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Great Falls CONNECTION



HomeLifeStyle



Rana Azad #23 releases a shot in the paint for Langley. Azad led Langley with 17 points in the state championship final.

Langley Girls Reach State Final, Lose in Overtime

SPORTS, PAGE 11

Public Safety
Heroes Honored

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The Conversation Begins:
Budgeting Words

NEWS, PAGE 4

PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION
OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

MARCH 14-20, 2018

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Public Safety Heroes Honored

40th annual event held March 9 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner.

The 40th annual Valor Awards was held on Friday, March 9, at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner honoring men and women who have shown valor, courage, and service to others. Every year the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce pays tribute to public safety employees in the Fairfax County Police Department, Fire & Rescue Departments, Sheriff's Office, and Herndon and Vienna Police Departments for their exceptional bravery.

Honored guests included elected officials U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Supervisors John Foust (Dranesville), Jeff McKay (Lee), Pat Herryty (Springfield), John Cook (Braddock), Kathy Smith (Sully), and Dan Storck (Mt. Vernon). Chaplain Jerrold Foltz gave the benediction.

The Gold Sponsors were INOVA Health Systems, Transurban, United Bank, Visit Fairfax of Fairfax County, and Volkswagen Group of America. The Silver Sponsors were Macerich and Motorola. The Bronze Sponsors were Dominion, Fair Oaks Mall, and Sandy Spring Bank.

Chris Lawrence, News Anchor at NBC4, was the emcee, and the event was recorded in the official Congressional Record.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Pilot Garrett G. Wymer receives his Valor Award from Ed Roessler Jr., Chief, Fairfax County Police Department.



Members of Fairfax County's Urban Search & Rescue Team, Virginia Task Force 1

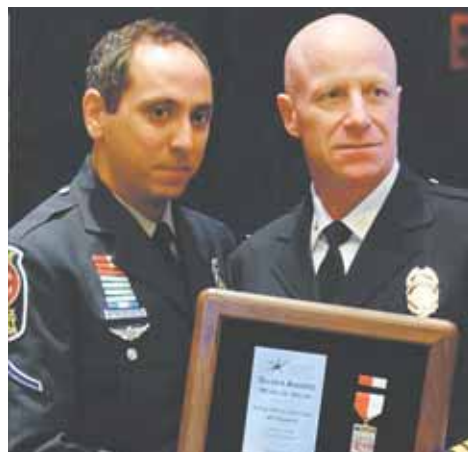
Gold Medal of Valor Recipients

Fairfax County's Urban Search & Rescue team, Virginia Task Force 1 is awarded the Gold Medal of Valor. In the effort to save lives and alleviate suffering, Fairfax County's Urban Search & Rescue team, Virginia Task Force 1 was deployed to San Juan, Puerto Rico which had sustained extensive damage from Hurricane Irma only days prior to the arrival of Hurricane Maria. Upon arrival, the team immediately established a base of operations and conducted search and rescue operations in the Virgin Islands. While conducting lifesaving and humanitarian aid missions in Puerto Rico,

Hurricane Maria formed as a Category 5 hurricane taking direct aim at San Juan. Even with the threat of the oncoming hurricane, the team continued their search and rescue operations on the Virgin Islands.

The team endured the assault of Hurricane Maria for 24 hours only to continue the search and rescue after the storm had passed.

The members of VATF-1 acted without regard to their personal safety under extremely hazardous conditions. They demonstrated courage, dedication, and determination.



Police Officer First Class Ali Sepehri receives his Valor Award from Ed Roessler Jr., Chief, Fairfax County Police Department.



Master Police Officer Douglas E. Middlebrooks receives his Valor Award from Ed Roessler Jr., Chief, Fairfax County Police Department.

Silver Medal of Valor Recipients

Pilot Garrett Wymer, MPO Douglas Middlebrooks, and PFC Ali Sepehri are awarded the Silver Medal of Valor for their actions involving a helicopter crash. During the civil unrest that broke out in the City of Charlottesville. The crew quickly assessed their landing options and MPO Middlebrooks and PFC Sepehri hiked ap-

proximately 300 yards in order to gain access to the crash site while Pilot Wymer provided responding fire crews and ATC personnel with aerial coverage. The fully engulfed helicopter contained two fallen Virginia State Troopers and both MPO Middlebrooks and PFC Sepehri continued to search the wreckage for any other troop-

ers at the scene. Without regard for their own personal safety, the crew of Fairfax 1 landed in an unfamiliar location without ground support in order to render immediate high level medical care to fallen officers. Pilot Wymer, MPO Middlebrooks, and PFC Sepehri demonstrated exemplary courage, composure, and compassion during an incident involving extreme personal risk.

Silver Medal of Valor



Officer Isa L. Martin receives his Valor Award from Ed Roessler Jr., Chief, Fairfax County Police Department.

Officer Isa Martin is awarded the Silver Medal of Valor for his bravery and quick actions when he arrived early to work and observed a man attempting to breach the station's secure fences. Officer Martin drew his off-duty weapon while simultaneously issuing verbal challenges to the driver. With the help with another officer who arrived on the scene, they secured the subject without further incident. Despite his status as a new officer, Officer Martin handled this violent subject with both extreme professionalism and restraint.



Second Lieutenant Michael D. Gubesch receives his Valor Award from Ed Roessler Jr., Chief, Fairfax County Police Department.

Second Lieutenant Michael Gubesch is awarded the Silver Medal of Valor for his brave actions in halting a dangerous pursuit. Faced with a dangerous criminal that clearly had no intent to stop, Second Lieutenant Gubesch made a critical decision to end the pursuit before more lives could be put in harm's way. He used his patrol vehicle to execute a perfectly timed Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) that spun the vehicle around on the road. The subject brazenly continued to try and escape but was stopped by the quick thinking and decisive actions fellow officers on the scene. Potentially placing himself in harm's way, Second Lieutenant Gubesch executed sound judgment in a tense situation, ending with a successful conclusion.

SEE VALOR AWARDS, PAGE 15

The Conversation Begins: Budgeting Words

Board prioritizes compensation for teachers and county employees.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity claimed the dissenting vote. “It probably is not going to surprise the Board that I won’t be able to support this,” he said.

By a 8-1 margin, the Board of Supervisors advertised the county executive’s budget with the proposed 2.5 cent tax increase.

Braddock Supervisor John Cook supported the advertisement but stated he won’t support a budget in May if it remains at the advertised tax rate.

“So I’ll support the advertisement because I think the process dictates that there be something on the table. But if the Board is inclined to pass it as is, it will have to do so without me,” said Cook. “If the Board is inclined to do what a couple of other people have suggested this morning, which is look for reductions and perhaps go back to that concept of balancing, then I’m looking forward to being part of that discussion and will keep an open mind to where we should end up. But 2.5 cents is not where it’s going to be.”

Jeff McKay, chair of the budget committee, said advertising a lower rate “would be taking off the table an opportunity to hear from our public about whether our public employees from the schools and county side should be getting the type of compensation increases to move them into market and to deliver the services that we rely on in this county.”

In addition to community meetings scheduled around the county, the Board slotted three days, April 10-12, 2018, for public hearings before the full Board.

“We have two months of community conversation ahead of us, and some members of this Board have declared how they are voting on the budget today or what they can’t support,” said McKay. “Two months we have to hear from our community about what their priorities are. And to me it would be irresponsible to decide how we are going to vote on the budget without hearing from members of our community and how they feel about it.”

The Board will officially adopt the FY 2019 budget on May 1, 2018.

If the Board of Supervisors were to adopt the full 2.5 cent tax rate increase, it would amount to an additional \$268 on the average homeowner’s annual tax bill.

“When we advertise the tax rate, that will



**Linda Smyth,
Providence**



**Cathy Hudgins,
Hunter Mill**



**John Foust,
Dranesville**



**Sharon Bulova,
BOS Chairman**

Stay Involved: County Budget Meetings

❖ **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 7 P.M.**

Providence Community Budget Meeting, Providence Community Center, First Floor Multipurpose Room, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax

❖ **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 7:30PM**

Braddock District Council Annual Budget Meeting, Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke

❖ **THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 7 P.M.**

Mason District Budget Town Meeting, Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

❖ **MONDAY, MARCH 19, 7 P.M.**

Mount Vernon District Budget Town Hall, Whitman Middle School, Lecture Hall, 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria

❖ **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 7 P.M.**

Lee District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Franconia Governmental Center Community Room, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria

❖ **THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 7 P.M.**

Springfield District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Springfield Governmental Center, Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield

❖ **APRIL 10-12**

Board of Supervisors Public Hearings on FY 2019 Budget and FY 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form to sign up.

MORE AT WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/BUDGET

become the ceiling for what the tax rate can be. It can be lower, it can be the same, but it cannot be higher than,” 2.5 cents, said Chairman Sharon Bulova.

Below are excerpts from the March 6, 2017 Board meeting.

Linda Smyth, Providence

“Given the unknowns still from the General Assembly in terms of budget or WMATA funding, I think we need to be sure that we have some flexibility in the tax rate and in the discussion about our budget.

“But I will also say ... that I’m seeing increased assessments in some of our more affordable neighborhoods and it’s not the first year for some of these neighborhoods. This has been a multi-year cycle and that’s a concern because, again, taxes are part of the affordability of owning a home in Fairfax County. And I want to be sure that we keep

that as part of the consideration going forward.

“I hope, again, when we look closely at the budget that county executive has put before us that we will be able to see if there are savings that we can go back and find and apply that to help some of our residents out.

“Residents are ... seeing increases in their health insurance, in fact considerable increases in that, and everything they do on a daily basis.

“So it’s a balancing act, and I hope we find that balance. But we need to have a little flexibility here because we just don’t have all the answers at this point.”

Cathy Hudgins, Hunter Mill

“This advertising gives us that opportunity to look at what we really need.

“And I think it is difficult having a con-

versation with the citizens sometimes when we approach it as to what is the cost versus what is the return value. And I really have to say that we have done a lot of work to make certain that we try to and be more efficient and more creative in the services that we provide.

“So I think there needs to be a balancing that we need to have here. We provided a meaningful option [in the meals tax]. And guess what? Our citizens didn’t support it. ...

“So I think it’s important that if we want to talk about how great Fairfax County is, we need to be prepared to figure out how to have the services that that draw people here and create a more balanced community in supporting what it takes to live in this county.

“So we’ll have a chance to have that discussion and maybe the opportunity to move forward, so my vote is yes.”

John Foust, Dranesville

“I too will be supporting advertisement of the tax rate. I think it is important to provide the flexibility that 2.5 cents increase provides. Equally important that we spend a lot of time over the next two months looking at how we can bring that down. I know that I am absolutely committed to doing that. ...

“We need to address the fact that our teachers are below the market and we are losing them.

“We need to address the fact that over the last several years we have not been consistent and have not fulfilled the obligations and commitments that we have made to our own county employees.

“Those two things are driving this budget. Those two priorities, and I think that regardless of what we do the next two months, we have to commit ourselves to funding those two things. “Other than those two things, everything else is on the table. I will be very surprised if we’re not able bring that tax rate increase down.”

Sharon Bulova, Chairman

“This is a budget that does address the Board’s highest priorities, Diversion First, addressing the opioid crisis, gang prevention, early childhood education, funding compensation for our teachers as well as our county employees ...

“I did also want to just say something for people who believe that people are fleeing Fairfax County to other parts of the region. Since 2015, Fairfax County’s population has actually increased by 26,700, which is actually the size or a little bit more than the size or the population of the city of Fairfax.

NEWS

Langley HS Band members at Colosseum in Rome



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN FAUST

Langley Band in Rome's Oratorio del Caravita.

Langley Band and Orchestra Set School Records for All-Virginia Selections

Langley High School is sending a school record 15 students to this year's All-Virginia Band and Orchestra honor groups. The musicians were selected based on auditions that were open to the top musicians in each district in the state. The All-Virginia performances will be held April 7 at the Dominion Arts Center, Carpenter Theatre in Richmond. The students selected are: Surya Ambardar (E-flat clarinet), Brooke Baird (violin), Cherri Chen (percussion), Chris Fox (cello), Gaoyang Ganjin (alto saxophone), Beth Johnston (trumpet), Forrest Johnston (trumpet), Alyssa Kim (violin), Cindy Rodi (piccolo), Fay Shuai (cello), Jeffrey Song (B-flat clarinet), Wendy

Tang (flute), Izzy Tice (tuba), Boris Topalov (tenor trombone), and Madeline Yu (violin).

Langley Band Performs in Italy

The Langley High School Band recently returned from a one-week trip to Italy that included visits to Pisa, Siena, and Vatican City, with performances in Florence and Rome. In Florence, the Band performed at one of the oldest churches in Florence, the Auditorium of Santo Stefano al Ponte. The next day, the band performed in Rome at the 17th century baroque Oratorio del Caravita, where Mozart performed in 1770. In both venues, the band played pieces by Italian composers Delle Cese, Albinoni, Respighi, Puccini, and Vecchi, to large and appreciative audiences. The trip was a remarkable educational and cultural experience for the students, filled with memories that will last a lifetime.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Langley Band performing at Auditorium of Santo Stefano al Ponte, Florence, Italy.

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Advocates Praise Sheriff's End to ICE Contract

Sheriff will no longer hold detainees for extra time for ICE.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

The "Sheriff's Office will no longer hold inmates past their release date unless an ICE administrative request to detain the inmate is accompanied by a criminal detainer issued by a court," according to Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid.

Kincaid informed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in late January that the Sheriff's Office will officially terminate its intergovernmental service agreement (IGSA) with ICE on May 23, 2018, following the required 120-days notice.

"We intend to comply with all federal obligations as they pertain to ICE. ... We found it expedient to no longer have an agreement that required us to extend our resources beyond these obligations," according to Kincaid.

ADVOCATES EXPRESSED support for Kincaid's decision at the next available public comment period before the Board of Supervisors on Feb. 20.

Elizabeth Benson, a member of Fairfax for All Coalition, said: "The cancellation of the agreement was fought for over the course of a year."

"We appreciate the stance taken by the sheriff to cancel the IGSA and how this is a vital step in Fairfax County towards protecting our communities and recognizing that we are an integral part of this county," said Michelle Larue.

"I urge every member of the Board of Supervisors to strongly and publicly support Sheriff Kincaid's termination of Fairfax County's IGSA agreement with ICE," said Penny Anderson. "She should be applauded not vilified for doing so."

BUT IMMIGRANTS WHO LIVE in Fairfax County also live in constant fear of law enforcement and immigration agents, said Anderson.

"This is a vital step in Fairfax County towards protecting our communities."

— Michelle Larue



"In Judaism, we are commanded to welcome the stranger and treat him or her as our own."

— Rabbi Jeffrey Saxe



They also fear becoming active members in the political process, educational process and in the community, said Larue.

"If I stand idly by and watch or hear about families being torn apart, people avoiding sending children to school, people afraid of getting health care they need, and the examples are endless, then I am complicit in this travesty," said Anderson, a member of ACLU's People Power.

Rabbi Jeffrey Saxe of Temple Rodef Shalom said: "Every faith tradition has its own particular ways of addressing the need to be welcoming to those who come into the community. In Judaism, we are commanded to welcome the stranger and treat him or her as our own," he said.

He told his family's history, relating that his grandparents escaped Hitler and Nazi Germany in 1938. They married two days after their arrival in America, with only four people present at the wedding.

"They were able to build good lives for themselves, not just because of their own strength, but because of the support of others in the com-

munity, people who didn't know them but wanted to help," said Saxe.

"I wonder what would have happened to them if they would have come into this country today," he said.

WORK NEEDS TO CONTINUE, the advocates said, for the county to adopt policies to "secure equal justice for all residents of Fairfax County regardless of immigration status," said Benson. "Our coalition has made additional suggestions about how to cement these protections in policies."

The political environment has changed with the current administration, said Larue, which has allowed ICE "expanded enforcement efforts which only serves to generate fear in our communities and actually undermines public safety in our county."

"Now it's time for the county to also take concrete steps in protecting our community and not collaborating with ICE," said Larue.

SEVEN SUPERVISORS raised their hands when Benson asked if they supported the termination agreement, with the exception of Braddock Supervisor John Cook and Springfield Supervisor Pat Herryty. (Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth was not present during the informal tally.)

"It was the sheriff's decision not the Board of Supervisors. I think she did the right thing," said Bulova. "Fairfax County is a very diverse community and we value our immigrant community in Fairfax County and we also keep our community safe through community policing."

According to Kincaid's statement, the Sheriff's Office will continue to cooperate with ICE, as it does with other local, state and federal authorities.

Bulova said the sheriff's action would not put the community at risk. She also urged people to stay involved in reporting crimes and when they are victims of crime.

"While I may disagree with you on your first two points, I very emphatically agree with you on the last one," said Herryty, following Bulova's remarks. "Our police don't do immigration enforcement, they never have."

His remark drew scoffs.

"I would encourage you to change that opinion," Herryty said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping Kids Safe

To the Editor:

Thank you for your excellent work, Connection! I was happy to see approximately half of the March 7-13 issue of the Oak Hill / Herndon Connection devoted to the conversation on keeping kids safe from shootings.

A law to restrict purchasing of guns to one per month only was passed in 1993 in Virginia, and then repealed in 2013. Statistics about gun violence at the time showed that having that particular law on the books prevented so much tragedy. Statistics show that gun violence went back up when the law was repealed; gun traffickers take advantage of Virginia's weaker gun laws and illegally traffic guns to other states.

I did a small amount of research on the one-handgun a month law, and I understand it was repealed, but this legislation needs to be revisited.

I was also surprised to learn about Virginia Law SB 288 - a common sense law that was going to require citizens who legally own guns to report if their gun was stolen or transferred. This law failed in committee and was never voted on. It's a common sense gun law, I can't understand how something so simple could not even go to a vote in the Senate?

We need to enact common-sense laws that protect our nation's children.

Jodi Beatty
Herndon

Write, React, Respond

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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Spring 2018 HomeLifeStyle

The 85th Historic Garden Week in Virginia includes tours of homes and gardens in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. The featured historic home was once the Hunting Lodge for Lord Fairfax for whom Fairfax County is named, a privately owned home, beautifully preserved and not often open to the public, dating to the mid 1700s. One garden is designed like a quilt because the owner of this historic house is a world renown quilter. fairfax@vagardenweek.org for tickets. www.vagardenweek.org

PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON/FAIRFAX GARDEN CLUB

Great Falls
CONNECTION

85th Virginia Historic Garden Week in April

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 24, 2018, as the Garden Club of Fairfax invites you to this year's Historic Garden Week Tour in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna.

Experience 250 years of history in the once agricultural hills of northern Fairfax County. Near the village of Great Falls is the William Gunnell home built in 1750 as a hunting lodge for Lord Fairfax. Stroll through a quilt garden designed by the current owner, a well-known quilter, and enjoy carefully tended fruit and vegetable gardens as well as landscaped vistas.

In the historic town of Vienna, explore an 1892 home built on the grounds of the Grange Camp and a charming cottage designed by a couple as a "sensible home" to retire-in- place.

A transitional executive home with a waterfall garden is showcased in McLean.

Tour headquarters are at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna, where admission and refreshments are included with the tour ticket.

Access to William Gunnell House is only by shuttle bus. Pick-up and drop-off at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Tickets available at the Library. Advance Tickets: \$40 per person www.vagardenweek.org or by mail before April 17. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check made out to The Garden Club of Fairfax to Marty Whipple, 11508 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. (703) 978-4130 or Fairfax@vagardenweek.org for questions. \$50 day of tour.

As part of the Garden Club of Virginia's 85th Historic Garden Week, this tour will be one of thirty statewide tours held April 21-28, 2018 featuring nearly 200 of Virginia's most picturesque gardens and private homes.

Proceeds from this celebrated event fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program, and a new partnership with the Virginia State Parks. Iconic landmarks such as Mount Vernon, the Pavilion Gardens at the University of Virginia and the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library have been restored to their original splendor due to the hard work of thousands of volunteers, the generosity of countless home and garden owners, and the nearly 30,000 visitors from around the world who have enjoyed the tours.

For more information about our Great Falls-McLean-Vienna Tour, and to buy tickets online, go to www.vagardenweek.org. The statewide schedule for Historic Garden Week is also listed.

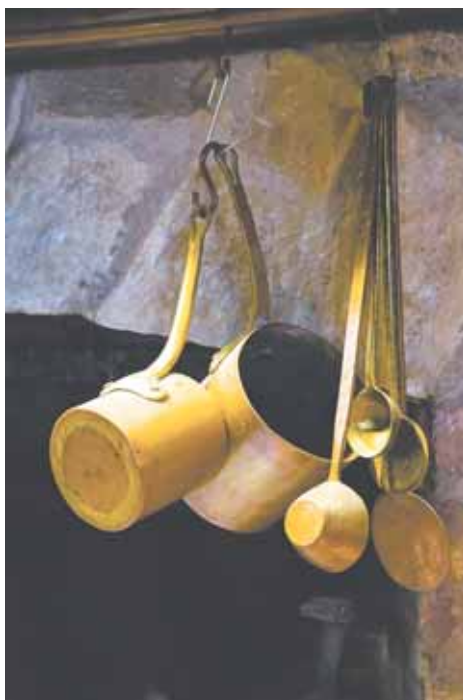
Tour Headquarters, Facilities and Special Activity: Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Tickets, maps and restrooms available on tour day.

There will be a free King's Park Flutes



The 85th Historic Garden Week in Virginia includes tours of homes and gardens around Virginia, as well as in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. The featured historic home was once the Hunting Lodge for Lord Fairfax for whom Fairfax County is named, a privately owned home, beautifully preserved and not often open to the public, dating to the mid 1700s. This garden is designed like a quilt because the owner of this historic house is a world renown quilter. fairfax@vagardenweek.org for tickets. www.vagardenweek.org

PHOTOS BY DONNA MOULTON/GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX



Details from the William Gunnell home in Great Falls built in 1750 as a hunting lodge for Lord Fairfax.

Concert 10 to noon. Tour tickets: \$50 per person available on tour day at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and at tour homes.

WILLIAM GUNNELL HOUSE, Innsbruck Avenue, Great Falls The original home is a hall-and-parlor structure built in 1750 on 12,588 acres owned by Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax, for whom the county is named. William Gunnell III (1750-1820), first known resident of the home and believed to have been caretaker for Lord Fairfax,



purchased it in 1791 and constructed an addition for his large family, making it one of the area's grandest manor homes with a 1,500-acre plantation and numerous outbuildings. One outbuilding, c.1770, survives today. The home was in the Gunnell family until 1913. Twentieth century additions are unobtrusive and compatible with the home's 18th century Colonial and post-Revolution styles. In 1934 a log cabin tavern was moved here from Ruby, Virginia, to become a dining room with a massive stone fireplace at

one end. The now 10-acre property includes a large farm pond, Virginia's fifth oldest measured hemlock, boxwood lined paths, flower, fruit, vegetable and herb gardens, and grape and rose arbors. The homeowner, a world-renowned quilter and fabric designer, designed the property's quilt garden, best viewed from a large vine-covered pergola. The star pattern quilt bedspread design in the master bedroom is repeated in a leaded glass panel in the master bath, in a wrought iron railing and in the quilt garden. National Register of Historic Places. Accessible only by shuttle bus. Jinny and John Beyer, owners.

MONTVALE WAY, McLEAN Located within a 255-acre wooded community of 166 homes in McLean, known as "The Reserve," this two-level executive style home was built in 2001 by one of the premiere builders in Northern Virginia. An exterior of bisque and gray brick construction is framed by stone pillars and enhanced by a paved circular drive. Mature trees, grasses and a massing of bulbs, perennials and shrubs provide four seasons of interest. An armored soldier stands guard, injecting a whimsical tone. Warm tones of beige and brown and faux-painted walls on the first floor act as a backdrop for the mix of old and new in art, furniture and family treasures. A sunroom is the perfect spot to enjoy the backyard koi pond and extensive landscaping designed and implemented by the homeowners. Sandra and Robert Varney, owners

THE GRANGE CAMP, Redwood Drive, Vienna The exterior front of this Folk Victorian home with a Federalist front porch is essentially unchanged from its 1892 appearance. Alexander Wedderburn, a successful printer and publisher in Alexandria, purchased the property and built a summer home on 42 acres previously owned by the post-Civil War Grange movement and used for annual summer fairs for farmers and their families. Original windows and interior doors are displayed as pieces of art and original wood molding was salvaged to become paneling in the powder room. A schoolhouse chair and piano are from Ms. Dyer's mother's school in Connecticut. Her father, a furniture maker and refinisher, refurbished the piano, a Singer sewing table and other pieces. Mature trees provide shade and privacy to enjoy an array of flowering shrubs and specimen trees on the 1.7 acre property. Bob Smith and Alison Dyer, owners.

CENTER STREET NORTH, Vienna From drawing board to completion, the homeowners envisioned a "sensible" home allowing for present-day living and entertaining within an open floor plan, and the flexibility of converting the current den to an additional first floor bedroom and bath for aging in place for this custom built, 2011

SEE HISTORIC GARDEN, PAGE 9

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON



Don't miss this chance to see the 1750 William Gunnell home and gardens in Great Falls.

modern Cape Cod cottage in historic Vienna. As the owner of REfind, a Vienna boutique, the homeowner mixes vintage with fresh accessories throughout this three-level cottage. The gardens were designed to be low maintenance with native plants, and compatible with the historic Vienna neighborhood. Three large crepe myrtles at the front of the home expand out into layers of mass plantings of perennials, shrubs, and spring blooming bulbs. Carey and David Williams, owners.

The Garden Club of Virginia's horticultural programming inspires one of Historic Garden Week's greatest attractions: the world-class floral arrangements created by club members. We estimate that over 2,300 fabulous arrangements, using greenery and flowers grown in members' own gardens, will decorate the featured homes on this year's tours.

Places of Interest:

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct., Vienna. This 9.5 acre park includes large ornamental display gardens and three native plant collections. There are paved walking trails, three lakes, four gazebos and a restored 18th century farmhouse, more than 20 varieties of cherry trees, azalea, lilac and peony collections, irises, a hosta and fern garden and a children's garden.

L'Auberge Chez Francois Gardens, 332 Springvale Rd., Great Falls. Owner and Executive Chef Jacques Haeringer continues his family's tradition of serving fresh French classics in the original River Bend Country Store.

Great Falls, McLean, Vienna House & Garden Tour

Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 10-4 p.m.
Hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax,
Contact: Claudia Lewis, Garden Club of Fairfax PR
Fairfax10618@verizon.net or
fairfax@vagardenweek.org for tickets.
www.vagardenweek.org

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Highlighting Features that Improve Functionality

Designer must-haves for building a dream kitchen.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From a Sub Zero refrigerator and Bosch dishwasher hidden behind an oak cabinet front to a backsplash and center island covered with slabs of marble, the options for creating a dream kitchen can seem endless, say local designers, but they are also very personal.

"A seldom used \$15,000 La Cornue stove which might impress friends may define one person's idea of a dream kitchen, while the definition of a dream kitchen for another person might include a more practical approach to form and function," said interior designer Joseph Van Goethem. "For example, my wife is an excellent cook, so her dream kitchen is all about spices, dishes and cookbooks."

Hand-painted Italian tile used for the backsplash was one of the luxuries that Van Goethem incorporated into the design of his own kitchen in McLean. "It infuses the kitchen with color and visual interest beneath the cabinetry. We chose a Silestone countertop over neutral stone for its durability, stain resistance and ease of maintenance."

For counters toppings, quartz and butcher block are two materials that interior designer Carolyn Elleman says are at the top of her list. Strong and durable, butcher block is made by connecting long wooden boards. Maple and cherry wood are two of the most popular materials for such countertops.



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH VAN GOETHEM

When building his own dream kitchen, interior designer Joseph Van Goethem of McLean, included cabinets for porcelain dinnerware, silver flatware and cookbooks. He also added a backsplash made of hand-painted tile.

A versatile island is a kitchen must-have for Jean P Freeman, professor of interior design at Marymount University. "The real rave right now in kitchens is something that I introduced to the Pedini [kitchen design firm] eight years ago while designing my own sustainable house in McLean, Va.," she said "It was to have an island with most of the essentials located on it. The idea of having an island with a sink, dishwasher, cook-top and plenty of storage below has been taken by storm."

Such a design technique reduces the need for overhead cabinetry, advises Freeman. "The island idea uses cabinets with only pull-out drawers for dishes, glasses, pots and pans. The drawers are so convenient and easy to organize. ... With all the counter space, there is room for eating and having extra helpers when preparing meals," she said.

Drawers can be made to accommodate refrigeration units and microwaves, advises Freeman. "Even warming ovens are available in drawers," she said. "There are many new and dynamic, convenient and much more interesting options on the market than most people are aware of."

Features that improve functionality top the must-haves list of designer Melissa Fielding of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths.

"I love tray dividers. They can really revolutionize the kitchen because you can maximize the space for your cook and serve ware," she said. "Another one of my highly recommended items are kitchen drawers because things like that favorite mixing bowl or large pan, come towards you instead of having to reach up to get them."

Keeping trash out of sight is a top priority for Fielding.

"One item that I really feel is a must-have is a waste bin drawer," she said. "Otherwise you have this beautiful kitchen and then you have a wastebasket as an eyesore. With a waste bin drawer near your prep area, you can put in items like onion skin as you're cooking rather than having to walk across the kitchen. They allow a kitchen to be

beautiful and functional."

Steam-convection ovens and showpiece ranges that are ornate enough to become the focal point of the kitchen are two desirable kitchen features, suggests Michael Winn of Winn Design + Build. "Steam-convection ovens are a great way to cook," he said. "These are functioning as a second, or even primary, ovens and even replacing microwaves."

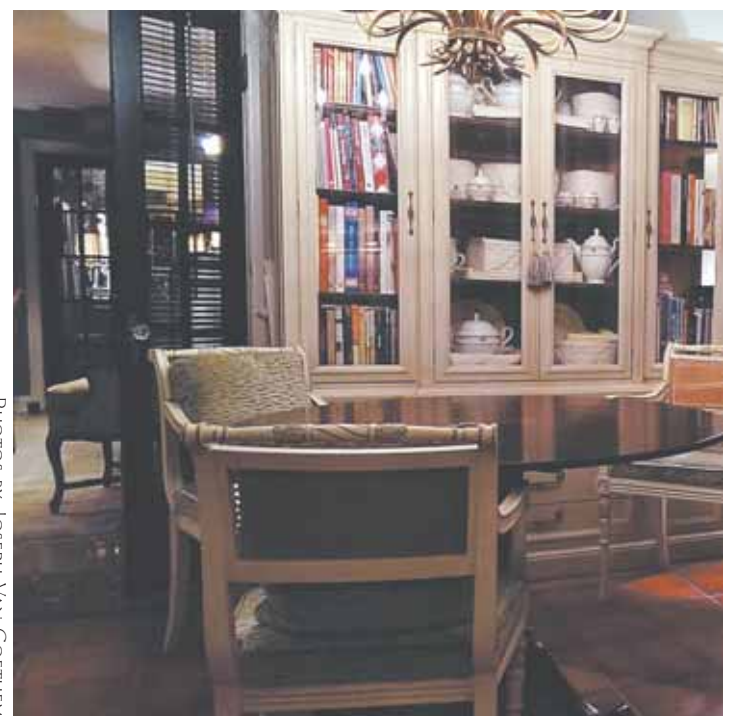


PHOTO BY NICELY DONE KITCHENS AND BATHS

Waste bin and other drawers are kitchen must-haves, advises Melissa Fielding of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths.

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION
Lauren Maloney #10 looks for space to dribble as Trinity Jackson #10 defends



Carly Britt scored 11 points and accounted for 6 rebounds in Langley's state final loss to Cosby.

Langley Girls Reach State Final, Lose in Overtime

The Langley Lady Saxons advanced to the VHSL 6A tournament as the #2 seed after losing to Marshall in the regional final 44-43 on Feb. 24.

In the Lady Saxons first round game in the VHSL State Tournament they defeated Woodbridge 47-46 on March 3. Two nights later they defeated TC Williams HS 56-54 in overtime to advance to the Virginia 6A State Championship.

Langley faced Cosby HS from Midlothian, Va., winners of three of the last four 6A state titles. Cosby defeated Ocean Lakes 76-39 in the first round, then Landstown 53-44, to face Langley.

In the first quarter Langley jumped out to an early 13-8 advantage.

Cosby then cut into the lead, outscoring Langley 14-13.

With Langley up 26-22 to start the third quarter, Cosby had their most productive quarter of the game scoring 16 and holding Langley to 11.

With the start of the fourth quarter, the Cosby girls had taken a 38-37 advantage and the 6A Championship was up for grabs. Both teams defenses would



Jordyn Callaghan #1 goes airborne towards the basket.

hold the opponent to low scoring in the fourth quarter with Langley narrowly outscoring Cosby 7-6, to force overtime, after Jordyn Callaghan's shot was no good in the closing seconds of regulation.

With the game in OT and the score knotted up at 44, and with 2:36 to play in overtime Langley had gained an early 4 point advantage, 50-46.

But Cosby responded, holding Langley scoreless in those closing minutes and scoring the final 6 points. With 1.9 seconds Langley had one last shot for a buzzer beater, but the in bound pass was intercepted by Nia Covington.

Cosby won 52-50.

Cosby ends the year (24-4) with their fourth State championship. Langley ends the year (21-8). Langley was led by Rana Azad's 17 points. Carly Britt added 11. Nia Covington's 25 points led Cosby while Charme Lilly added 14. Azad would also add three assists, two steals and six rebounds. Jordyn Callaghan added 9 points, six assists, two blocks, three steals and three rebounds.

— WILL PALENSCAR

The Lady Saxons of Langley ponder a close state final score moments after losing to Cosby 52-50 in Richmond.



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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

“Harvey.” Through March 24, Friday-Saturday, 8-10:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The McLean Community Players will present Mary Chase’s Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy, “Harvey.” Matinees on Sundays, March 11 and 18. \$18-\$20. Email info@McLeanPlayers.org or visit McLeanPlayers.org.

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.

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

Colvin Run Mill open 11-4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County’s operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

MCC Summer Camps. Plan now to register children for MCC’s enriching summer camp programs for children ages 3 through 18. Summer Camp Registration begins Monday, Feb. 5, for MCC district residents and Monday, Feb. 12, for all others. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

The Arts of Great Falls School offers winter classes for adults and children of all skill levels. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 17

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE, Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 17-18

“The Snow White Variety Show.” 2 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. All the fun of just about every TV show genre you can imagine is jam-packed into this wild and fast-paced comedy. This is a part-talk-show, part-reality show dramatic retelling of a classic story you thought you knew performed by talented local young actors! The dwarves team up to share their own side of Snow White’s story. \$10-\$15. For ages 6 and older. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for tickets.

SUNDAY/MARCH 18

Nowruz Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Tysons Corner Center, 8100 Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Persian festival will feature family-friendly fun and food trucks. Visit nowruzfestival.org.

“Winnie the Pooh & Friends.” 3 p.m. in the Chapel Auditorium at The Madeira School, at 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The play is a world premiere of Judith Walsh White’s new adaptation of A. A. Milnes’ classic “The House at Pooh Corner”



‘Harvey’ Comes to Great Falls

McLean Community Players present “Harvey” at Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. In rehearsal photo, from left: Veta (Anne Hilleary) discusses the party she is hosting with her daughter Myrtle Mae (Caroline Peterson). Performances: March 9-24, 2018. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$18-\$20. Group rates available. General admission tickets through Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006 or visit www.McLeanPlayers.org.

with original songs with lyrics by White and music by Michael Oosterhout. \$10 at the door, and \$5 for children 6 and under. Visit www.travelingplayers.org or call 703-987-1712.

“The Trojan Women.” 4 p.m. in the Chapel Auditorium at The Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Trojan Women by Euripides is widely considered history’s oldest existing anti-war play, as well as one of literature’s greatest tragedies. Tickets are \$10 at the door, and \$5 for children 6 and under. Recommended for ages 13 and up. Visit www.travelingplayers.org or call 703-987-1712.

Spring Fling. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Bloomingdale’s Tysons Corner. The New Dominion Women’s Club will host the 11th annual Spring Fling benefit fashion show. Enjoy delicious food and drink as well as bid on a raffle while viewing the newest trends in spring casual, business, and resort fashion. Visit www.ndwc.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 20

Garden Club Meeting. 10 a.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna. Five Hills Garden Club will present Kirk Brown discussing “Designing on the Verge.” It’s all about gardens and changing life-styles. Free and open to the public. Call 571-606-7084 or email lmc323@aol.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 22

The Enola Gay. 7:30-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Learn about the history of the Enola Gay and her most famous mission from Scott Wiley, Docent at the Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center. Free. Call 703-938-0405 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3456120.

SATURDAY/MARCH 24

Free Tai Chi. 7:55-9 a.m. at St. Luke’s School Gym, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Free introduction and beginners’ practice every Saturday morning. Call 703-759-9141 or see FreeTaiChi.org for more.

Healthy Strides Wellness Book Club. 11 a.m.-noon at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. “The Prediabetes Diet Plan,” by Hillary Wright. This club is for adults, and meets at different Fairfax County Public Library sites each month. No registration is required to attend. Books are available for checkout at Fairfax County Libraries or purchase from a retailer. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/healthy-strides.

SUNDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 18-31

Fairfax County Parks. Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055.

On Sunday, March 18 – At **Colvin Run Mill**, children age 2-9 can hunt for eggs and make egg-celent crafts to take home. Bring a basket. \$8 per person. At **Hidden Pond Nature Center**, children age 3 to 12 can create a spring mobile of favorite pond animals from plastic eggs. All materials will be provided. \$6 per child. **Hidden Oaks Nature Center** is hosting a Woodland Wildlife Egg Hunt for children age 3-8. Meet costumed woodland characters along a trail, collect eggs with non-candy treats and discover how different animals raise their young. \$8 per child.

On Saturday, March 24 – Children age 1-6 are invited to the Easter Eggstravaganza at **Frying Pan Park** to hunt for eggs that contain treats and prizes and visit with farm animals. \$8 per child. Add a wagon ride for \$2 per person. **Sully Historic Site** is offering an egg hunt, egg-related games and an Easter craft for children age 1-8. \$8 per child. Wagon rides cost another \$2 per person.

On Sunday, March 25 — Stop by the Easter Egg Hunt at **Sully Historic Site**. The historic site is offering an egg hunt, egg-related games and an Easter craft for children age 1-8. \$8 per child. Wagon rides cost another \$2 per person. **Lake Fairfax Park** will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for children age 1-6. \$8 per child.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is running a Dinosaur Egg Hunt on



Pottery and other forms of clay work created by Laura Nichols’ students of Pig Pen Pottery.

PHOTOS BY SHANZEH UMERANI/ THE CONNECTION

Art, Pottery on Exhibit at Great Falls Library

A Great Falls Library conference room is filled with admirers of art and pottery and people converse amongst themselves while looking at the paintings hung up on walls before moving on to see pottery and sculpture presented in a glass case only feet away.

Linda Jones is an artist who has been living in Great Falls for more than 10 years. She works with watercolor, acrylic paint, as well as mixed media to create texture in her artwork.

“I paint everywhere,” Jones said, “I’ve painted in planes, on boats, in the car. Wherever I go I must have small canvases and paints with me.”

Her work ranges in sizes and are landscaped based, painting areas from the Chesapeake Bay to the Alaskan plains. The exhibit presented at Great Falls Library was a total of 40 pieces of art created over a 10-year period.

The pottery presented was created by art students at Pig Pen Pottery, learning under Laura Nichols. The students’ clay creations ranged from sculptures to bowls and plant holders.

“They learned very quickly,” said Nichols, “It’s always nice to see the age range of students. No one is ever too old or too young to learn a form of art.”

— SHANZEH UMERANI



A series of artwork pieces created by Linda Jones; Most of her paintings are either watercolor or acrylic.

March 25, 29, 30, 31 and April 1. Enjoy a dinosaur-themed program and outdoor egg hunt while visiting Dinoland in Nature Playce. The program is for children age 2-8. \$8 per child.

On Saturday, March 31, Clemyjontri Park is offering an Easter Egg Hunt, crafts and photo ops with the Easter Bunny for children age one to nine. \$7 per child. Add a carousel ride for \$2.

FRIDAY/MARCH 30

“Clue.” 7 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join The Alden staff as they quote along with the dialogue from “Clue” (PG). Admission and popcorn are free. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Don a secret identity, select a room, but leave lead pipes and ropes at home. Prop bags are \$5 each. Supplies are limited and advance purchase is recommended. Visit mcleancenter.org.

PEOPLE & PETS



At Home in Great Falls

In a submission that missed our Pet Connection deadline, Deb Worden of Great Falls sent the photos of the three kittens adopted in August from the Great Falls Animal Hospital. They are siblings and are 10 months old. Harry Pawter is orange & white. Tuckleberry Finn is all orange. Bean is gray/orange tortoise shell.

CALENDAR

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4	5	6	7	8	9
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18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30
					31

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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.

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



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WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Karen Washburn to Speak to Great Falls Historical Society

On March 14, 7 p.m., at the Great Falls Library, historian Karen Washburn will speak to the Great Falls Historical Society on the history of the western part of Great Falls. Her talk is titled "Evolution of Upper Seneca Road Neighborhood from Wilderness to Commercial Hub to Quiet Backwater." The Great Falls Library is at 9830 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls.

Washburn is a noted local historian who has spoken to GFHS many times, has done original research, received several awards and written a series of historical articles in the Elan periodical magazine. She is a past President of the Great Falls Historical Society and a charter member from 40 years ago. She has surveyed numerous historical houses and successfully worked to place several structures on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Great Falls Grange, the original Forestville School, and most recently, the entire Georgetown Pike road-bed.

Admission is free and members of the public are invited to attend, as well as to join the society. You may do so on gfhs.org. Membership is \$35 for a

family for 12 months.

'Around the World' with Kenneth Garrett

Great Falls Senior Center welcomes back guest speaker Kenneth Garrett, an independent photographer, who will make a presentation titled "Around the World in 24 Days." His photographs reflect his creativity in covering major archaeological sites of the Mayas, Aztecs, Olmecs, and ancient Egyptians and the important discoveries in the evolutionary history of mankind. Garrett has photographed major archaeological sites and has worked around the world for a host of major magazines while also accumulating book credits.

The March 20 event will held at The Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and includes lunch. A donation would be greatly appreciated for the lunch. Reservations are a must. Contact Polly Fitzgerald at pollyfitz1@verizon.net or 703-759-4345. If you have not renewed your membership, you can do that at the Hospitality Desk. Also look for Message Board to be informed of future programs. For more information, visit gfseniors.org.

The event sponsor is Costa Family and Cosmetic Dentistry, 100135 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls.

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.

SOBER-RIDE FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Free Sober Rides. Saturday, March 17, 4 p.m. through Sunday, March 18, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's St. Patrick's Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 2 p.m. on March 17 on www.SoberRide.com. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

[www.fcps.edu/registration/
kindergarten-registration](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration).

GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATES

The McLean Community Center (MCC) is seeking candidates to run for seats on its 2018-2019 Governing Board. A candidate must reside in the Center's tax district (Small District 1A-Dranesville). To have their names placed on election ballots, candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 McLean tax district residents in their respective categories (either adult or youth). Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Key Election Dates:

- ❖ Friday, March 16: Completed Petition Packets are due at MCC by 5 p.m.
- ❖ Monday, March 19: Candidates' Orientation, 7 p.m., The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
- ❖ Monday, April 9: Absentee Voting begins at the MCC Administrative Office, 6631 Old Dominion Dr., and The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
- ❖ Sunday, May 6: Candidates Meet and Greet, 2-4 p.m. Sponsored by the

Friends of MCC, at the Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.

❖ Wednesday, May 16: Absentee Voting ends at the MCC Administrative Office and the Old Firehouse Center at 5 p.m.

❖ Saturday, May 19: Elections at McLean Day from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information on the MCC Governing Board Elections, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the Center's website: <http://bit.ly/2ix7qc1>.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 14

1 Million Cups. 8:30 a.m. networking; 9-10 a.m. program at Make Offices at Tysons, 1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600, McLean. Each week a different business owner gives a brief six-minute presentation about where they are in their business. They then offer up a challenge question about a new idea, product, expansion or something they are facing in their business. The group then masterminds solutions. Free and open to the public. Visit www.1millioncups.com/.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept. 30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit



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Silver Medal of Valor



Lieutenant Jay Smith receives his Valor Award from Richard Bowers Jr., Chief, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department.

Lieutenant Jay Smith and retired Battalion Chief Tyrone Harrington are awarded the Silver Medal of Valor for their courageous response to house fire of a neighbor. They began to utilize a garden hose to attack the fire in the garage and both personnel had entered the home multiple times in an effort to rescue a trapped child. Lieutenant Smith and Chief Harrington operated without the benefit of a fire hose, breathing apparatus, or protective equipment, putting the rescue of the child before their own personal safety. As fire and rescue units arrived, Lieutenant Smith and Battalion Chief Harrington continued to provide direct assistance and information to the arriving units. Lieutenant Smith and retired Battalion Chief Harrington exhibited extreme courage while drawing upon extensive training and experience to assist their neighbors.



Battalion Chief (Ret.) Tyrone Harrington receives his Valor Award from Richard Bowers Jr., Chief, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department.

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"Introspections"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

According to my oncologist, it's time, way past time in fact (not so much 'fact,' more like his experiences with other cancer patients) that I make more significant changes in my cancer treatment than I have diagnosis to date. What he means, specifically – and what we regularly discuss – is extending the interval of my CT Scan, which currently occurs every three months.

Not so much to minimize the radiation exposure, more so due to my continuing survival. No one's ready to characterize me as "N.E.D.," (no evidence of disease), but neither does it appear, based on the last five years – since I was hospitalized and began my alimta infusions, that my tumors are growing and/or moving; at least not as indicated with any clinical significance.

Nevertheless, the prospect of waiting longer to find out if any tumor action has occurred is unsettling. Currently, given that I am generally asymptomatic, the primary way that I learn if there's been "progression," is by the computerized tomography of my lungs/upper torso. Rarely have symptoms manifested themselves otherwise. And when they have, they've as often indicated nothing as something – and vice versa; meaning, sometimes no symptoms still showed growth. So it's confusing, counter intuitive and contra-indicated, and I'm stuck in the middle.

While maintaining this quarterly scan schedule, I have extended the interval between infusions however: from every three weeks originally to every six weeks now. Which means I've reduced the amount of chemotherapy I receive by 50 percent per quarter. Still the scans have showed "stable." Given that I'm starting my 10th year post diagnosis, perhaps it's time to scan less and live more?

Our concern has been that if the CT Scan continues to be the first real indicator/confirmation that tumor growth has occurred – and if so, presumably different/more aggressive/life-sustaining tactics would need to be employed (immunotherapy comes to print, which I have not yet utilized), why wait through the fourth month to find out? Maybe that month's-long delay in scanning would matter in possibly nipping my tumor growth in the bud?

My oncologist's thinking is that so little change has occurred during the past five years that perhaps it's reasonable to take advantage of my amazing good fortune and extend the interval?

Moreover, with respect to my quality of life, reducing the weeks of stress we experience leading up to the scan, and of course the stress the week after, waiting for results, would enhance our lives; and eliminating that stress and improving the quality of our lives has always been an interest/concern of my oncologist.

And I appreciate his concern for our overall well being; and I would like to have less cancer-related impact on my life but, yes, there's always a 'but.' If I extend the scan interval, I might worry about what's happening in my lungs during the month after I would have already been scanned? What if? I mean, it's not as if we can't go back in time, sort of. We can always restart, re-interval, re-scan, re-everything; so I've been reassured. Why not re-engage more with life and rearrange less because of cancer?

Maybe I've survived nine-plus years with a terminal form of cancer because I'm meant to? Why not leverage my many good results and better manage my cancer commitments? Perhaps it's time to take control of my life and live like I'm not dying? Heck, I've done alright so far. Who's to say I can't do better?

If my oncologist characterizes me as his third miracle, then maybe I should start living more miraculously?

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

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We feel honored and proud to be able to bring this to the families of Great Falls and we hope that through this festival we are able to show our tremendous gratitude and appreciation for your continued support of our family and our business. We would not be here were it not for your loyal patronage.

Enjoy the day and Happy Hunting!



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President Message

Great Falls Optimist Club Foundation 37th Anniversary And Great Falls Children's Spring Festival 34th Anniversary

What a great time to reflect and be thankful to Jorge Adeler of Adeler Jewelers, The business community, and the multigenerational families that have continued to come and contribute to what has become an annual tradition at this time of year in our community.

Adeler Jewelers hides 800-1000 gemstones in the 8000 plastic eggs stuffed with candy in the exciting egg hunt at the end of the festival to the delight of children and parents alike! All profits are contributed to Great Falls Optimist Club Children's Fund to give back to the community.

The Great Falls Optimist Club sponsors programs such as Scholarships for winners of Oratorical and Essay contests among teens including deaf and hard of hearing, Respect for Law, Bicycle Safety, and child identification programs.

Youth Groups such as ROTC High School Programs, Great Falls Rugby, and Great Falls Little League have received contributions to help the youth of our com-

munity learn discipline, commitment and community.

The Helping Hands program recognizes youth who have acted above and beyond in their schools and are given funds to be used as they please for their schools programs.

We deliver Holiday and week end meals and holiday gift cards to those families who are struggling to make ends meet. We have paid for equipment that allows home bound cancer students to remain audio/ visually in touch with their peers at school. The Optimist International has a huge Childhood Cancer Research Initiative with John Hopkins. We Invite you and your friends to join us in our efforts to support the youth of today in order to invest in a Better Tomorrow! The more members we have, the more youth can be supported!

Please contact Linda Thompson, membership chair at 703-850-5676 for inquiries into membership.

Call Wendy Adeler at 703 759 4076 to volunteer for the Children's Festival.



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Birthstones

January - Garnet

Garnet, the birthstone for January, signifies eternal friendship and trust and is the perfect gift for a friend. Garnet, derived from the word granatum, means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone's resemblance to a pomegranate seed. References to the gemstone dates back to 3100 B.C., when the Egyptians used garnets as inlays jewelry. Garnet is the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of tsavorites.

February - Amethyst

Amethyst, the gemstone believed by ancient Greeks and Romans to ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus, also is said to keep the wearer clear-headed and quick-witted. Throughout history, the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. It has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. Amethyst is purple quartz, a beautiful blend of violet and red that can found in every corner of the earth. Historically, the finest amethyst were found in Russia and were featured in much royal European jewelry.

March - Aquamarine

The two birthstones for March are aquamarine and bloodstone. The name aquamarine is derived from the Latin word aqua, meaning water, and marina, meaning the sea. This gemstone was believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene color of aquamarine is said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded. Its pale, cool color beautifully complements spring and summer wardrobes. Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones. The second birthstone for March is bloodstone, a dark-green jasper flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. This ancient stone was used by the Babylonians to make seals and amulets and was believed to have healing powers - especially for blood disorders. It is sometimes called the martyr's stone as legend tells that it was created when drops of Christ's blood stained some jasper at the foot of the cross.

April - Diamond

As the April birthstone, diamonds are the ideal gift for a loved one. And now you have more choices than ever. Get creative and give the ultimate gift of beauty: a fancy-color diamond. Fancy-color diamonds are natural, rare and truly exotic gem of the earth. Diamonds in hues of yellow, red, pink, blue, and green range in intensity from faint to vivid

and generally the more saturated the color, the higher the value. In fact, diamonds sparkling with intense color are rare and may be priced higher than a colorless diamond of equal size. Because fancy-color diamonds are very desirable, color is sometimes introduced in a laboratory.

May - Emerald

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word smaragdus, meaning green in Greek, was mined in Egypt as early as 330 B.C. Today, most of the world's emeralds are mined in Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan, and Zambia.

June - Pearl and Alexandrite

June counts three gems as birthstones, pearl, Alexandrite, and moonstone.

Historically, pearls have been used as an adornment for centuries. They were one of the favorite gem materials of the Roman Empire; later in Tudor England, the 1500s were known as the pearl age. Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty.

Alexandrite

A relatively modern gem, Alexandrite, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light.

Moonstone

The third birthstone for June is the Moonstone. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon - a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called adularescence) and sometimes show either a multirayed star or a cat's eye. Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called feldspar, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne.

July - Ruby

There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagi-

SEE BIRTHSTONES, PAGE 10



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The Great Falls Optimist Club and Adeler Jewelers Invite You, Your Children, Your Grandchildren to:
The Grand Opening of Spring with the 34th Annual Children's Festival
Sunday, March 25th, 2018
1:30 – 4:30 PM at the Village Centre in Great Falls

Hoping the weather will be fantastic, the Great Falls Optimist Club and Adeler Jewelers are ready for the annual Children's Spring Festival to take over the Village Centre Sunday, March 25th, a sure sign Spring is here in the community.

We'll have rides and games and end with the Easter Egg Hunt, eggs filled with candy and gems.

The Children's Festival is the largest fund raiser for the Great Falls Optimist Club with proceeds benefitting children locally. This is a great inexpensive family outing!

THE GREAT FALLS OPTIMIST CLUB provides Thanksgiving and Holiday Meals and Gifts for those less fortunate; in the past we've provided school supplies, equipment, word processors, LCD projectors, etc for special education classes, as well as children's cancer, private injured parties, and much more.

This year, we are supporting, the Little League, the Great Falls Rugby teams, the local HS ROTC program, and our Junior Optimist Club of Langley High School. They are currently working on blankets for the homeless.

Sometimes we have oratorical and essay contests to compete for scholarships and help them gain leadership skills.

Linda thanks the many volunteers who come out every year to help with the festival, whether it's stuffing eggs on Thursday, March 22nd or setting up, and cleaning up the day of the festival! These are the ones who make it a success!

"The festival began as a way for SEE GRAND OPENING, PAGE 11

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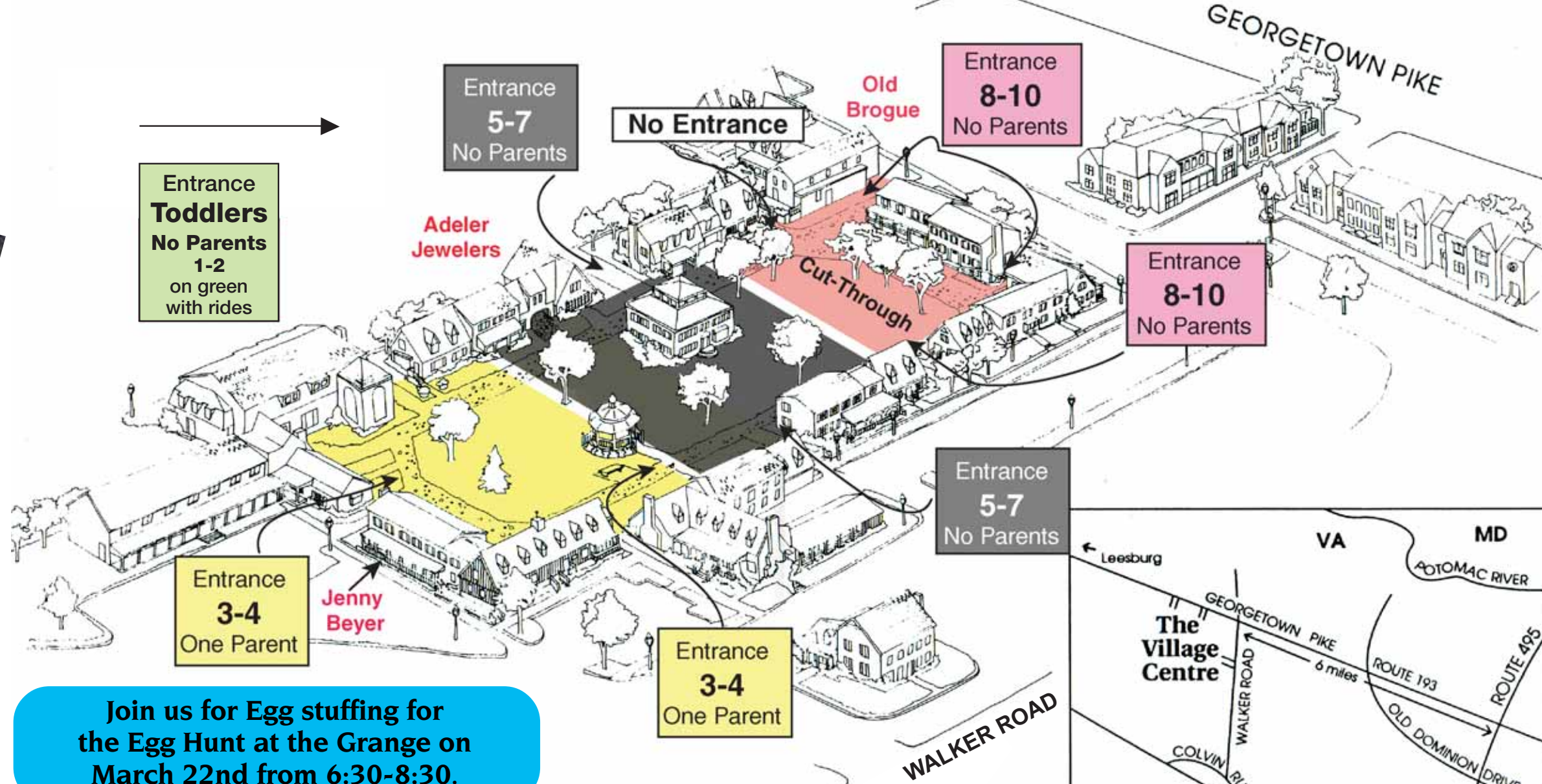
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34th Annual Egg Hunt brought to you by Adeler Jewelers and the Great Falls Optimist Club at the Village Centre



Join us for Egg stuffing for the Egg Hunt at the Grange on March 22nd from 6:30-8:30.

TICKETS
Go on sale at: 12:30
\$10 per child
Ages 1-10 and
Parents are free
Donations welcome...

If you would like to volunteer for the Spring Festival from 1:00-4:30 on Sunday, March 25th, call Wendy at 703-759-4076 or email wendy@adelerjewelers.com

Tickets go on sale at 12:30
Games and rides are from 1:30-4
The egg hunt from 4:00-4:30
The egg hunt includes over \$8000 worth of gemstones donated by Adeler Jewelers, mixed with candy and stuffed into 8,000 plastic eggs that will be scattered around the Village Centre for children ages 1-10 to find.
All Rides at own risk.

If you would like to know what your "gem" is, please go to www.AdelerJewelers.com and follow the link under *Learn More.*

Important Information
*** PLEASE NOTE: Candy in the Egg Hunt may contain nuts! We do our best to avoid this, but we cannot guarantee it because even nut-free candy MAY HAVE BEEN MADE on machines that previously processed candy that did contain nuts.
NO RAIN DATE: Due to the size of this ever-popular event, and to

scheduling requirements for the Village Centre and volunteer staff, we are unable to provide a rain date for the egg hunt. Please call 703-759-4076 after 9:00 am on March 25th to verify the status of the event if you are concerned about cancellation due to inclement weather.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We can always use more volunteers to help with a range of

jobs, including staffing an entrance, helping with set up and clean up the day of the hunt, and other activities. If you are interested in helping with this fun, family-friendly event, please contact us at 703-759-4076 or info@adelerjewelers.com. This is a terrific opportunity for Scout troops and students looking for community service opportunities!

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Birthstones

FROM PAGE 5

nation, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Ruby is a variety of the gems species corundum. It is harder than any natural gemstone except diamond, which means a ruby is durable enough for everyday wear. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value.

August - Peridot

Two birthstones are available for August birthdays: Peridot and Sardonyx.

Peridot is said to host magical powers and healing properties to protect against nightmares and to bring the wearer power, influence, and a wonderful year. As peridot is a gemstone that forms deep inside the Earth and brought to the surface by volcanoes, in

Hawaii, peridot symbolizes the tears of Pele, the goddess of fire and volcanoes. Today, most of the peridot supply comes from Arizona; other sources are China, Myanmar, and Pakistan.

Sardonyx

Sardonyx is a form of onyx and is recognized by its layers of reddish brown and white banding. It was popular with the ancient Greeks and Romans who carried into battle talismans of sardonyx engraved with images of heroes such as Mars or Hercules, believing that this would bring courage and victory. Because of its attractive banding, sardonyx has long been used to fashion cameos (carved raised figures) and intaglios (the reverse of cameos). This gemstone is found throughout the world.

September - Sapphire

Sapphire, the September birthstone, has been popular since the Middle Ages and, according to folklore, will protect your loved ones from envy and harm. Medieval clergy wore sapphires to symbolize heaven, while commoners thought the gem attracted heavenly blessings. Blue sapphires range from very light to very dark greenish or violetish blue, as well as various shades of pure blue. The most prized colors are a medium to medium dark blue or slightly violetish blue.

October - Tourmaline and Opal

October is another month with two birthstone choices - Tourmaline and Opal.

Tourmaline has become a favorite gemstone among jewelry designer, and gem collectors the world over. Since it is available in a wide variety of colors, it is ideally suited to almost anyone's taste.

Tourmaline also is known for displaying several colors in the same gemstone. These bi-color or tri-color gems are formed in many combinations; gemstones with clear color distinctions are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as watermelon tourmaline, and features green, pink, and white colors bands; to resemble its namesake, the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge.

The name opal derives from the Greek Opallos, meaning "to see a change (of color)." Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. An opal's beauty is the product of contrast between its color play and its background. Opal is a formation of non-crystalline silica gel that seeped into crevices in the sedimentary strata. Through time and nature's heating and molding processes, the gel hardened into the form of opals.

November - Topaz and Citrine

Two gems are appropriate for November birthdays - Topaz and Citrine.

Topaz is a gemstone available in a rich rainbow of colors. Prized for several thousand years in antiquity, all yellow gems in antiquity were called topaz. Often confused with citrine quartz (yellow) and smoky quartz (brown), quartz and topaz are separate and unrelated mineral species. The most prized color of topaz is called Imperial topaz after the Russian Czars of the 1800s and features a magnificent orange body color with pinkish undertones.

Citrine, the other birthstone for November is known as the "healing quartz". This golden gemstone is said to support vitality and health while encouraging and guiding hope, energy and warmth within the wearer. Citrine can be found in a variety of shades ranging from pastel yellow to dark brownish orange. It is one of the most affordable of gemstones and plentiful in nature.

December - Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise

The three birthstones associated with December are Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise.

Discovered in the late 1960s in Tanzania, and found exclusively in this tiny area of the world, tanzanite exhibits a rich violet-blue color for which the gemstone is treasured; often it is heat-treated to achieve this color. Colors range from blue to purple, and tanzanites that are medium dark in tone, vivid in saturation, and slightly violet blue command premium prices. Derived from the Arabic words zar and gun, meaning gold and color, zircon is found in a wide range of colors such as: blue, yellow, orange, brown, green, colorless, and red (the most prized color). For many years colorless zircon was used to imitate diamonds. Folk wisdom grants zircon the power to relieve pain, whet the appetite, protect travelers from disease and injury, to ensure a warm welcome, and to prevent nightmares guaranteeing a deep, tranquil sleep.

The name turquoise, from the French expression Pierre turques or Turkish stone, originated in the thirteenth century and describes one of the oldest known gemstones. Turquoise varies in color from greenish blue, through robin's egg-blue, to sky blue shades and its transparency ranges from translucent to opaque.



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- 4th of July Parade**
- Concerts on the Green**
- Halloween Spooktacular**
- Celebration of Lights**
- Cars and Coffee**
- Farmers Market**



Photos by Walt Lawrence

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Through The Years

The Grand Opening of Spring with the 34th Annual Children's Festival, March 25th.

FROM PAG 7

Adeler Jewelers to thank the community for its support", said Wendy Adeler Hall, whose father began the celebration over 30 years ago. "He's very community minded" she said.

There are four age groups for the egg hunt at 4 PM: 8-10 Years to the north of the green, 5-7 years in the middle, 3-4 years to the south of the green. The Toddlers and younger are free to pick up eggs near the Festival rides and games during the festival 1:30-4:30. The children 4 and younger

can have one parent with them, the older ones will be only allowed on the green by themselves. Parents can watch behind the ribbons.

The eggs contain candy, but some of the 8,000 eggs will contain gems donated by Adeler Jewelers. "We usually hide about \$8000 of gems mixed in", Adeler said. "Typically the gems include amethyst, garnet, peridot, blue topaz, citrine, some rubies and emeralds, all the typical birthstones", she said. In addition local vendors have sponsored rides, like a moon bounce, a maze and a gi-

ant slide for the children to enjoy. The \$10 per child admission gives each child a bracelet that's good for unlimited rides and the egg hunt. "We don't charge the parents admission, but they're free to make donations", she grinned!

The event will take place weather permitting, and parents can call 703-759-4076 starting at 9 AM on that Sunday if the weather is poor to find out details. Tickets will become available to purchase at 12:30 behind the village center where the rides will be set up.



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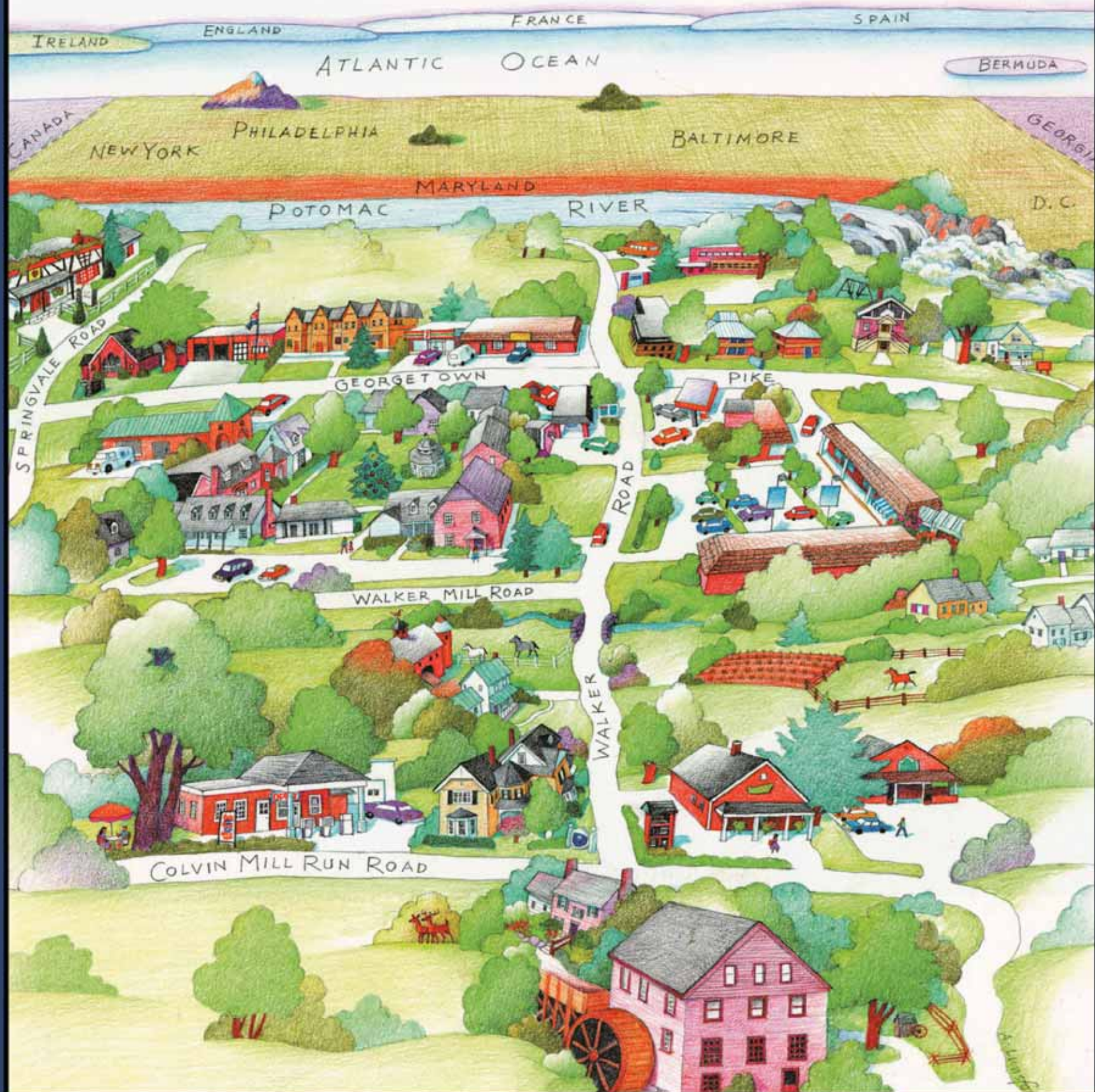


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