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# Great Falls CONNECTION

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Standing in front of the Great Falls Grange are community leaders (from left): Suzanne Pidgeon, Jorge Adeler, Gary Pan, Linda Jones, Linda Thompson, Glen Sjoblom, G. Stephen Dulaney, Eric Knudsen, and John McGeehan.

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

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## ‘Celebrating the Magic of Giving Back’

**Some 144 individuals and groups honored at Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

About 400 people attended the 26th annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards on Friday, April 27, at the Waterford in Springfield, where some 144 individuals and groups were honored. With the theme “Once Upon a Volunteer, Celebrating the Magic of Giving Back,” the breakfast included the “Who’s Who” of Fairfax County’s leaders in business, education, government and nonprofits. It was sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax, members of the Board of Su-

pervisors and Chairman Sharon Bulova. The volunteers, who do everything from helping with technology mentoring, supporting at-risk seniors and working to combat homelessness, gave a total of 328,760 hours of service worth \$7.9 million in support of the Fairfax County community. Peggy Fox, Virginia Bureau Chief at WUSA9/CBS affiliate, served as event emcee.

Many different awards were given out, including 2018 Benchmark Awards for volunteering 100, 250, 500, or 1,000 hours; 2018 Community Champions who were selected by the Board of Supervisors honoring a volunteer in their districts who was

dedicated to improving life in the county and beyond; and 2018 Competitive Awards for youth, adult, and seniors in individuals and groups.

“Today is all about recognizing the wonderful volunteers we have in Fairfax County,” said Elise Neil Bengtson, CEO of Volunteer Fairfax. “We’re giving them a platform so the county can understand better where volunteers fill gaps and meet the needs of the community and nonprofits at the same time. Without volunteers, we could not get everything done that we do. We have a tremendous wealth of experience and education in this area so even when you’re older and retired, you can do amazing things and feel good and stay energized in this county and be an active participant.”

Added Rick Garza, Volunteer Fairfax board president: “This is a signature event

for Volunteer Fairfax and Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax to just honor so many people who devote their time outside of their working hours helping others, helping our community be a better place.”

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, who offered a Fairfax County Proclamation to Volunteer Fairfax, which was established in 1975, added: “Fairfax County has a unique culture and that includes volunteerism through the roof ... We would not be able to do as much as we do with volunteers if we didn’t have an organizational body pulling people together, connecting people and making volunteerism happen. Congratulations Volunteer Fairfax and thank you so much for everything you do for our community.”

For more on Volunteer Fairfax, visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org).

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

### County Residents Named Community Champion

The following citizen volunteers from the area were chosen by members of the Board of Supervisors from each of their districts as a Community Champion. This award recognizes volunteers who are committed to improving Fairfax County through service that fulfills or addresses a pressing community need.

**William “Ed” Pickens** is Dranesville District’s outdoor volunteer. If it involves trails, beautification, or stream cleanups, he is the man to ask and the man to get the work done. Each year, he has provided hundreds of volunteer hours involving work with the Fairfax County Park Authority to design, build, and maintain two natural surface trails, Pimmit Run and Scotts Run, as well as initiate major improvements on the Cross-County Trail. In addition to managing other volunteers, he identified and coordinated over 50 trail projects with the Boy Scouts and supervised over 40 Eagle Scout projects, serving as a mentor to those who work be-

**May Bernhardt** is an active supporter of the community not only as an individual but also through her small business, Mayflowers. Over the years, her personal creations have added an element of graciousness and style to organizations fortunate enough to receive her floral creations. Among her many philanthropic activities, she demonstrated her commitment to raise support and funds when she and her staff joined the Cornerstones planning committee to end homelessness. With her in-kind donations of her professional goods and services, she continues to support nonprofit organizations – exemplifying the Reston spirit of philanthropy “live, work, play, and serve.”

District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins said, “The growth of a community lays on the



**Supervisor John Foust honors William Pickens, Dranesville District.**

side him. Anyone who enjoys hiking along the many trails in Fairfax County reaps the benefits of his multi-year efforts to expand and maintain the county’s trail network. From ardent hikers to casual walkers, every trail user gets a safer and more enhanced experience as a result of his efforts.

“Mr. Pickens is not a person who seeks acknowledgement of his contributions to our community. Instead, in his quiet and patient way, he performs yeoman’s work to improve the county’s trail network. His work with Eagle Scout candidates on trail projects is inspirational and encourages civic engagement,” said District Supervisor John Foust.



**Supervisor Cathy Hudgins honors May Bernhardt, Hunter Mill District.**

compassionate actions of its members. May is a true example of how individuals can make a difference by selflessly giving their time and talents.”

The **Tysons Partnership** serves as a collaborative of stakeholders working together to transform Tysons into a new downtown by serving as a convener, a voice, and a catalyst for the people who work, live, and do business in Tysons. The Tysons Partnership through its Community Responsibility Council provides a forum for business, civic, and government leaders committed to improving the lives of underserved populations within the Tysons community. Officially launched in 2016, the council’s roster has grown to over 45 members, including representatives from local employers, residential entities, and the Fairfax County government. Its signature TysonsCares Season of Giving raised over \$90,000 for local initiatives providing food, clothing, and shelter with a specific focus on children and youth. They connected with eight Fairfax County Public Schools to distribute over 1,000 pairs of new athletic shoes to Title 1 students with a



**Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth honors Tysons Partnership, Providence District.**

Shoes4Kids donation drive and partnered with Food for Others on a 5K charity run at Tysons Corner Center.

As District Supervisor Linda Smyth said, “While we think of Tysons as our corporate and business center, the Tysons Partnership has looked beyond the new high rises to see the needs of the people who live and work there. Through its charitable efforts, the Partnership is pulling together all stakeholders to build a new community with a promising future for everyone.”

For the last quarter-century, **Charlie Fegan** has served on the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees as a reliable source of guidance for both the board and the community. He has been an invaluable source of knowledge and voice for both the libraries and the community in his role on the board. He has put in hours of outreach, library advocacy, as well as building and maintaining relationships with members of the Board of Supervisors to further serve the citizens of Fairfax County.

As Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said, “Charlie has gone above and beyond the quality and quantity of service to the community as my appointee to the Library Board of Trustees for the last 25 years.”



**Chairman Sharon Bulova honors Charles Fegan, Fairfax County.**

SEE AWARDS, PAGE 13





**Standing in front of the Great Falls Grange are community leaders (from left): Suzanne Pidgeon, Jorge Adeler, Gary Pan, Linda Jones, Linda Thompson, Glen Sjoblom, G. Stephen Dulaney, Eric Knudsen, and John McGeehan.**



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

**(Members of the Board, from left): Jorge Adeler, Linda Thompson, Jan Schar, Dean Souleles, and G. Stephen Dulaney.**

## Great Falls Grange Re-imagined

**Local leaders want to convert ownership from Fairfax County Park Authority to Great Falls.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**G**reat Falls wants to bring the Great Falls Grange Complex back to the community. In a public town hall meeting held Tuesday, April 24, at the Great Falls Library, local movers and shakers from 11 community organizations convened to hear about the efforts being conducted between Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust, the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Grange Foundation regarding the historical Grange buildings (located at 9818 Georgetown Pike).

Back in the 1970s and before, the Grange, built in 1929, was used for community gatherings, plays, and concerts, but when faced with the expense of making it ADA compliant (Americans with Disabilities Act), they turned it over to the Fairfax County Park Authority to manage. Now they want to bring it back to Great Falls to create a “heart center” or “social anchor” where they could have arts, music, entertainment, fairs, and civic activities.

At the meeting, Board member Gary Pan gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the history and uses of the Grange and the next steps forward. He said they want to re-establish the Grange complex, which was placed in National Register of Historic Places in 2004, as the epicenter for the community. “This could be an asset the entire community could take advantage of and contribute to,” he said.

“Our goal is to be a self-supporting concept; to provide the community of Great Falls with a venue for community organizations to meet, school events, performances, cultural performances, artistic exhibits, social activities — the things we would love to continue to have as a small-town feel, said Pan.



**Guests in attendance at the meeting on the Great Falls Grange.**

**JORGE ADELER**, of Adeler Jewelers, who is spearheading the project, added: “This is something we have been dreaming of for a long time. This meeting is a culmination of six years of intense debate and conversation and trying to find all the people who represent the core groups of the community, as many as we could bring in. And finally, this meeting has involved 11 groups that represents almost every aspect of society in Great Falls.”

He added: “This vision of the Grange will force us to interact, force us to know each other, it’s going to give us a sense that we’re working together for something that we’ll all benefit from....This project is six years in the making but It’s worth the effort. We all can make Great Falls something better just because we are doing what we are doing tonight.”

The board members on the Great Falls Grange Foundation who are leading the charge include: Jorge Adeler; Gary Pan with the Rotary; Linda Thompson with the Optimists; Jan Schar with the Historical Soci-

ety; Dean Souleles with the Great Falls Studio Arts; and Steve Dulaney with the Business and Professional Association.

According to Dulaney: “Jorge Adeler is our visionary. He started this six years ago. Jorge had a passion and he never lost sight of that. He’s always been the driver. Jorge is always dreaming of the possibilities where community, business and civic organizations can meet and get together to work hand in hand. This is an opportunity truly to partner with the Fairfax County Park Authority.”

Phil Pifer of the Great Falls Citizens Association offered some advice: “One thing we can do is make [the Grange] a community resource; if we have a community resource it becomes a bit of an anchor to draw citizens of Great Falls together and make it a tight-knit community that draws the fabric of the whole town together. We don’t have those anchors really. We have little communities that do things but nothing that brings people together.”

He added: “The GFCA alone, the Great

Falls Historical Society alone or Jorge Adeler alone can’t do it. It takes the whole citizenry and all the ideas and resources of the organization. It isn’t about money. It’s about ideas, direction and strategy and what we want this to be. That’s where the collective input of all our organizations is so essential to making this work.”

In his PowerPoint, Pan defined the Grange complex as more than just the one Grange building. It includes the Forestville Schoolhouse (built in 1889), the Pavilion, the grounds, and parking area but not the picnic pavilion, playground or soccer/softball fields.

Pan outlined the vision statement of the Great Falls Grange Foundation, which is to be organized and operated for cultural, artistic, charitable, literary or educational and other purposes as a nonprofit organization; to manage and operate the Great Falls Grange Hall and Forestville Schoolhouse buildings and related lands.

Pan said they want to have the community organizations behind them to make the Grange vibrant, with high visibility and drive it to be more successful.

**SOME OF THE ORGANIZATIONS** already on board include: the Great Falls Business and Professional Association; Great Falls Citizens Association; Great Falls Historical Society; Great Falls Optimists Foundation; Great Falls Studio; and Great Falls Rotary. Some of supporting members include: Amadeus Concerts, Arts of Great Falls, Great Falls Freedom Memorial; Great Falls Friends and Neighbors; Great Falls Garden Club; Great Falls Library; Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department; Neighbors Network; and Trailblazers.

Pan said they’ve been meeting with the county, which had been operating the com-

SEE FUTURE, PAGE 11



**First Friday Art Walk in the Village will be held on Friday, May 4.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Art Walk in the Village on May 4

First Friday Art Walk in the Village will be held on Friday, May 4 in Great Falls Village Centre. Celebrate spring by visiting three working artist studios and galleries for this free community event from 6-8 p.m. Stroll through the Village Green and enjoy a new exhibit in The Arts of Great Falls Gallery with original paintings, photography, fiber and mixed media art created by Atelier Artists participating in Spring ArtFest May 5-6. TD Bank's Petite Gallery showcases Coty Dickinson's oil and mixed media paintings. Start the tour at Artists on the Green

(776B Walker Rd.), Artists' Loft (766 Walker Rd.), Artists' Atelier and The Arts of Great Falls Gallery (756 Walker Rd.) or TD Bank (9101 Georgetown Pike). See live painting demonstrations and talk with the artists about their process and inspirations. Make a night of it with dinner on the green at The Old Brogue, Pio Pio Pollo, Wild Ginger or grab ice cream at Great Falls Creamery. Live music begins at The Brogue at 9 p.m. Family friendly and free to the public. Details at [www.greatfallsart.org/ArtWalk](http://www.greatfallsart.org/ArtWalk). Sponsored by The Arts of Great Falls.

### STAYING SAFE TOGETHER

May 9 is Bike to School Day.  
Here are some safety tips to remember.

Allow 3 feet when passing a cyclist. Motorists may legally cross the double yellow line if the oncoming lane is clear.

Be careful at intersections. Look both ways for people biking and walking before making your turn.

After parking, look over your left shoulder for approaching cyclists before opening your car door.

Join us for the National Bike Challenge - May 1-31  
Bike to School Day - May 9 and  
Bike to Work Day - May 18  
[fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk)

# CELEBRATE

— to observe or commemorate with festivities —

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# Challenges to an American Ideal

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

**“T**he current landscape of the nation has been darkened by storm clouds of hate speech, white nationalist ideology, bias-motivated violence, and rising intolerance,” according to a report of the Inclusive America Project titled *Pluralism in Peril: Challenges to an American Ideal* (Aspen Institute, 2018) sponsored by the Aspen Institute Justice and Society Program. Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing Meryl Justin Chertoff, Executive Director of The Aspen Institute Justice and Society Program, and to participate in a roundtable discussion of this issue at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center in Sterling. The interview can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/yctqwxq6>

Pluralism refers to the right of all Americans to practice their faith in freedom and security. As indicated from the quote of the Aspen Report in the opening sentence of this column, there are attacks on religious freedom from many directions and in many forms in recent years. Some even question the mean-



ing of religious freedom in our country suggesting that they should have freedom of their religion—most often Christian religion—and not all those other practices that other people want to call religion. After all, the most extreme argue that this country was founded on a belief in God, meaning of course god as they define him or her in their religious beliefs.

A basic problem in defending American pluralism seems to me to be the ignorance on the part of some of basic constitutional protections and how they were secured. Virginia was settled as a land venture by investors who were looking for a way to make money in a colonial empire. First settlers were part of the state church of England as Anglicans or they had no religion at all. As more settlers arrived the minority religions such as Baptists started to arrive, and they objected to having part of their tax money go to the church. Religious conflict occurred as more settlers recognized an op-

portunity to free themselves from a state-imposed religion.

Soon after Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence, he wrote what became known as the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom, the most important piece of legislation ever passed in the Virginia legislature and I believe in any legislative body. Just as the Declaration had declared political and economic freedom from the mother country, the Statute of Religious Freedom in one sentence of more than 700 words declared in part that “no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief, but that all men shall be free to profess and by argument to maintain, their opinion in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge or affect their civil capacities.”

The challenges to our pluralism must be countered by our unwavering support of our own beliefs as well as the right of others to their own religious beliefs. As the report on pluralism found, “this work requires decency, sympathy, appreciative curiosity about difference, and concern for our shared beliefs.”

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Medicaid Expansion: It's Time

To the Editor:

The 2017 elections demonstrated that Virginians believe that individuals cannot work, take care of their families, or pursue happiness if they cannot see a doctor when they are sick. The candidates who heard this message and ran on expanding access to healthcare, won. Those advocating for expansion are more than willing to compromise with lawmakers who may have legitimate policy concerns.

We know that 33 other states have already opted to insure their working poor. It is time that our federal tax dollars stay here in Virginia to help cover approximately 400,000 hard-working families earning up to 138 percent of the poverty level. Making health insurance available to more Virginians is the right thing to do and the sensible thing to do. The Federal government is offering to cover no less than 90 percent of the costs of insuring Virginia's working poor. Virginia's hospitals are committed to covering the remaining 10 percent of the costs. Additional money flowing to Virginia under Medicaid expansion will enable the state to increase funding for schools and other needed services.

Another benefit of Medicaid expansion is the likelihood of smaller rate increases in our health insurance plans. Studies have shown that in states where more people are insured, the cost of uncompensated care drops. Yes, we will all benefit if more of us have access to healthcare. It is time to act!

**Barbara Favola**  
State Sen. (D-31)

## Missing Numbers

To the Editor:

County Chairman Sharon Bulova's April 25 opinion piece, “Budget Hits All the Right Notes,” about the proposed FY2019 real estate tax hike, is misleading. When she says the proposed real estate tax rate is

\$1.15, she omits the stormwater rate. When that is included the FY2019 rate will be \$1.1825 instead of \$1.15.

She states that new budget includes a 2-cent increase in the real estate tax rate, but this omits the additional tax increase due to the 2.2 percent increase in average residential assessments. The effective rate increase when assessments and the additional stormwater rate increase (1/4 cent) are included is 4.7 cents, not 2 cents.

The typical Fairfax County homeowner's real estate tax bill will increase by \$258, a 4.2 percent increase. Loudoun County reduced its average tax bill by \$48, a 1 percent decrease.

Chairman Bulova states that the tax hike fully funds the Market Rate Adjustment, Performance, Merit and Longevity increases for county employees and states that the Market Rate Adjustment is 2.25 percent. She does not state the total salary increase resulting from the Performance, Merit and Longevity increases. When those are included county employees will see average increases ranging from 4.25 to 4.50 percent.

Likewise, the school board is funding a 2.3 percent step increase and other salary adjustments, but does not say what the total average raise will be when the other adjustments are included. It is likely to be 4 percent also.

The real estate tax hike will increase county revenues by about \$116 million. The cost of next year's county and school raises is \$139 million. Raises are the primary driver of the county's annual real estate tax hikes.

Since FY2000, the supervisors have increased real estate taxes 169 percent, more than three times faster than inflation, which increased 53 percent.

If Chairman Bulova felt that the voters who defeated the 2016 meals tax, which would have raised \$100 million, would support next year's 4.2 percent tax hike to raise \$116 million for 4 percent raises, why didn't she acknowledge those numbers in her statement?

**Arthur Purves**  
President  
Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance

## Write

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. Send to:

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## PEOPLE



### Barry Taylor Named Sales Manager of Weichert, Realtors' Great Falls Office

Mark Ackermann, president of Weichert, Realtors' Capital Region, announced that Barry Taylor has been named manager of the Great Falls sales office. Taylor was most recently assistant manager of Weichert's Loudoun office.

"We are fortunate to have someone with Barry's intelligence, market knowledge and compassion leading the sales team in Great Falls," said Ackermann. "The sales associates in the Great Falls office and their clients will both benefit from Barry's drive to succeed and his ability to motivate."

Taylor is a decorated U.K. military veteran. Before embarking on a real estate career six years ago with Weichert, he served for 32 years in the British Army. After retiring from the army in 2004, he came to the United States to assist a U.K.-based company in establishing a physical presence in Reston. Taylor worked there until 2011 before deciding to earn his real estate license and join Weichert as a sales associate.

"I am happy to join the team in the Great Falls office," Taylor said. "As manager, my goals are to continue developing my professional skills as a real estate broker and to increase Weichert's market share in the region. I also hope to inspire and educate the next generation of top producers among our sales team."

Taylor is the finance chair of the Dulles Area Association of Realtors, as well as a member of its Budget and Finance committee and board of directors. Taylor is also a member of the International Association of Bomb Technicians & Investigators.

A resident of Ashburn since 2008, Taylor enjoys playing golf, motorcycling and cycling in his leisure time. He and his wife, Sue, also take pleasure in dining out and exploring the region's wineries. The couple, who recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, has two adult children and two grandchildren. They support many charitable organizations, including JDRF, EOD Warrior Foundation, Felix Fund - The Bomb Disposal Charity in the United Kingdom, Boulder Crest Retreat and various breast cancer organizations. Taylor recently walked the length of the 45-mile Washington & Old Dominion Trail in one day and raised almost \$3,000 for the Red Cross to assist hurricane victims.

To learn about the real estate services offered by Weichert, Realtors, contact Taylor in Weichert's Great Falls office at 731-A Walker Road, or call 703-759-6300 for more information.

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# Local Teens Provide a Lesson in Philanthropy

**“DEL Donates” organizes successful fundraiser for paws4vets.**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**M**ookie’s BBQ Restaurant in Great Falls was the April 25 setting for the DEL Donates fundraiser benefiting paws4vets.

Two years ago, middle schooler Dylan Kurtz of Great Falls was introduced to the paws4people foundation by local photographer Joan Brady. The organization breeds, raises, trains and places assistance dogs with children, veterans, military dependents, First Responders, and civilians living with disabilities - physical and/or emotional. There is no cost to the recipient, but for the organization, costs range from \$40,000 - \$60,000 per dog, with specialized training and transportation for both. The client/dog teams also receive certifications, insurance and support throughout their careers.

The combination of dogs and the opportunity to help others convinced Dylan to try his hand at fundraising. If he had any doubts that someone of his age could take on such a project and really make a difference, those doubts were quelled when he discovered that the nonprofit was founded in 1999 by Kyria Henry when she was only 12 years old.

Under the banner of “Dylan Donates,” the youngster struck a partnership with neighborhood Mookie’s, raising \$2200 for the charitable group during that first undertaking.

**FAST FORWARD** to the present, and solo enterprise Dylan Donates has added Joyce Kilmer Middle School classmates Evan Preta of Great Falls and Lara Jae Evangelista of Falls Church to form the trio of “DELDonates” – with a letter representing the name of each group member. Together, they took on the second fundraising effort, this time focusing on paws4vets, a division of the original foundation, serving veterans and First Responders.

For the past six months, the Del Donates crew has been rounding up sponsors and donors for an online auction, which they set up on the BiddingOwl website with items ranging from gift certificates to local businesses, to jewelry and pet-related products.

Dylan and Evan admitted that making those donation requests was a bit intimidating at first. “Sometimes you never heard back when you asked, but a lot of people were really friendly and interested,” said Evan.

Apparently it didn’t take much convincing to get Brian Varani, owner of Mookie’s, on board once again, and the date of April 25 was chosen. Ten percent of Mookie’s total sales for that day were earmarked for paws4vets, and the DEL trio were on hand at a booth showcasing some of the auction offerings. They also were more than happy

**From left — Lara Jae Evangelista, Dylan Kurtz with SILAS and Evan Preta with MORGAN joined forces as “DEL Donates” to organize the fundraiser and online auction for paws4vets. Partnering with Mookie’s BBQ Restaurant in Great Falls, together on April 25, the trio raised more than \$5,000 for the nonprofit that breeds, raises, trains, places and supports assistance dogs and their human teammates.**



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**MORGAN was happy to take a short break and share some hugs with eight-year-old Cora, whose father Brian Steort donated a handcrafted wooden American flag to the benefit auction. Steort, an Air Force vet with eight consecutive combat deployments, founded Flags of Valor, whose employees are mostly veterans with significant combat-related injuries and disabilities.**



to show patrons how to use the bidding site with an electronic tablet, as they occasionally left their posts to wander among the tables.

Aside from soliciting for their adopted cause during the event, Dylan, Evan and Lara were able to educate patrons and potential supporters about the early stages of raising and training these spectacular four-legged assistants. To gain a better understanding of the paws4people/paws4vets process, they visited one of the prisons in West Virginia, where carefully vetted inmates are assigned a puppy to work with, further socialize and begin the training regime.

“It was an amazing experience,” Evan said of the visit. While the end result is to aid veterans and others with emotional and physical needs, “caring for these puppies

does a lot of good for the inmates, too.”

“It really helps you see,” added Dylan, “that this whole thing does a lot of good for everyone involved.”

The DEL Donates gang were joined at the event by MORGAN, a paws4vets canine graduate, with her human teammate, Randy Powers.

“MORGAN and paws4vets really changed my life,” said Powers, a veteran of both the United States Air Force and the Army National Guard. Powers was deployed to activate and operate Enemy Prisoner of War camps for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

After his final honorable discharge, due to numerous injuries and physical ailments, Powers found walking increasingly difficult, and suffered further injury from resultant falls. “Before being chosen by MORGAN,”



**Showing all the signs of being perfectly suited to his role as a future canine assistance partner, SILAS relaxes with his “foster sibling” Abby Lungren – all in the middle of the action at the fundraiser at Mookie’s. Foster “mom” Lindsay Orem of Herndon explained that his posture was actually the result of specific training exercises that are part of the foster phase. “But he really has taken to it, hasn’t he?” laughed Orem.**

said Powers, as he described the way in which dog and human form their partnership, “I could maybe make 75 or so steps. Now MORGAN helps keep me balanced and I am pretty much on the go.”

Powers wasn’t kidding when he described his life since becoming a paws4vets client. He and MORGAN really are “on the go” since Powers is now the Relationship Development Officer for the paws4people foundation, and man and dog attend many fundraisers and educational events throughout the year.

**FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER**, his mission is to visit as many Government agency fund raising events as possible to show just what the human/canine partnership can mean to struggling veterans and their futures.

MORGAN may have been in attendance to showcase an assistance dog in action, but her young colleague SILAS was there as part of his early socialization assignment – and probably to tug on a few heartstrings, as well, as the Golden Retriever puppy made friends with one and all.

SILAS was accompanied by his “foster family,” Lindsay Orem of Herndon, and her stepdaughter Abby Lungren. Abby has been working with SILAS on the exercises given to prepare him for the next phase of his

SEE LESSON, PAGE 11



# Erasing the Stigma

Mental Health advocates work to tear down barriers to treatment.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**I**t was during college when Laura Greenstein began to notice that something was not quite right. “I noticed that things that were creating anxiety on a daily basis, they weren’t just situational,” she said. “My anxiety was grabbing onto anything that it could. If I was running late, I would start to panic. Any small thing became a big issue.”

“My mother has always been supportive, but when [my anxiety] got to a certain point some close friends and family began to stigmatize it,” said Greenstein, who now works for the National Association for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) in Arlington. “They would say, ‘You’re not doing enough.’ It was difficult to feel that I wasn’t being fully accepted.”

After months of therapy and recent session with a psychiatrist who prescribed medication, Greenstein said that she is beginning to feel some relief. She even began blogging about her experience. “This was my first time sharing my story,” she said. “It’s been a really validating process. Being open can really improve your outlook.”

During May, Mental Health Awareness Month, Greenstein and other mental health advocates are sharing the ways in which negative perceptions about mental illnesses can impact those who suffer from it. NAMI

reports that approximately 1 in 5 adults and children in the United States are experiencing mental illness in a given year. Only 41 percent of those adults received mental health treatment, while slightly more than half of children aged 8-15 received those services. One of the roadblocks to treatment, say mental health professionals, is the stigma surrounding mental health.

“Micro-aggressions towards individuals with mental illness are very common, such as assuming that someone with a mental illness is inferior, stupid, or not in control of their own behaviors,” said Jessica McLaughlin, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology at Montgomery College. “Because of our society’s misperceptions of mental illness, many individuals struggling with mental health problems feel ashamed and isolated. They may even feel like it is not appropriate to seek help. “[And] being on the receiving end of these hurtful comments and beliefs actually worsens symptoms.”

With a theme of “Cure Stigma,” NAMI activists are encouraging people to educate themselves and eradicate the stigma which can be a roadblock to those who suffer from mental illness to get the treatment they need. They were afraid of being labeled, so they suffered in silence. This is particularly true with teenagers and preteens, advises Stacie Isenberg, Psy.D., a child psychologist

who specializes in anxiety disorders. “A mental illness stigma may cause a teen or pre-teen to be hesitant to admit to her or himself that they are having a mental health problem, to share with a parent, teacher, or pediatrician about their problem, and to seek mental health treatment,” she said.

The stigma surrounding mental illness is an important issue that often goes unrecognized, says McLaughlin. “Individuals with mental illness face both overt and covert discrimination,” she said. “For example, there is an assumption that people with mental illness are violent or crazy, which is not true. However, our belief in these myths can affect someone’s ability to find employment or obtain housing.”

“Education is a powerful tool in combating mental health stigma, and community-wide, mental health awareness campaigns are helpful,” added Isenberg. “Individually, kids often search online to check out what their symptoms mean. Education from credible websites, and those of mental health organizations often provide clarity and guidance for those seeking help.”

Allowing those who might be experiencing symptoms of a mental illness to speak freely about their condition without fear of judgment can remove barriers to treatment advises McLaughlin. “That means asking how we can help, listening with an open mind, and being nonjudgmental,” she said.

Sometimes it can be a tremendous help just to let someone know that they have someone to lean on and that they are not alone.”


People can also fight the stigma of mental illness by being accepting and supportive of people who are experiencing mental health issues, and by modeling this acceptance for their children, suggests Isenberg. “Employers can encourage employees to use mental health days as needed, and to permit longer lunch hours or flexible dismissal or arrival at times to accommodate therapy appointments,” she said. “Similarly, schools can work with families to allow kids to use free periods, lunch periods, etc. to attend therapy when an after-school time is not available and the need for treatment is significant.”

A family’s attitude about the mentally ill can affect a child’s willingness to ask for help, advises Isenberg. “A child who comes from a family that does not consider mental health issues to be real or problematic may be reluctant to share with her or his parents,” she said. “Similarly, kids whose friends stigmatize mental health issues, or kids who don’t talk much about personal issues with friends, are often unsure about sharing with their friends. On the contrary, kids who believe their families and friends will be sensitive and supportive to them are more likely to be open with them about any concerns they are having.”



**Let us know about an upcoming event**

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From left: Thalia Eid, Bella Zeleke, Elizabeth Doane, Miky Kassem, Nicole Popenko, Alice Choe, Sophie Steiner, Andrew Hundley, Lela Johnson, Elshadye Bussie and Ross Lubin were some of the many eighth graders who were helping raise money for cancer research by hosting a lip sync battle through StillBRAVE.

PHOTO BY  
SEBASTIAN HERBOLSHEIMER/STUDENT



## Quest Projects on Display at Cooper Middle

BY KATIE MAHONY, VENDELA FACK, AND SEBASTIAN HERBOLSHEIMER

For the past several months, students at Cooper Middle School have been working hard on community and creative based QUEST projects. On Friday, April 13, these projects were all on display for teachers, students, parents, and community members to see. Seventh and eighth graders' projects were mostly based on helping and improving the community. Some examples of different Quest projects were: Trash to treasure, Hoops for Hearts, STILLBRAVE lip sync battle, and Pennies for Patients.

"The Quest Expo was extremely interesting, it was great to see my friends' projects that they had worked hard on," says Samantha Bielefeld, an eighth grade student.

"I thought it was a fun experience to see everyone's projects," said Annie Santos, a seventh grader at Cooper.

"QUEST is a unique, interdisciplinary, collaborative endeavor designed to promote authentic student inquiry and understanding of the learning process while providing ongoing opportunities for reflection and revision. Both grade levels focused on creativity and critical thinking; eighth grade also focused on global citizenship through service," said Cooper teacher Courtney Derr.

Written by students in Lindsay Bovenzi Media Communications class.

**Emma Ellsworth and Jaeda Fontaine-Rasadih put scraps to good use in their trash to treasure class, where they designed animals out of paper, ribbons and cardboard.**



**Emma Ellsworth and Jaeda Fontaine-Rasadih put scraps to good use in their trash to treasure class, where they designed animals out of paper, ribbons and cardboard.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



**The school courtyard was updated by a QUEST group, under the guidance of librarian Leslie Psaltis.**



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Creche students were fascinated to learn about animals: Everyone had an opportunity to pet each one.**

## Traveling Zoo Visits Great Falls Preschool

Students at the St. Francis Creche Preschool in Great Falls got to meet, pet, ogle, and learn about a variety of animals they might never know about otherwise, thanks to a special visit last week from the Bar-C Traveling Zoo of Berryville, Va.

Jennifer Caton of the Bar-C Ranch spoke to Creche students about the animals, which included a mara (from the Patagonian Cavy family of large rodents), a floppy-eared bunny, a giant tortoise, a blue-tongued skink lizard (originally from Australia), and a one-week old baby goat kid.

Creche students were fascinated to learn about these animals. Everyone had an opportunity to pet each one. The baby kid pounced on the giant tortoise — a sight to behold, and the children delighted in friendly grunts from the mara. The wet weather forced the zoo indoors, but did not dampen spirits. Creche Director Jane Ruppe Keihn said, "The petting zoo provides a wonderful chance for young children to come face to face with a wide variety of animals, and we are so pleased we could offer this learning opportunity."



**Bar-C Traveling Zoo of Berryville, Va. brought a variety of animals to the St. Francis Creche Preschool in Great Falls.**



**A one-week old baby goat kid playing with tortoise.**



## NEWS

# Free Tree Saplings in Great Falls

To encourage more residents to plant new trees for the next generation, the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA), in conjunction with Fairfax ReLeaf, has organized a tree sapling program this spring. On Saturday, May 5 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. or until the saplings are gone, local residents can pick up free tree saplings from the 500 that ReLeaf has provided to the community. The site of the tree program is the Farmer's Market, across from Safeway on Walker Road. Come early to get the best selection.

GFCA and Great Falls Garden Club volunteers will disperse native species that will enhance the community for many years, including dogwood, redbud, Virginia pine, white oak, and hazelnut shrubs. ReLeaf is a private non-profit organization of volunteers formed in 1992 to plant and protect trees in and around Fairfax County, preserve native habitat and educate the public about the benefits of trees. ReLeaf has supplied and planted thousands of trees throughout the County. (ReLeaf may substitute other native species on May 5 if its sapling inventory changes.)



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Great Falls Citizens Association volunteers at work in the the previous 2017 tree sapling program**

Picnic Pavilion, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Grange is located right next to the Great Falls Library with plenty of parking available, both at the Grange and at the Library. Friends of Riverbend Park will be offering approximately 500 plants from 30 different species of plants native to Northern Virginia including the ever-popular Virginia Bluebells.

All proceeds from the sale are utilized for the benefit of Riverbend Park.

## Native Plant Sale at the Grange Picnic Pavilion

The Friends of Riverbend Park will be holding its annual Native Plant Sale this year on Saturday, May 5 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Great Falls Grange

# Future of Grange Discussed

FROM PAGE 4

plex, over the conversion plans. "We want to make sure we know what revenue responsibilities are; the expenses, and the maintenance involved. To ultimately try to figure out what the county will be responsible for and what we're responsible for," he said.

Pan said they're planning a Town Hall meeting with Supervisor Foust this month, May 2018. They will also do a formal online survey of the community; and are going to determine the roles and responsibilities of the Park Authority and Great Falls Grange Foundation. They will also build a prospectus business plan; make presentations to the Board; draft a Memo of Understanding (MOU) with the Park Authority, and if they agree, they would be able to ratify that. The switch-over date is proposed for Jan. 1, 2019.

"We have a six-month window where we're doing discovery, analysis, research and digesting things and coming up with a 'Go or No Go,' [by October] then after that we're looking at a two-year trial period," said Pan.

The community can help is by providing suggestions for using the Grange. (email: GreatFallsGrange@gmail.com); ask questions; encourage other citizens to get involved, help create buzz and interest; and invite them to share with other organizations.

Eric Knudsen, who gave a status of negotiations with the county, said this is the first time the county has participated in this kind of partnership. "They're working with us and they think if they get this [the conversion] done, and establish the criteria, they feel like they can do this with other organizations, other communities."

# Lesson in Philanthropy

FROM PAGE 8

training, while Orem has been getting SILAS used to the action of the wider world, often taking him to work with her at Iron Bow Technologies, a Herndon-based company that has made paws4people one of the charities they actively support.

"It's great when our associates can see what they are supported," noted Orem, and having him around really makes everyone's day."

Orem and family are getting ready to say their "good-byes" to SILAS, who will soon start his prison-based training. "Of course, we will miss him," she acknowledged, but knows that SILAS has a good life of love and partnership ahead, and that she and her family were able to contribute to that happy outcome.


When Dylan decided to go all-in for another

fundraiser, the goal of DEL Donates was to simply surpass the monies collected during his first venture. Mission accomplished.

"Happy to report that our final total doubled the goal," reported Susan Kurtz, Dylan's mom and DEL Donates supporter. "\$5,417!"

Because the dedicated youngsters raised more than \$5,000, aside from a big "Thank You!" from the foundation, they are also invited to choose a name for a puppy born in the next paws4people/paws4vets litter. When asked what was next for DEL Donates, Dylan Kurtz wasn't ready to commit, but with a vested interest in a future canine assistance star, there may be more work ahead for the young philanthropists.

In the meantime, Del Donates encourages a visit to [www.paws4people.org](http://www.paws4people.org) to learn more about the programs and "of course, feel free to donate!"



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## Invites You to

### "Meet the Candidates" in the 2018 McLean Community Center Governing Board Elections.

**When:**  
Sunday, May 6, 2-4 p.m.


**Who:**  
Four adult candidates, two teens from the Langley High School boundary area, and three teens from the McLean High School boundary area.

**Where:**  
The Old Firehouse Center  
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.  
McLean, VA 22101


**Format:**  
Informal Reception

Come and meet the four adults and five teens who are vying for votes to fill vacant seats on the MCC Governing Board. Three adult and two teen seats (one for the Langley High School boundary area; one for the McLean High School boundary area) will be filled. Only residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville are eligible to vote.

Refreshments will be served.  
For planning purposes, please let us know if you will attend by emailing [elections@mcleancenter.org](mailto:elections@mcleancenter.org).  
**See you there!**



**The McLean Community Center**  
703-790-0123/TTY: 711  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)



## Can't Vote at McLean Day for the 2018-2019 MCC Governing Board?

### Vote by Absentee Ballot Now – May 16 at either:

**McLean Community Center (MCC)**  
**Administration Office:**  
6631 Old Dominion Drive  
McLean, VA 22101  
703-790-0123/TTY: 711

**Class Programs/Registration Office:**  
6645 Old Dominion Drive  
McLean, VA 22101  
703-744-9365

**Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.**  
**Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**  
**Closed on Sunday**

**Old Firehouse Center (OFC)**  
1440 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, VA 22101  
703-448-8336/TTY 711

**Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.**  
**(closed on weekends)**

OR


**Absentee voting affidavits and ballots must be returned to one of these locations by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16.**

**Requesting Absentee Ballots:**  
You can pick up absentee ballot packages and vote at both MCC offices or OFC. You can also request absentee ballot packages by email at [elections@mcleancenter.org](mailto:elections@mcleancenter.org) or by telephone at 703-790-0123/TTY: 711.


**Returning Completed Applications and Ballots:**  
You can return your absentee voting affidavits and ballots to the front desk at either MCC location or OFC. You may also mail them using the pre-addressed envelope enclosed in the absentee ballot package. Mailed affidavits and ballots must be received by the due date.

**Absent voting ends promptly at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16.**  
Hand delivered absentee voting affidavits and ballots must be received at either MCC location or OFC by that time.

**If you have questions:**  
Contact 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or email [elections@mcleancenter.org](mailto:elections@mcleancenter.org)



**The McLean Community Center**  
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# 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 Exhibition: “Bon Appetit.”

Through May 6, during gallery hours at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Call 703-319-3971 or visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

**Solo Art Exhibit.** “A Study of Manhattan: Power, Dominance and Excitement” by Great Falls Studios Artist Robert Gilbert. Through May 6, at The Torpedo Factory at the Art League in Alexandria. The Gallery is located at 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

**“Fly By Night.”** Through May 6 at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. It’s 1965 in New York City and the lights are about to go out. But not before a melancholy sandwich maker becomes enchanted with two sisters in this bittersweet romantic tale about finding hope in a world beset by darkness. \$38 general admission, \$35 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Visit [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or call 703-854-1856.

**Children’s Art Exhibit.** Through May 14 at Great Falls Village Starbucks, 9863 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls Studio Arts and Great Falls Village Starbucks present Colvin Run Elementary children’s artwork.

**“Trees, Trees, and Beyond.”** Through May 31 at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Vienna Arts Society Exhibition. Free. Open 10-7 p.m. in April; 10-7:30 p.m. in May. Visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org) or call 703-319-3971.

**Oakton Farmers Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats/eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Visit [community-foodworks.org](http://community-foodworks.org).

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

**Fishing Rod Rentals.** Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver’s license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/).

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 2

**Farmers Market Re-Opens.** 8 a.m.-noon at Oak Marr, Jermantown Road, Oakton. Runs Wednesdays, May 2-Nov. 14. To kick off spring, farmers expect to have an abundance of fresh cut greens, asparagus, strawberries, rhubarb, apples, beets, carrots and more. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets) or contact the Community Horticulture Office at 703-342-9773.

**Coffee for Newcomers.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at McLean Project for the Arts, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. McLean Newcomers and Neighbors will host a coffee for its members and for others who might be interested in joining. Visit [www.McLeanNewcomers.org](http://www.McLeanNewcomers.org).



**“Weekend Escape” watercolor by Betty Ganley. Find original watercolors by Ganley at the Grange/Schoolhouse at the Spring ArtFest on May 5-6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

## Great Falls Spring ArtFest to Be Held May 5 - 6

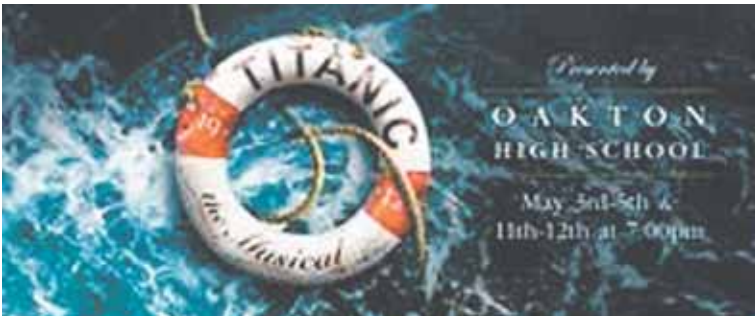
Look for the colorful flags strung throughout the Great Falls Village to wind your way through the booths and studios of more than 20 Great Falls Studios artists ready to greet guests in two main locations (the Grange/Schoolhouse at 9818 Georgetown Pike and the Studios in the Village Centre at 756, 766, and 776 Walker Road). The Spring ArtFest show and sale is on May 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. That trip might take you by the outdoor easels of plein air painters capturing the scenes in and around the Village Centre and Grange/Schoolhouse properties. You can catch their recent paintings of the Great Falls area in the Village Centre’s Fresh Paint Tent and cast your vote for the People’s Choice award to be announced on Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

The main event is the art in multiple mediums presented by the participating artists in the Grange & Schoolhouse and in the three working studios in the Village Centre. Unlike the larger art festivals in the D.C. area, the

Great Falls free Spring ArtFest is a more manageable size and intimate setting, allowing visitors to take a close look at the work and discover the inspiration behind each piece.

Plan your visit at [www.GreatFallsStudios.com](http://www.GreatFallsStudios.com) to take in multiple live demonstrations spread throughout the weekend including Lori Goll painting with pastels in plein air, Will Tuthill performing the ancient art of Hanga (Japanese woodblock printing) and John Francis McCabe capturing the alla prima portrait in oil of a Revolutionary War reenactor. Book readings by three Great Falls authors, Mary Jane Cogan, Penny Ross Burk and Lesley Hackman, are scheduled for the Grange stage.

If picking out that perfect original treasure created by hand by your artistic neighbors requires extra fuel, treats are available from the popular Great Falls Creamery all day both days in the Grange and the World Eats food truck there on Saturday afternoon.



## Oakton High Presents “Titanic the Musical”

“Titanic the Musical” at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. This is the factual story of that ship — of her officers, crew and passengers. Titanic is a musical with music and lyrics by Maury Yeston and a book by Peter Stone that opened on Broadway in 1997. Tickets are \$15. Show times are 7 p.m. May 3-5, and 11-12. Information about the performance is at [titanic.oaktondrama.org](http://titanic.oaktondrama.org) or visit the website at [www.oaktondrama.org](http://www.oaktondrama.org).

### MAY 3-12

**“Titanic the Musical.”** 7 p.m. at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton

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musical with music and lyrics by Maury Yeston and a book by Peter Stone. Tickets are \$15. Show times are May 3-5, and 11-12. Information about the performance is at [titanic.oaktondrama.org](http://titanic.oaktondrama.org) or visit the website at [www.oaktondrama.org](http://www.oaktondrama.org).

## FRIDAY/MAY 4

**Farmers Market Re-Opens.** 8 a.m.-noon at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Runs Fridays, May 4-Nov. 16. To kick off spring, farmers expect to have an abundance of fresh cut greens, asparagus, strawberries, rhubarb, apples, beets, carrots and more. Everything is harvested hours before sale to ensure optimum taste and nutrition. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets) or contact the Community Horticulture Office at 703-342-9773.

**Anniversary Celebration.** 6:30-10 p.m. at The Pavilions of Turkey Run in Claude Moore Colonial Farm at 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Join New Dominion Women’s Club to celebrate 50 years of fellowship and service to the community. Enjoy dinner, drinks, dancing, photo booth, giveaways and more. Festive cocktail attire suggested. Tickets are \$50 and available at [www.ndwc.org/](http://www.ndwc.org/) celebrate-50.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 4-5

**“Blithe Spirit” Play Production.** 8 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Noel Coward’s famous 1941 comedy. Presented by Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Department of Recreation. Tickets \$14. Visit [www.viennatheatrecompany.org](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org).

## SATURDAY/MAY 5

**Trackless Train.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Get ready to climb aboard the new trackless train at Clemjontri Park. The new train starts rolling on Saturday, May 5, 2018, with an engine and four passenger cars that can seat up to four children each. The train will take children and adults on a ride around the park. The trackless train will operate from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends from April through Memorial Day weekend, and from Labor Day weekend through October the train will also run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekdays. Rides are \$3. Call 703-388-2807 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/clemjontri](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/clemjontri).

**Vienna Bike Rodeo.** 9 a.m.-noon in the parking lot of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. Vienna police officers and other bike enthusiasts will present a training program to help children spin into spring safely. Children must have a helmet in order to participate. No registration is required Call 703-255-7842 in case of inclement weather.

**Taste of Korea.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, 1219 Swinks Mill Road, McLean. Sample homemade Korean food and experience Korean culture. Cultural programs such as Korean traditional dance performances (11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.), Tiger Den’s Tae Kwon Do demo (noon), trying on traditional Korean costumes and games for children. Visit [www.kumcgw.org](http://www.kumcgw.org).

**Annual Church Indoor Yard Sale.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Charles Wesley UMC, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. Bring family and friends to this huge sale and stay for lunch. Call 703-356-6336 or [www.thehungurchurch.org](http://www.thehungurchurch.org).

**Pastel Workshop.** 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Spend a few hours to learn all you need to know to begin creating art with soft pastel. Our subject will be seascapes. [atelierinthegarage.com/products/pastel-workshop-with-lori-goll](http://atelierinthegarage.com/products/pastel-workshop-with-lori-goll)

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 5-MAY 6

**Annual GFS ArtFest.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Great Falls Grange and Great Falls Village Center Studios, 9818 Georgetown Pike and 756 and 766

Walker Road, Great Falls. Paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry, fiber arts and more available for purchase. Many artists will have smaller items available for purchase. Free. Visit [www.greatfallsstudios.com](http://www.greatfallsstudios.com).

## SUNDAY/MAY 6

**“Blithe Spirit” Play Production.** 2 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Noel Coward’s famous 1941 comedy. Presented by Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Department of Recreation. Tickets \$14. Visit [www.viennatheatrecompany.org](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org).

**Vienna Jammers Big Jam Concert.** 4 p.m. at Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. The Vienna Jammers are an auditioned percussion ensemble made up of children ages 7-18, led by Vienna Elementary School music teacher David Lee Reynolds Jr. Tickets at [www.viennajammers.org](http://www.viennajammers.org).

**Barclay Brass Concert.** Free concert at Holy Comforter, 4-5 p.m.. The Barclay Brass is an 11-piece ensemble featuring some of the Washington area’s top brass musicians. The program will include selections of classical music from past centuries as well as works of living composers, including a suite from the soundtrack to Star Wars by John Williams. [www.holycomforter.com](http://www.holycomforter.com). 543 Beulah Rd, NE, Vienna, VA 22180.

## TUESDAY/MAY 8

**Meet Monica Bhide.** 7:30-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Bhide is the author of Karma and the Art of Butter Chicken, which is “set in contemporary India and seasoned with gentle love, dramatic loss, enchanting poetic verse, and exotic food.” Author of multiple books on Indian cooking. 703-938-0405 or [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3806630](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3806630).

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 9

**Speaker Carole Herrick.** 7 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Presented by the Great Falls Historical Society, her talk titled “Washington in Flames, the 1812 Sacking of Washington, and the Escape of the President and Mrs. Madison Through Our Area,” is based on her book on this subject.

## THURSDAY/MAY 10

**MPA to Host Art+Music Series.** 7:30 p.m. at Bullock Hitt Gallery in MPA@ChainBridge, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Free. The Dave Kline Band takes the stage. RSVP at [mpaart.org](http://mpaart.org).

## FRIDAY/MAY 11

**NVFS’s Independence Gala.** 6-9 p.m. at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Elegant setting for leaders and supporters to celebrate the foundations of well-being that NVFS helps create for families and individuals. Visit [www.nvfs.org/events/road-to-independence-gala/](http://www.nvfs.org/events/road-to-independence-gala/).

## SATURDAY/MAY 12

**Used Book Collection.** 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Sun Trust Bank, 515 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Used books, CDs, DVDs, software, children’s books, records, recent books accepted. The Book Sale will be held on Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Spring Hill Recreation Center. [aauwbookfair@gmail.com](mailto:aauwbookfair@gmail.com) or 703-527-4206.

**MPA to Host Art+Music Series.** 7:30 p.m. at Bullock Hitt Gallery in MPA@ChainBridge, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Free. Featuring the musical collective Sound Impact. RSVP at [mpaart.org](http://mpaart.org).

## SUNDAY/MAY 13

**Washington Symphonic Brass.** 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Tickets are \$35 purchased at the door or online at [www.amadeusconcerts.com](http://www.amadeusconcerts.com). A pre-concert lecture will begin at 3:15 p.m. [www.saintlukemclean.org](http://www.saintlukemclean.org).



# Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards

The **PRS CrisisLink's CareRing** program assists vulnerable older adults in maintaining independence and community connections by increasing mental and social well-being. Through scheduled calls daily or several times throughout the week, CareRing Volunteers phone clients for social support while also assessing any risk of depression or cognitive decline. These volunteers build trusted and healthy social relationships with clients who may be at risk of isolation. The volunteers embrace clients' thoughts and feelings, making sure they know someone cares about them and that they are not alone. In 2017, CareRing volunteers served over 1,000 clients, handled over 35,000 calls, and exchanged over 33,000 text messages. The impact of this group is best described by a CrisisLink client

The **Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program is a Citizen Corps volunteer program managed under the auspices of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. The CERT program prepares ordinary citizens to safely help themselves, their families, and their communities during emergencies. They also provide emergency preparedness and public safety related services on an ongoing basis. Over the last year, 694 active CERT volunteers improved the county's overall emergency response posture through a variety of trainings while also providing a multitude of emergency preparedness and public safety related services. In addition, hundreds of volunteers applied their skills to support community activities and events such as lost child assistance and traffic management. CERT members attended 47 outreach events across the county, informing approximately 7,653 residents about opportunities and activities to better equip themselves, their families, and their neighbors in the

In the past year, **Fannie Mae** employees have volunteered over 400 hours with Pathway Homes, a nonprofit organization providing housing and supportive services to adults with serious mental illness and other co-occurring disabilities in Northern Virginia. In May, over 100 Fannie Mae staff members provided landscaping at four Pathway homes where clients resided. Volunteers also assembled bathrooms sets and welcome kits for new clients moving into their new home. In total, their contribution of time and supplies estimates to over \$80,000, saving the agency funds that can be redirected to support residents. Pathway Homes also serves as a beta site for an emerging Fannie Mae Fellows program. This involves Fannie Mae providing an employee to serve as a Fellow at no cost to Pathway Homes for three months on-site and an additional three months after returning to Fannie Mae. The Fellow, selected through a competitive process of approximately 225 eligible employees,

Volunteers wear many hats and **Josh Stillman** is no exception. He is the co-founder, co-organizer, treasurer, board member, and head of community engagement and experience for TEDxTysons. Through the form of short, powerful talks, TEDxTysons creates an opportunity for anyone with an idea, project or inspiring story to share it with the rest of the region. In his leadership roles, Stillman is part of a small curation team that chooses speakers for TEDxTysons and handles partnership development for the organization. As lead organizer and curator, he traveled to Tanzania last year to attend TED Global where he participated in workshops with other TEDx organizers around the world to learn how to improve events for the local Tysons community. As treasurer, he handles all finance, legal, and administrative require-

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



**Adult Volunteer Group: PRS CrisisLink's CareRing volunteers with Board Chairman Sharon Bulova.**

whose letter to volunteers read, "I love when you call me to see how I am doing. It cheers me up and gets me going for the day. I tell you with all my heart and soul, I will never forget your kindness and love."



**Fairfax County Government Volunteer Program: Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) with Board Chairman Sharon Bulova.**

event of an emergency.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Volunteer Liaison Jeffery Katz said, "Fairfax County's CERT program is a prime example of 'Neighbors helping Neighbors.' 2017 was another year of unprecedented growth and innovation during which our CERTs further improved our County's disaster preparedness."



**Corporate Volunteer Program: Fannie Mae team with Board Chairman Sharon Bulova.**

will focus on identifying and mitigating barriers that decrease the number of affordable rental units available for special needs populations.

Pathway Homes President and CEO Dr. Sylisa Lambert-Woodard said, "Pathway Homes greatly appreciates Fannie Mae's innovative and thoughtful approach to working with nonprofits and applauds the effort they put forth to make sure the individuals served by the nonprofit truly benefit from their partnership."



**Rising Star: Josh Stillman with Board Chairman Sharon Bulova.**

ments, including the establishment of TEDxTysons 501(c) (3) status. While doing all this, Stillman is also an active volunteer with Minds Matter of Washington D.C., helping to make competitive college admissions a reality for underserved students. He provides students with the mentoring, test preparation, and writing instruction necessary to achieve college success.

TEDxTysons Co-Founder Ashwod Heffern said, "Borrowing a quote from Blaise Pascal sums up working with Josh better than anything else, 'The virtue of a person is measured not by his outstanding efforts, but his everyday behavior.' Josh's dedication to improving personally and professionally is so he is capable of giving more and improving the lives of those fortunate enough to come into contact with him."

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# OBITUARY

## Dorothy Bragdon McCormick, 96, of McLean

Dorothy Bragdon McCormick, born on March 31, 1922 in Pittsburgh, Pa. to the late Ruth Josephine Hughes and Major General John Stewart Bragdon, passed away peacefully in her home on April 11, 2018 at 96 years of age. Mrs. McCormick, a widely known and visionary leader in early childhood education, was a long time resident of McLean and is survived by her six children and six grandchildren.

Dorothy, her late sister Ruth Bragdon Donovan and late brother John Bragdon, shared the life of Army children, educated in the Philippines where her father served on the staff of General Douglas MacArthur, and several other military postings around the world. She graduated from Garden City, N.Y. High School Class of 1938 and attended Pembroke College (now part of Brown University) before graduating from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in 1942. Following college, she was commissioned in the U. S. Navy (WAVES), attaining the rank of Lieutenant, JG, and designated as one of the few armed female naval couriers. Upon the conclusion of World War II, she formally entered service in the OSS, the precursor to the CIA.

On Veterans' Day, Washington D.C., Nov. 11, 1948, Dorothy married the late Robert Louis Laing McCormick. Over the next dozen years she

transitioned into the role of mother, homemaker, and volunteer for various organizations, including several years as a docent at the Smithsonian Institution Museum of Natural History.

In 1960, Dorothy formed a playgroup for the children of friends. As a psychology major, she had a strong interest in early childhood development which evolved into the creation of Country Play School in 1964, situated in the lower level of the family home. By 1971, the school of 84 children had outgrown its space. Dorothy then purchased the Happy Hill School at Langley Fork in McLean, reestablishing it as the Country Day School. Since its founding the school has served generations of children as a pre-eminent center of early childhood education in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

During her stewardship of Country Day School, Dorothy found time to earn a master's degree in early childhood education from Wheelock College. Over the course of her career she received the McLean Business and Professional Club Woman of Achievement award, 1970, and the Certificate of Achievement from the American Association of University Women, 1998. Dorothy retired in 2002, spending her following years archiving school history and photographs and devoting time to her family.

### Governor Northam Announces 600 New Jobs in McLean

Governor Ralph Northam announced that Appian (Nasdaq: APPN), a leading low-code and business process management platform provider, will invest \$28.4 million to expand its headquarters operation in Fairfax County. The company will move into Valo Park, the 785,000-square-foot multi-tenant campus owned by Tamares Group at 7950 Jones Branch Drive in McLean. The project will retain 600 existing jobs and create 600 new jobs over the next five years.

"After nearly 20 years in the Commonwealth, we are honored that Appian will reinvest and expand its headquarters in Fairfax County, creating hundreds of good jobs," said Gov. Northam. "Virginia's leading position in the technology sector makes us a great home for cutting-edge companies as they grow and create economic opportunity in communities like Fairfax County. We look forward to our continued partnership with Appian and more announcements like this one in Northern Virginia and across our Commonwealth."

Appian provides a low-code software development platform that enables organizations to develop applications quickly. The applications created on Appian's platform help companies drive digital transformation and competitive differentiation. For more information, visit [www.appian.com](http://www.appian.com).

## Tysons Open House to Be Held May 3

New homes, restaurants, shops, theaters, parks and roads — come to the Tysons Open House to learn what's happening in Fairfax County's dynamic "downtown." It's your chance to experience what it's like to live, work, shop and play in Tysons.

This free event will be held Thursday, May 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Basis Independent, 8000 Jones Branch Drive in Tysons. Fairfax County and the Tysons Partnership have teamed up to put on this community celebration.

The showcase will feature:  
❖ Free tastings from select Tysons restaurants.  
❖ Live music.  
❖ Information on the latest projects and plans from developers and county staff.

In the last two years, there have been exciting new amenities announced for Tysons, including:

- ❖ Capital Bikeshare.
- ❖ Jones Branch Connector, a new way to get across the Beltway.
- ❖ 225-seat black box theater.
- ❖ 15-screen luxury movie house.
- ❖ Wegmans and Whole Foods.

"Since 2014, the Tysons skyline has seen the addition of 13 new buildings, bringing to the market millions of square feet of mixed-use and transit-oriented development," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova. "Twelve more buildings and 3.9

million square feet are under construction at this very moment. It is amazing how far we've come since the Tysons Plan was adopted just eight years ago."

This new development results from the ambitious plan to transform Tysons into a green, walkable urban center that will be home to 100,000 residents and 200,000 jobs by 2050. The plan provides for new local streets and bike lanes, parks, athletic fields and green spaces, affordable housing, a library, a performing arts center and more. These amenities and facilities will make Tysons into the place where people will want to live, work and play.

"The pace of change in Tysons is astounding," said Sol Glasner, president of Tysons Partnership. "Along with our partners in Fairfax County Government, we invite the public to attend our free open house to experience the many new additions to our community, while also previewing the assets set to arrive in the near future."

Free parking is available at Basis. Or take Fairfax Connector Route 424, a circulator route that serves the Tysons Silver Line stations. Basis is located about 1.5 miles from the Tysons Corner Metro station.

The Tysons Partnership is the association of business and community leaders working with county government to redevelop Tysons as a walkable, mixed-use, transit-oriented modern city.

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# BULLETIN

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

## PARENTS HELPING PARENTS

**Parent Support Partners**, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**STEM Professionals Needed.** Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551- 2488, or [donaledge@aol.com](mailto:donaledge@aol.com).

**Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed.** Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at [Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-4547.

**Operation Paws for Homes**, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See [www.ophrescue.org](http://www.ophrescue.org) for information and all volunteer opportunities.

## 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 [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:

- ❖ 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/MAY 2

**Author Dr. Wendy Mogel.** 7 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. The Safe Community Coalition will present Dr. Wendy Mogel, clinical psychologist, parenting expert, and New York Times best-selling author. In her new book, "Voice Lessons for Parents: What to Say, How to Say it, and When to Listen," Mogel offers a guide to the art of talking with children of all ages, showing us how a change in voice can transform communication and ease the relationship between parents and children. [mcleancc.org](http://mcleancc.org).

## FRIDAY/MAY 4

**Virginia 10th Congressional District Candidate Forum**, 7:30 a.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy in Tysons II. Cost is \$50. hosted by DemBiz. Visit [www.dembiz.org/candidateforum50418nm](http://www.dembiz.org/candidateforum50418nm).

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## You Mean Next Week Tuesday?

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Today, Sunday, April 22, I am not on any real – or imagined, deadline pressure, quite different than my previous column ("You Mean Tomorrow Tuesday?"), published April 25. This column isn't due until nine days from now, since my copy editor returns from vacation that Tuesday. And of course, since there's no abbreviated/immediate-type deadline, and it's a relatively quiet weekend at home (as opposed to the "triple threat" Tuesday I wrote about last week), Chino, in addition to any of our other four cats, are nowhere to be found. Certainly, they're all sleeping. I mean, it is 12:30 pm. In fact, as I get up to investigate, Chino is sleeping on the very same chair he ended up on last week. This week however, when I have minimal deadline pressure, Chino has minimal Kenny interest. At present, he is not the least bit involved in the creative process, other than as a point of reference, that is.

And just as Chino is minding his own business – for now, I am able to mind mine and stay on task. It is so much easier to do so when my writing pad is not the exact midpoint and/or crossroads for where Chino is and for where he wants to be. Therefore, I have no excuses for not maintaining a creative flow as pen is put to paper. No cat interruptions or interference whatsoever. To quote my late father, I have no "encumbrances" – at the moment.

More so even than Chino walking right to left across my desk (and back of course). I just received an email from my oncologist, yes on the weekend, telling me that my two scans taken on Wednesday, April 18, continue to show "stable." News, with which I'm extremely fond of writing – properly, I can live. As much as I could likewise live with tumor "shrinkage" as well, I am ALWAYS pleased when I see my new favorite word: "stable," in any communication from my doctor. For a cancer patient still undergoing treatment – as I am, or for any cancer patient in remission, a "stable" result is hardly the problem. The problem is growth and/or movement or appearance elsewhere in the body. (For lung cancer patients, movement to the brain, which occurs in approximately 30 percent of patients, is the predominant worry. As such, I get a brain MRI regularly.)

So, no scan-result pressure. No post-chemo side-effect pressure. No newspaper and/or deadline pressure. And no cat-related pressure compounding any of the aforementioned pressures. Ergo, the 'pressure' is officially off. And when the 'pressure' is off, my creativeness is on. Though this may not be the best column I've ever written, it's certainly been one with the least amount of 'encumbrances.'

And speaking of my father, Barry, who died in in 2006, and now my mother, Celia, who died two years later, almost to the day, what I am particularly grateful for is the timing of my diagnosis/prognosis: it all happened after they had died. They never knew. My first symptom manifested four weeks after my widowed mother was laid to rest. They both know now though as I regularly update them when I visit their gravesites at the cemetery. And though the conversations are mostly one-sided, still, it brings me comfort and a peculiar sort of joy to share the details of my treatment and the miscellaneous pressures I experience, some of which I've mentioned and some of which I haven't. Many of those my parents knew about, and were often topics of discussion – while they were alive.

I was lucky then and I continue to be lucky now. Great parents before and an amazingly fortunate post-cancer-diagnosis after. Whoever I have to thank: thank you.

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



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