000**  
All-brick Estate with Great Yard in Fabulous Neighborhood. Best Value in Great Falls.



**1040 Springvale Road, Great Falls**  
Craftsman style...Quality build. 7,000 sq. ft., Masterful blend of formal and casual spaces.



**1008 Riva Ridge Dr., Great Falls \$949,000**  
Warm, welcoming and move-in ready. Front and back overlook common area.



**10913 Belgravia Court, Great Falls, \$970,000**  
New, stylish update. Convenient location and quiet neighborhood. Deck with serene vistas.



**10714 Milkweed Dr., Great Falls \$1,165,000**  
Striking woodland vistas, hi-end gourmet kitchen. Updated contemporary floorplan.



**9200 Vernon Dr., Great Falls \$1,085,000**  
Stylish updates...and convenient location. Backs to acres of common property.



**103 Interpromontory Rd, GF \$2,299,000**  
Perfect blend of modern and traditional style. Five acres that backs to Potomac River.

## Dianne Van Volkenburg

and her team of real estate agents and marketing specialists are unsurpassed in providing first-class service to buyers and sellers. In fact, Dianne and her team have one of the highest rates of repeat clients in all of Northern Virginia as former clients, families and friends trust them for their real estate needs.



# DIANNE JAN & DAN



CELEBRATING  
**50**  
YEARS

9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066  
703-757-9190 • GreatFallsGreatHomes.com  
703-757-3222

## OVER \$100 SOLD MILLION IN 2017!