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Vienna and Oakton **CONNECTION**



One of the acrobats practices her jump from swing to swing for the Cirque du Soleil's Luzia being performed in Tysons until June 17. During practice the performers wear safety harnesses.



Between Dreamland And Reality

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Vienna Police Highlights

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Beef-lovers MustDestination

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PHOTO BY JENNIFER KAYE/THE CONNECTION

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Drug Take Back Initiative Nets 577 Pounds of Medications

On April 28, the Town of Vienna Police Department in conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, (D.E.A.), participated in the 15th National Drug Take Back Initiative. As a result of that initiative the Town of Vienna Police Department collected and safely disposed of 577 pounds of expired or no longer needed medications from area citizens. The Vienna Police Department plans to continue its participation in future D.E.A. initiatives.

Allergy Heroes Walk to Be Held in Vienna

Northern Virginia FARE Food Allergy Heroes Walk will be held on Sunday, June 10 at Nottoway Park in Vienna. This year's walk will help raise critical funds and awareness to create a safer, more inclusive world for children and adults living with food allergies. Registration and activities will go from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 10:45 a.m. There will be mission driven arts and crafts, a DJ, face and nail painting, engaging activities, allergy friendly vendors, superheroes, games, silent auction, photo booth, and a walk around the park. Registration is free, but you must sign up in order to participate. http://fare.foodallergy.org/site/TR/Walk/HeroesWalk?pg=entry&fr_id=1708

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About Time or Deja Vu?

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Commuters crossing the river at the American Legion Bridge, both morning and night, try to find any route that saves just a little time. But already clogged McLean intersections, roads and neighborhoods have become even more saturated by drivers, some armed with traffic applications like Waze, who think McLean is the cut through of choice to save a few minutes.

At a community meeting hosted by VDOT last Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at McLean High School, Dranesville Supervisor John Foust told McLean residents that “exciting” developments are on the way.

“There has been some, I think, really wonderful news coming from the Maryland side,” Foust said, in McLean High School cafeteria.

More than 75 people attended the meeting to hear short term, intermediate and long-term plans to break gridlock on McLean’s streets.

“They are really pressing forward,” Foust told the audience about the expansion of lanes on the American Legion Bridge to relieve congestion.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) announced plans earlier this year to add four new lanes to I-270, the Capital Beltway, and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway by means of a public private partnership. Hogan touted the \$9 billion traffic relief plan as a way to reduce congestion for millions of drivers and significantly improve the traffic conditions on some of Maryland’s most traveled roads.

“The [Maryland] Governor says he wants construction to begin in 2020,” said Foust. “I don’t think that realistic,” but “it’s not my place to say so.”

“I say, ‘Go for it.’” said Foust.

“Let me just say, ‘Yay!’” said Sharon Bulova at the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting on May 1, 2018, when the Supervisors voted to send a letter pushing Maryland to study options to relieve congestion at the Bridge.

“You can see traffic backed up way beyond Tysons trying to get to Maryland in the evenings,” Foust said at the Supervisors meeting.

“Maryland just did a major major commitment to its own Beltway and I-270 and the American Legion Bridge and I thank them so much for that.

“I didn’t think we were ever going to get to this point. I really didn’t,” said Foust.

THE LETTER the Board sent to the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration is firm.

“The County believes that the capacity needs across the Potomac River must be addressed to alleviate the existing congestions and to ensure that the region remains economically vibrant,” wrote the Supervisors.



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION



About 75 people came to a meeting in McLean last week with concerns about gridlock and cut through traffic, some of it caused by traffic on the Beltway.



Captain Alan Hanson of the Fairfax County Police calls for a ‘media blitz’ on ‘don’t block the box’ as McLean officers continue an enforcement campaign at McLean intersections, especially Balls Hill and Georgetown Pike.

“Approximately 239,000 vehicles use the bridge on an average weekday, resulting in substantial congestion and delay for those residing and working in our localities. Use of the bridge is expected to increase over the next 25 years, further exacerbating the problem. Addressing the capacity of the bridge is essential to the quality of life and economic development for our region.”

Board members expressed enthusiasm as they reviewed the letter at the Board meeting on May 1, 2018.

“This moves us forward to working with Maryland on providing continuity for transportation on the Beltway,” said Bulova. “The



Dranesville Supervisor John Foust says: “There has been some, I think, really wonderful news coming from the Maryland side.”

cooperation and coordination with Maryland really is critical.”

Braddock Supervisor John Cook calls it “common-sensical.”

“The fact that it’s taken such a push is quite amazing,” he said. The letter, he said, serves “as a way of sharing our positive experience [with the Express Lanes], to the extent that people in Maryland can’t look at the obvious and understand it, maybe we can help prod them that way a little bit.”

Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth and Springfield Supervisor Pat Herryty envisioned the future with transit and a second crossing over the Potomac River.

“We have certainly been pushing our colleagues in Maryland to come up with a proposal to work on this as part of our planning for the region,” said Smyth. “While we

Traffic backs up on the Beltway where the Express Lanes end and cars must merge. Cut-through traffic trying to avoid the backup on the Beltway backs up on McLean’s roads, causing a “nightmare,” according to some residents.

may just be talking about just adding roads and toll lanes now, it could be the basis for other sorts of transit for the future.

“There are lots of possibilities with this in the future. We just need to get something constructed,” she said.

According to Herryty: “It’s finally good that we’ve got a governor in Maryland that’s serious about improving congestion on both their side and our side.

“Hopefully we keep the pressure on them for a second crossing,” said Herryty, who described the congested path down I-270, to I-495, to the Dulles Toll Road that Marylanders take to work.

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay says congestion is impacting the entire county, including the southeastern area.

“The Maryland traffic in Virginia is stilling to our communities. It has gotten so bad, I think more than half of the people at Fort Belvoir have Maryland tags now and they have inundated our roadways to a point where schools can’t get busses out on Telegraph Road, Mount Vernon Highway is backed up for miles, the GW Parkway is a raceway,” said McKay. “We certainly want to be a region, but the impacts of the huge influx of Maryland folks coming into Virginia and the southeastern end of the county most specifically Fort Belvoir has had a tremendous effect on our infrastructure.”

NOT ALL were convinced, including Hunter Mill Supervisor Catherine Hudgins.

“I will tell you that my excitement is not quite at the level of others because I have been riding the Beltway since early 70s. It was crowded then, it is crowded now. And I’m subject to believe that it’s going to be crowded,” said Hudgins.

“I’m skeptical,” she said. “My optimism isn’t there.”

Maryland’s Montgomery County Council has historically opposed the possibility of a second crossing through Montgomery County, since past studies didn’t prove a second crossing or widening of the American Legion Bridge would be effective.

The environmental impact would be massive, since Potomac, Md., like Great Falls, has been zoned a low density area to protect the health of the Potomac River and the region’s drinking water. Montgomery County has created a 93,000-acre agricultural reserve in the outer part of the county which is not hospitable to a so-called techway.

In its letter, the Board of Supervisors said the Park Authority needs to determine “any anticipated impacts to the Scotts Run Nature Preserve.”

SOME McLEAN RESIDENTS at last week’s meeting say the Express Lanes built on the Virginia side have caused a choke point at Georgetown Pike, because the lanes

SEE BRIDGE, PAGE 10



Acrobats practicing the Russian swings. Practice is filmed and then shown on a tv next to them with a delay so they can see exactly how they did and what mistakes they may or may not have made.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER KAYE/THE CONNECTION

Some of the performers stretching before practicing the Russian swings.

Between the Dreamland and Reality

Behind the scene of Cirque du Soleil.

Cirque du Soleil's Luzia takes its audience to an imaginary Mexico that lies somewhere between a fantasy dreamland and reality. The show's name is a cross between the Spanish word for light, "luz," and the Spanish word for rain, "lluvia." With the combination of the two words, Luzia hopes to both quench the spirits and sooth the souls of its audience.

The total set up time is around eight days for the whole Cirque du Soleil village. There are 115 people from 25 different countries who are part of the crew and cast and the performers alone come from 19 different nationalities: Australia, Belarus, Canada, Colombia, France, Guinea, Italy, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Spain, Poland, Puerto Rico, Russia and Venezuela.

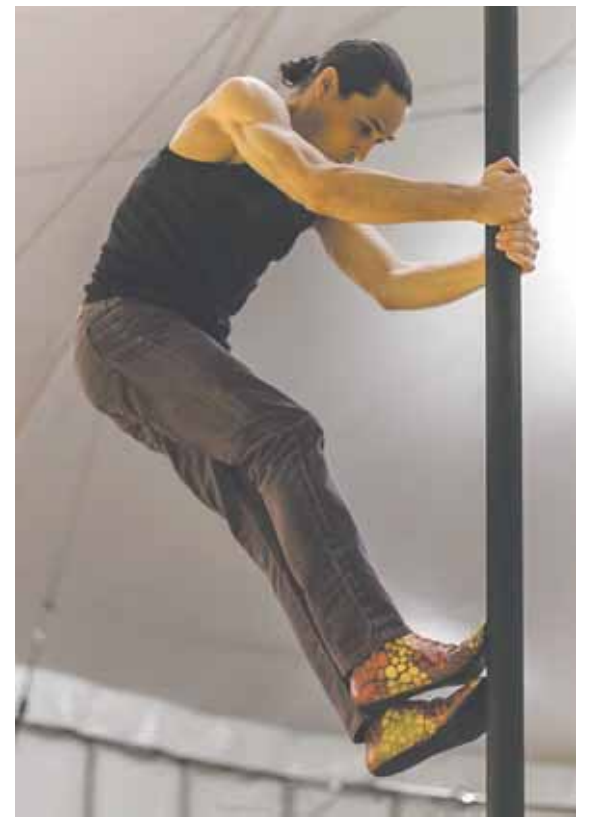
It is hard to comprehend how much goes into the production of Luzia. The show travels in 65 trailer trucks and carries almost 2,000 tons of equipment. A crew flies down ahead of time to survey the site and place the steel rods into the ground to hold up the big top.

Luzia is in town until June 17 and then is headed north to Boston. For more information www.cirquedusoleil.com/luzia

— JENNIFER KAYE



Laura Biondo with the finished makeup look for the show.



One of the acrobats practicing his act on the vertical poles.

A performer working on her act with the Cyr wheel.



One of the costume designers working on a new piece for the show. The juggler in the show had decided to move up to seven bottles and needed something to dry his hands off in-between, so she is creating a towel that matches his outfit that he can use during the show.

VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department from May 4-10, 2018.

INCIDENTS

Suspicious Event — Giant Food 359 Maple Avenue, East Between April 15 at 12 p.m. and April 26 at 5:39 p.m. A resident reported that she believes her disabled son, an employee at Giant, was the victim of fraud when an older man asked him for cash in exchange for a check made payable to another person. The son later requested his money be returned, but the man refused to give him the full amount. Several days later the man and his wife met with an officer upset that the check, which was given fraudulently, was never returned to them. Ofc. Post advised the couple that the case is still being investigated as they attempted to defraud another person. They were also advised that, at the request of Giant Food management, they were no longer permitted on their property and would be charged with trespass if they returned.

Trespassing and Vehicle Tampering — Desale Street, SW April 28, 1:15 a.m. A resident advised that her ex-husband, who has been trespassed from her property, was observed by their adult daughter in the driveway looking underneath the resident's vehicle. When the daughter confronted her father he left immediately. Two warrants were obtained and served on the 57-year-old man from Center Street, North in Vienna, charging Trespassing and Vehicle Tampering.

Fraud — 100 Block Wolftrap Road, SE April 29 at 8 a.m. A resident received a phone call from a company who said they could fix issues with his computer, but he would need to pay them in Google Play Cards purchased from CVS. The resident declined, then later noticed that money had been removed from his PayPal account. This case is being investigated.

Animal Case - Quarantine — 200 Block Commons Drive, NW May 1, 8:40 p.m. A resident was bitten by a dog she was fostering. The dog is now being boarded in Purcellville, Va. and is under a

routine quarantine. Loudoun County Animal Services will follow up on the quarantine.

Unlawful Entry — 400 Block Marshall Road, SW May 2, 12:19 p.m. A resident returned home to find that the rear door to her home was not completely shut. Upon reviewing her security system she observed a UtiliQuest employee walking around the house, then exiting the rear door. MPO Lose located the employee who advised he was at the house to mark utilities when he thought he heard a noise and smelled gas coming from the home. The employee found an unsecured window and checked the home for issues. After finding no problems he left the home. This case is being investigated.

Juvenile Case — Cedar Lane School 101 Cedar Lane, SW May 3, 8:43 a.m. Two juvenile students walked away from the school. One of the students returned before officers arrived. The second student was located by officers in the Cedar Lane Shopping Center and returned to the school.

Suspicious Event — 200 Block Commons Drive, NW May 3, 4 p.m. A resident reported a man who has frequently been seen in the area acting suspicious. The person is described as a black male, approximately 27-years-old riding a mountain bike. The man has been frequenting the area around James Madison High School and engaging others in conversation. No crime was committed; however, the resident felt his actions were suspicious.

Natural Death — 200 Manvell Road, SE May 4, 2:13 p.m. Officers responded with rescue personnel for a report of an elderly man who was found deceased in his home. The man had been under hospice care for his medical issues.

Suspicious Event — 300 Block Courthouse Road, SW May 4, 11:50 p.m. Officers responded to a report of a woman sitting on the curb crying. The woman was found to just be upset and not in any type of distress. She was escorted home by the officer.

Assist Fire / EMS — 300 Block Plum Street, SW

SEE POLICE . PAGE 7

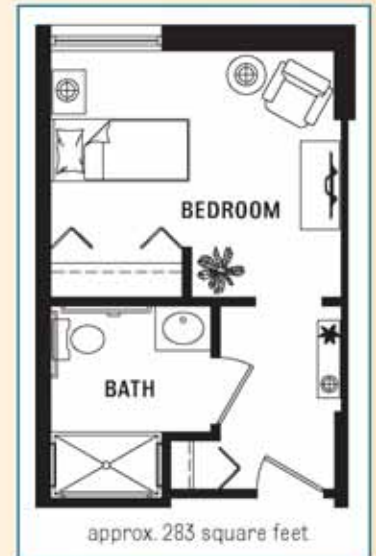
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Before crossing a street, always make eye contact with the motorist to ensure they see you - even if the walk sign is on. Wait until the road is clear or until all traffic has stopped.

The 2018 Fairfax County bike & trail map is now available at all government centers and bike shops in Fairfax County, as well as at fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk



More Than Apple for Teacher

Gifts for those who educate children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

As the school year nears an end, it's time to thank those whose jobs run the gamut from comforting kindergartners with separation anxiety to teaching biology to hormonal teenagers. End-of-year teacher gifts are seemingly ubiquitous in June, but how does one choose a useful present that doesn't get re-gifted or donated? Local tastemakers offer their take on gifts for teachers that teachers actually want to receive.

"Teachers can always use extra supplies for their classrooms," said Courtney Thomas of the Picket Fence in Burke. "Put together a goody bag full of pencils and markers, notepads, page flags and sticky notes or anything your teacher needs to keep his or her desk stocked. Tie it all up in a reusable bag they can repurpose to carry papers and books to and from school."

Treat your teacher to a spa day at home, advises Thomas. "Get a collection of your favorite lotions, soaps and candles and give your teachers a much appreciated excuse to pamper themselves."

Flowers are a cheerful present to offer those who teach children, but fresh flowers have a limited lifespan, advises Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Old Town Alexandria who suggests bouquets with longevity. "Felt flowers always look fresh and add a bit happiness to every day," he said.

Sometimes the most treasured gifts are those that don't come with a price tag. "My favorite handmade teacher gift is a thoughtful note of thanks, said Kathryn Horn Coneway of Art at the Center in Alexandria. "Taking the time to say thank you and be specific about how an adult has impacted your child's growth is a powerful way of affirming the work teachers do. I think it is great to encourage kids to write letters of thanks as well and to think through what specifically they can name that they have learned or gained from a teacher."

"A beautiful and thoughtful gift for all teachers are



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONORAN ROSE BOUTIQUE

Wine-scented bath bombs from Napa Valley are the perfect gift for the teacher who needs a little pampering.

guest towels," says Cristina Chiotti of Sonoran Rose Boutique in Potomac, Md. "[We have some] that come from South Africa and are available in a variety of lovely prints and designs," she said. "Delicious wine-scented bath bombs from Napa Valley are the perfect gift for the teacher who needs a little pampering."

For teachers with a preppy spirit, Amanda Mertins, of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria, advises, "Some of the most thoughtful gifts for teachers who go above and beyond to educate our children are gift monogrammed items, gifts cards and notepads."

And for teachers who enjoy spending time outdoors, Chiotti says an ideal gift includes "Pairing some local Maryland honey with our gardening tool kit for the perfect springtime gardening gift."



COURTESY OF KATHRYN CONEWAY

Notepads make useful end-of-year teachers gifts, suggests Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE

Candles, soaps and lotions in a gift bag will make luxurious end-of-year teacher gifts, says Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ART AT THE CENTER

A note written on a handmade card such as this collage with mulberry paper and acrylic medium on watercolor paper by Kathryn Horn Coneway of Art at the Center, makes meaning teacher gifts, says Coneway.

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PEOPLE

Vienna Associates Recognized for April Performance

Mark Ackermann, president of Weichert, Realtors' Capital Region, announced that sales associates Patricia Stack and Lex Lianos with the Vienna office have been recognized for exceptional performance in April.

Both top producers, Stack led the Weichert sales region in new home dollar volume and resale listings for the month, while Lianos was the associate with the most resales. The Weichert sales region comprises locations throughout Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Orange, Prince



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED
Patricia Stack Lex Lianos

William and Warren counties.

Invite these neighborhood specialists in to learn about the real estate services offered by Weichert, Realtors. Stack and Lianos can be reached in Weichert's Vienna office at 156 East Maple Avenue, or call 703-938-6070 for more information.

VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

FROM PAGE 5

May 5, 1:04 a.m. Ofc. Sterling was the first emergency unit to arrive on the scene of a reported house fire. A neighbor advised the officer that he had been attempting to get the elderly resident out of the house. Ofc. Sterling and the neighbor observed the resident and entered the home, bringing him safely outside. The two then reentered the home to ensure no other people were still inside. Fire / EMS personnel arrived on scene and also searched and cleared the house. It was determined that food on the stove was the cause of the incident, causing no structure damage to the home. The resident and neighbor were evaluated at the scene by EMS personnel, but no further medical assistance was required.

Natural Death — 100 Block Cherry Circle, SW May 6, 8:36 p.m. A resident came home from work and found her husband in their home unresponsive. Officers and rescue personnel responded and found the man, who suffered from medical issues, was deceased.

Assault — 400 Block Colin Lane, NW May 6, 11 p.m. Officers responded for a disturbance between the resident and a woman. The woman advised she had been staying at the house, but wanted to leave with one of her friends. She advised the resident did not want her leaving with that person and they began fighting. The woman did not wish to pursue charges against the resident, but was advised of the warrant process. The woman and her friend left the house without further incident.

Alarm / Open Door — Northwest Federal Credit Union May 7, 7:22 a.m. Officers responding to an alarm found the rear door to the bank unlocked. The bank was searched and nothing appeared to be disturbed. The bank is being remodeled and may have been left unsecured by a contractor.

Assault - Arrest — Cedar Lane School 101 Cedar Lane, SW May 7, 10:21 a.m. Officers responded to a report of two juvenile students walking away from the school. The students were located, transported back to the school. One of the students complied with the school staff, the other student became belligerent and her grandmother was notified to come pick her up. The juvenile then became uncooperative and disorderly, refusing to leave with her grandmother. During the incident the juvenile kicked the principal. MPO Borja arrested the juvenile on charges of assault and transported her to the Fairfax County Juvenile Intake where she was released

to the custody of her grandmother.

Assist EMS — 600 Block Frederick Street, SW May 7, 6:56 p.m. Officers responded to a report of CPR in progress on a 25-year-old woman who had overdosed and was now unresponsive. EMS personnel were able to resuscitate the woman and she was transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening issues.

Grand Larceny — Wolftrap Hotel 430 Maple Avenue, West Between May 7 at 11 p.m. and May 8 at 12 p.m. A citizen reported a gift card stolen from her backpack.

Narcotics Violation — 200 Block Cedar Lane, SE May 8, 9:02 a.m. A resident reported that he came home from work unexpectedly and found his juvenile son and his son's friend smoking marijuana in the home.

Narcotics Violation — Nutley Street and Princeton Terrace, SW May 8, 8:39 p.m. Officers responded to the report of a suspicious vehicle. Ofc. Rohr observed the driver leaving the area and initiated a traffic stop. Upon her interaction with the driver she detected the odor of marijuana and found the driver to be in possession of a measurable amount of the drug. The 19-year-old man from Moorefield Hill Place, SW, Vienna was released on a summons charging Possession of Marijuana.

Grand Larceny — 400 Block Tapawingo Road, SE May 9 between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Two bicycles were taken from a resident's driveway where they had been left unsecured.

Found Property — Maple Avenue and Nutley Street, SW May 10, 1:50 a.m. A bicycle was found abandoned on the roadway.

Found Property — Maple Avenue and East Street, NE May 10, 6 p.m. A citizen turned in an envelope containing US currency that she had found. Animal Case — 1100 Ware Street, SW May 10, 7:21 p.m. A resident advised they found a baby raccoon in their shed and her daughter picked it up. The resident was concerned the animal may be sick and that her daughter may have been exposed. The officer transported the baby raccoon to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter where the animal was euthanized for rabies testing. ACO Barker will follow up on this case.

CRASHES

133 Maple Avenue, East — May 3, 4:09 p.m. Driver-1 was involved in accident. Believing her vehicle to be on fire she exited the vehicle without putting it in park. The unoccupied vehicle drifted across the roadway striking Vehicle-2 and causing minor damage.



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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

"Trees, Trees, and Beyond."

Through May 31 at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Vienna Arts Society Exhibition. Free. Open 10-7:30 p.m. in May. Visit 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. Admission is free. Visit 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 for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 18

Bike to Work Day. Join more than 18,000 area commuters for a free celebration of bicycling as a fun, healthy and environmentally-friendly way to get to work. Starting at various early morning hours, and some in the afternoon. Morning Bike to Work Day convoys, led by experienced bicycle commuters, will travel throughout the region. All levels of cyclists are welcome to join the convoys. To register, visit www.biketoworkmetrodc.org and be entered for a free bike raffle.

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Susan O'Neill, a graphic artist will be doing a demonstration on charcoal drawing. There will be a sale of art materials and books to fund the Society's volunteer projects. Call 703-356-2998.

Thomas Pandolfi Concert. 7:30-9 p.m. at Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Pianist Thomas Pandolfi in concert performing works by Mozart, Chopin, Ponce and Bernstein. Sponsored by the United Methodist Women. Meet and greet reception to follow. \$40. Tickets in advance at www.greatfallsumc.org.

Encore Choral Concert. 7:30-9 p.m. at United Christian Parish Reston, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Combined Encore Chorales from Reston, Fairfax, and Lansdowne Woods sing music from Broadway, the Great American Songbook, and traditional Spirituals. Free and open to the public. Visit www.EncoreCreativity.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 18-19

Traditional Afternoon Teas. 3-5 p.m. at Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St. NE., Vienna. Enjoy a traditional English tea. Tickets are \$30 per person and include scones, tea sandwiches, assorted sweets and a bottomless cup of tea. A program will feature The Language of Flowers. Space is very limited; make reservations by calling 703-938-5187.

SATURDAY/MAY 19

2018 NGC Standard Flower Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Flower show "Celebrate Gardening Diversity." Learn about plants that you can grow in the area, view creative floral designs. Free. Visit www.gfgardenclub.org.

Teens on the Green. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. For one afternoon each spring, teens run the Town of Vienna - at least its



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

McLean Day now has two stages for entertainment—which means there is something for everyone to enjoy.

McLean Day Festival Returns Saturday

McLean Day 2018 — produced by the McLean Community Center (MCC) — will be held on Saturday, May 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd. Admission is free.

The party starts early this year! On Friday, May 18, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. patrons can come to Lewinsville Park to enjoy the large, ticketed amusement rides just inside the entrance on Chain Bridge Road. Ride prices vary and some rides have height requirements.

Now in its 103rd year, McLean Day began in 1915 when the McLean School and Civic League sponsored a festival to raise funds for school and community projects.

entertainment. Vienna Parks and Recreation will host a youthful day of spring on stage as teens take over the Town Green with performances by Club Phoenix Live members, Madison High School's jazz band, Adrenaline Dance, School of Rock, and Velocity Dance. Call 703-255-6360.

McLean Day 2018. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Several options in stage entertainment. Rides, fair food and more. The festival will be held rain or shine. Call 703-790-0123/TTY: 711, www.mcleancenter.org/special-events.

Over the Edge Rappelling Fundraiser. at Hilton McLean Global Headquarters, 7930 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Some 80-plus thrill seekers will rappel down the McLean Hilton headquarters building. Sponsored by Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia. Each participant pledges to raise \$1,000 www.habitatnova.org/ote/.

Connect Our Kids Fundraiser. 5-8 p.m. at Mosaic District's Alex and Ani store. In honor of May's National Foster Care Month, Connect Our Kids, a Falls Church-based non-profit, is pairing with Mosaic District's Alex and Ani store for a Charmed By Charity event. Alex and Ani will

A variety of popular large amusement rides can be enjoyed at McLean Day. Younger children can enjoy a "Kids' Way" area that features ticketed rides especially for them. There will also be several free games and activities all over the park, including Bubble Ball, a climbing wall, laser tag and Squeals on Wheels Petting Zoo.

McLean Day now has two stages for entertainment—which means there is something for everyone to enjoy.

For festival updates, driving directions, shuttle bus stop locations and a festival area map, visit: www.mcleancenter.org/special-events or call the Center at 703-790-0123/TTY: 711. The Center's telephone will be answered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the day of the festival.

donate 15 percent of gross sales made during the event to support Connect Our Kids and their work developing proactive software that helps America's foster children find their families faster. Visit www.connectourkids.org.

A Salute to the Military. 7:30 p.m. at Vinson Hall Community Building, 1733 Kirby Road, McLean. With Tysons McLean Orchestra. Sponsored by Linda and Wayne Sharp with special guest Col. Arnald Gabriel. Featuring Copland's Lincoln Portrait and Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture. Adults, \$40; seniors, \$30; youth, \$15. Visit tysonsmcleanorchestra.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 19-20

Colonial Spring Market Fair. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Play games and watch a children's puppet theatre. Order nails from the Blacksmith or a Corn Husk Doll. Enjoy music, dancing and 18th century fun. Lunch for purchase. The Colonial Tavern serves a variety of beer and ale, wine, lemonade and ginger ale. Adults, \$8; children and seniors, \$4; children under 3 free admission; free parking; directions at www.1771.org.

Tenth District Forum to Be Held in McLean

Candidates to debate at the McLean Lutheran Church of the Redeemer on May 23.

The McLean Forum for 10th District candidates from both parties will focus on economic equality, jobs, health care and key safety net programs, education, women and minority issues and infrastructure investments, Wednesday evening May 23, 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain Bridge Road. This is a meeting put together by the Virginia committee of the Economic Equality Caucus, a non-partisan coalition of nonprofits and concerned citizens in northern Virginia. No candidate will be endorsed.

The organizers want to focus on economic policy for all working families in this nationally watched race.

There is a non-political section for nonprofits from 5 p.m. to 5:50

p.m. and then the candidates' forum from about 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Organizations who will be attending include:

- ❖ Phillips Programs for Children and Families;
- ❖ Share, Inc. nonprofit in McLean/Tyson's;
- ❖ Community Foundation for Northern Virginia;
- ❖ Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Social Concerns Committee;
- ❖ Hunger Free America nonprofit;
- ❖ Northern Virginia labor federation;
- ❖ Virginia Planned Parenthood advocates;
- ❖ business groups;
- ❖ faith-based entities;
- ❖ women and minority organizations.

This is free and open to the public.

SUNDAY/MAY 20

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-noon at Vienna American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Vienna. Get omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy and more. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$4. Call 703-938-6580.

Better Wellness and Safety for Mature Adults. 1-4 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE. Tips related to finances, physical and mental health, and public safety - all especially for senior adults - at a Wellness & Safety Expo hosted by Vienna's parks and recreation and police departments. Snacks will be provided by Cava and Fresh Market, and guests may pick up a free Town tote bag filled with giveaways. Call 703-255-7801.

TUESDAY/MAY 22

Sierra Club Hikes. 7-8:30 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Frank Wodarczyk, a Sierra Club hike leader, will talk about the Sierra Club Potomac Region outings and provide information about the type of hikes, what to bring, and transportation options. Free. Email s.weltz@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 24

Fundraising Benefit. 6-9 p.m. at the Tower Club, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 1700, Vienna. The Women 2 Women Committee of the Tower Club is hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association. The evening will feature journalists/authors Cokie Roberts and her daughter, Rebecca Boggs Roberts. All tickets (\$95, +fees) entitle participants to a reception featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres and two drink tickets. Visit www.suffragistmemorial.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 26

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 10 a.m.-noon. At Nottoway Park, 9601 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Learn

about growing nightshade plants (tomatoes, etc.). Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Contact the Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556.

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house during Viva! Vienna. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 26-28

Viva! Vienna! Vienna celebrates its annual three-day festival in the heart of historic Vienna along Church Street. The festival, hosted for 33 years by the Rotary Club of Vienna, features carnival rides, food, live entertainment across three stages, and more than 300 arts and craft and other vendors. Free admission. Rides require a specific number of tickets, which varies from ride to ride; tickets are \$1 each or \$20 for a sheet of 24, or \$35 for an all-day wristband. Parking in the historic area is very limited. Visit vivavienna.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 27

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.

MONDAY/MAY 28

Memorial Day Brunch and Cookie Class for Children. 10 a.m.-noon at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3rd floor, McLean. A special Memorial Day brunch where guests will enjoy a breakfast buffet, cookie decorating class and face painting. \$20.00 per adult/child plus tax (gratuity not included). To make a reservation, call 703-442-9110.

DINING

Beef-lovers Must Destination

Elevation Burger opens in Vienna.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY
THE CONNECTION

What started by a passionate burger guy in Falls Church in 2005 has become an international burger destination. With corporate headquarters also in Falls Church, the metro area has welcomed several of its burger places, where patrons can dig into grass-fed, free-range, and organic beef patties.

Elevation Burger was originally conceived in 2002 by founder, Hans Hess when he couldn't find the burger he'd been dreaming about since he left California in 1999.

For those looking for an Elevation Burger in the Vienna area, rejoice. A recently opened corner location in the Danor Plaza has ample indoor and outdoor seating, and a cheerful crew who deliver orders promptly.

Scrolling through the menu turns up choices other than burgers: vegans can select one of two veggie burgers. And nonbeef eaters can choose among several chicken sandwich choices; a grilled cheese; a hot dog; or a BLT meal. And among the chicken goodies, imagine a crispy chicken sandwich with sriracha (the spicy Thai sauce) highlighting the meal. Calo-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELEVATION BURGER

Elevation Burger is located at Danor Plaza, 142 Branch Road SE., Vienna, 703-865-7277. Open daily, starting at 11 a.m.

rie counters have a few salad choices as well.

But coming here for a burger makes this a beef-lovers must destination. Choices are spread out over many options, from a plain, single-patty sandwich, to a bacon cheddar burger; a guacamole ranch burger; a mushroom-Swiss cheese burger; and something called a Vertigo burger, to which the patron can stack up to 10 patties on a potato bun—among other choices,

But keeping it simple, such as the Elevation burger with two patties on a potato bun opens up the meal to assorted sides: chips, fries; fiery cheesy fries; and the dessert of three cookies. And don't skip past the thick, creamy (and caloric) shakes. How about wrapping up the meal with a Cookies and Cream shake made with Oreo cookies and vanilla ice cream.

There's also a Strawberry Cheesecake shake, though the cheesecake is something called a "cheesecake powder."

When all is said and done, and you are moving about the metro area hungering for the ultimate burger treat, rejoice. Elevation Burger has six locations in Northern Virginia.

Elevation Burger, Danor Plaza, 142 Branch Road SE., Vienna, Va. 703-865-7277. Hours: open daily, starting at 11 a.m.

Aladdin and Jasmine (Aditya Wineland and Sonali Doshi) in Marshall High's Spring Choir Show, "The Musical World of Disney," June 1 & 2.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Marshall High Choir Presents 'The Musical World of Disney'

Marshall High School Choir's Spring Concert will present a medley of favorite songs from Disney movies and shows on June 1 & 2. The Disney show is a Marshall tradition but takes place only once every four years. Singers will perform favorite tunes from Moana, Frozen, Tangled, Toy Story, Lion King, Aladdin, The Little Mermaid, High School Musical, and much more.

"Our spring choir show sells out every year: it is the crowning finale of a wonderful season. We depart from traditional choir songs to embrace a theme—featuring performers in full costumes singing as choirs and in spotlight pieces. It's a great way to spend your weekend evening or Saturday afternoon while supporting your local school arts program," said Kelli Pierson, Choir Director. "You won't be disappointed by this family-fun event!"

"The Musical World of Disney" takes place at George C. Marshall High School's auditorium in Falls Church. The show opens Friday, June 1 at 7 p.m. with additional showtimes on June 2 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The 2 p.m. June 2 show is a special abridged children's performance that will include a costume contest for children and a chance to meet characters from the show including Anna and Elsa, Rapunzel, Belle, Aladdin and Jasmine, and others.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, and \$3 for the Saturday afternoon children's performance. Order your tickets today at www.marshallhighschoolchoir.org.

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VOTE on McLean Day

McLean Community Center Governing Board Election

The Governing Board and staff of the McLean Community Center (MCC) strongly encourage all qualified residents to vote for members of its 2018-2019 Governing Board. Your vote sends a very important message of your support of the Center's programs and services.

When & Where

Vote between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the McLean Day 2018 festival on Saturday, May 19, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

Requirements to Vote

1. You must be a resident of the MCC tax district (Dranesville Small District 1A); however, you need not be registered to vote in the general election.
2. You must be at least 18 years old by McLean Day to vote for an adult candidate. Adults may vote for up to three candidates.
3. You must be 15 through 17 years old by McLean Day to vote for youth candidates. Youth voters have two votes, and may vote for one candidate in the McLean High School boundary area, and one candidate in the Langley High School boundary area.
4. You must bring identification and proof of residency, such as a driver's license or you may sign a sworn statement.



**The McLean Community Center
Temporary Administrative Office Address**
6631 Old Dominion Dr., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org



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NEWS

Traffic headed toward Maryland on the Beltway backs up where the Express Lanes end.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION



Bridge Expansion Debated

FROM PAGE 3

end abruptly, and are not matched by increased traffic capacity on the American Legion Bridge or the Beltway in Maryland.

"Putting all the merge points at one point makes it a nightmare," said April Georgelas, calling the situation an emergency.

In April, Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board approved \$6 million in funding for the Virginia Department of Transportation to conduct an environmental study of a plan to extend the I-495 Express Lanes by approximately three miles from the Dulles Toll Road interchange to the vicinity of

the American Legion Bridge and Maryland line.

A meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2018 at Cooper Middle School to specifically address the proposal and its impact on McLean and the region.

According to the letter: "With the daily delays leading to the American Legion Bridge, many commuters leaving Virginia have found alternative routes to travel as close to the bridge as possible before entering the Capital Beltway. Since some neighborhood roads near the bridge have been affected by traffic from these commuters, we request that the traffic study undertaken as part of this process include the impact on these roads in its scope."

McLean Auctioneer Earns Top Industry Designation

McLean auctioneer Anne Nouri, of Prime Auction Solutions, recently completed her training at the Certified Auctioneers Institute (CAI). CAI is the industry's premier training program developed by the National Auctioneers Association (NAA) for auction professionals. Nouri joins an exclusive group as there are approximately only 120 women with current CAI Designations in the world (as of March 2018). The three-year CAI designation program provides auction professionals the opportunity to earn the industry's most respected professional designation. CAI is an intensive, executive development program offering professional auctioneers with instruction and coursework in business management, ethics, finance, communication, strategic planning and marketing. The



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Anne Nouri

NAA conducts CAI every March at Indiana University in Bloomington. In 2014 Nouri completed her auction training at the Missouri Auction School and has since earned the following NAA designations: Accredited Auctioneer Real Estate, AARE, Benefit Auction Specialist, BAS, Graduate Personal Property Appraiser, GPPA and now the highest designation in the Auction Industry, Certified Auctioneers Institute, CAI. Nouri is also a licensed Realtor in Virginia, Washington DC, and Maryland with Sorelle Realty at Keller Williams McLean, where she serves on the ALC, Agent Leadership Council.

To learn more about Nouri, call 703-889-8949, email Anne@PrimeAuctionSolutions.com or visit www.PrimeAuctionSolutions.com.

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.

GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATES

The McLean Community Center

Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Key Election Dates:

- ❖ 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>.

THURSDAY/MAY 17

TedX Salon. 6-8 p.m. in the Kathy Martin Community Building Ballroom, Vinson Hall Retirement

Community, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean. From active duty to serving the community... How do the skills learned in the military translate when changing teams, companies or communities? \$20. Call 703-554-4103 or visit tedxtysons.com.

Public Information Meeting. 7 p.m. at Westbriar Elementary School cafeteria, 1741 Pine Valley Drive, Vienna. The meeting will be used to provide an overview of the Fairfax County Resident Curator Program (RCP) administered by the Park Authority, and to discuss the use of the historic Lahey Lost Valley house as a Resident Curator property. The meeting will provide an opportunity for public questions and comments. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rcp.

SATURDAY/MAY 19

McLean Day 2018, is offering patrons a new way to stay up-to-date on the festival's many aspects. MCC has established the new app in cooperation with Whova, Inc. Patrons can download the app to their smart phones or other devices by searching for the Whova App in the Apple Store or Google Play. Once it has been downloaded, they can use the search feature to find McLean Day on May 19. The festival will be held 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd. Admission is free. Visit www.mcleancenter.org/special-events.

BULLETIN

THROUGH MAY 20

NVTA Candidate Projects. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority has released for public comment 60 candidate projects and related information for its inaugural FY 2018-2023 Six Year Program. Through May 20, 2018, the Authority invites the public to learn more about and comment on the candidate projects under consideration for funding. A detailed project list, project description forms, maps and technical analyses are available at www.TheNoVaAuthority.org and at the NVTA offices (3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax), on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. E-mail: TheAuthority@TheNoVaAuthority.org; phone: 703-642-4652. Visit www.TheNoVaAuthority.org.

MONDAY/MAY 21

Proposed Zoning Changes Community Meetings. 7-9 p.m. at Colvin Run Elementary, 1400 Trap Road, Vienna. The Department of Planning and Zoning will hold provide information about upcoming Zoning Ordinance Amendments and staff will speak one-on-one about zoning issues. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/learn-about-proposed-zoning-changes-may-affect-your-neighborhood-2018-zoning-open-houses.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Help Children Navigate Adolescence in the Digital Age. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. What else can parents do to keep their teenager safe on the internet? Join Richard Stegman, FCPS Educational Specialist, to learn the top internet dangers for teens and seven steps for good digital parenting. Free. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 1

Application Deadline. Think and Act Green. The Town of Vienna's Community Enhancement Commission (CEC) is challenging local businesses and nonprofits to adopt green practices and self-certify as "sustainable" based on points earned. Find a list of suggested green strategies and the Sustainability Challenge checklist at viennava.gov/sustainabilitychallenge. Submit to Town Hall at 127 Center Street S., Vienna to the attention of the Community Enhancement Commission. Contact Desiree Di Mauro at desiree@d2t2.org.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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 or www.northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group, Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. 703-532-4892.

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, 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 donairea@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 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

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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Musing About Infusing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Seven weeks between chemotherapy infusions; I could get used to this. Here I am sitting and writing on Wednesday, May 9 and my next scheduled infusion isn't until Friday, June 1. That's another three-plus weeks. It's a "staycation," of sorts, meaning: I'm not going anywhere, but due to the new extended chemotherapy infusion interval – from six weeks to seven, I don't have to.

Though it's hardly an ideal vacation – either staying or going – for a cancer patient still undergoing treatment, not having to go the Infusion Center is about as good as it gets. What's even better is receiving scan results (which at present are still scheduled quarterly) which show "stable," "shrinkage," or even "N.E.D.," which means "no evidence of disease" (I'm "stable"). All of which I can live with. Despite ending that last sentence with a preposition.

With respect to "N.E.D.," unfortunately, being asymptomatic as I generally am – and mostly have been, is not necessarily an indicator that all is well.

Neither do symptoms always confirm "progression" (medical jargon for growth and/or movement). Sometimes the pain is scar tissue. Other times it's a side effect of the medicine you've been infusing or the pill you've been swallowing. (Presently, there are targeted treatment options which enable patients to take pills at home, tarceva being one example. Which if I may quote the late Maurice Chevalier singing in "Gigi": "I remember it well" from the 11 months a few years ago when I didn't have to commute to the infusion center.)

Throw in the occasional phone appointment I've had with my oncologist, post-scan, when he and I both know – per an email he usually sends, that the results continue to show "stable," and when an in-office examination is likely not to "present" (more medical jargon; this one meaning, show) any contradictory findings and I've definitely had my moments of relative/comparative calm. Moments which, when they do occur, need to be cherished because, in the terminal cancer world, the news is not always good.

And since you have to take the good with the bad, with minimal control over both – acknowledging the good and not giving into the bad, become your stock and trade. It's easy, maybe even inevitable that a cancer patient will get overwhelmed by his or her circumstances so finding a way to navigate the slings and arrows of the outrageous misfortune which has befallen you is more than crucial; it's life sustaining.

Practically speaking though, how does one absorb the news and subsequent reality of a cancer diagnosis? What word I used to describe what I felt and heard at the initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist when he told me I had a "terminal" form of cancer: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, was "surreal."

It's a word I've heard many other cancer patients use when describing the moment when they first heard their devastating news. At that ground-zero moment, the words "non-small cell lung cancer," at least for me, were almost incomprehensible, especially if there's no cancer history in your immediate family (which was true for me). I mean, I understood him well enough, I just didn't process the information.

Similar to when I received a call at work, from my internal medicine doctor, a few days after my biopsy (and a week or so before meeting my oncologist), advising me of the results. He asked me if I wanted to meet him at his office (that can't be good I thought – and it wasn't). I said, "No. Just tell me" And so he did.

He told me that they found tumors in my lungs which were malignant. My knee-jerk reaction? "What does that mean?" Upon hearing that kind of news/maybe just that word, "malignant," you sort of lose control of your faculties. (At least I did.)

Thinking straight? Hardly. You're thinking crooked. But as time goes by and you somehow begin to assimilate/compartamentalize your diagnosis/prognosis, it becomes quite clear: anything you can do to bring some normalcy into your life is a win-win for you and a lose-lose for cancer.

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

OPINION

Decision Slows Transportation Progress

BY JEFFREY C. MCKAY
LEE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



COMMENTARY

Frustrating. Exasperating. Maddening. Irritating. Anyone who regularly drives in Northern Virginia is familiar with these feelings, because we all spend time sitting in traffic, staring at miles of brake lights in front of us.

One way we overcome these congestion problems is through funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), a state agency that has awarded \$990 million to transportation projects all over the region.

After years of underfunding by the Commonwealth led to crippling traffic and insufficient maintenance, the 2013 Virginia General Assembly and then Governor McDonnell thankfully reached an agreement to significantly

increase funding for transportation, particularly in Northern Virginia, through this new pot of funds. It has been tremendously successful.

This year, attention was focused on the needs of Metro — a vital component in our transportation

network and the Commonwealth's economy. While the Commonwealth provides significant aid, it is important to note that the local jurisdictions in Virginia that have been responsible for funding Metro since its inception — over half a billion dollars has been provided through local and regional revenue sources in the last five years alone.

Unfortunately, Speaker Kirk Cox and Del. Tim Hugo blocked Gov. Ralph Northam's plan

to provide new revenues for Metro (through small increases in taxes on hotel stays and property sales), which resulted

from discussions with a bipartisan coalition of businesses, local governments, transportation advocates, and legislators — instead, they forced the adoption a plan that diverts more than \$100 million per year from existing road and transit projects funded by the transportation revenues enacted in 2013.

Our region's transportation needs are still sizable, as evidenced by the fact that NVTA received \$2.5 billion in project requests over the next six years, though it only has approximately \$1.25 billion available to

distribute. As a result, many projects that would alleviate congestion and improve mobility will likely be delayed, deferred, or never built — a regrettable outcome that could have been avoided. We should not be addressing one transportation need at the expense of others.

The Quest for Education

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



COMMENTARY

I can remember the conversation almost word for word even though it occurred decades ago. The counselor in my high school asked me to come to her office, and there she told me it was time for me to start preparing applications to go to college. I was about to fall out of my chair. I explained to her that no one in my family had ever been to college, and there was no way that I could go. Most of my family had never finished high school. She told me that lots of people are the first in their families to go to college and that I could be such a person. I did not know what to answer; it was such a new idea that she proposed to me.

Secretly inside she had set ablaze in me a fire that would never go out. The excitement of the idea that I could go to college and learn about so many new things of which I had been curious was more than I could contain. I was

skeptical, however, and I did not go to college the first year out of high school. The next year with lots of fear and trepidation I did start my education at a higher level, and I never have stopped. From my Bachelor of Arts at Old Dominion College, now University,

to my master's in education at the University of Virginia to a thirty-year career with Fairfax County Public Schools, to the Plum Center for Lifelong Learning being named in my honor, to my teaching at George Mason University's Osher Lifelong Institute, education both formal and informal has been a fundamental part of who I am. I can still feel the excitement that I have had in being a part of so many different educational experiences.

All these reminiscences about my educational background came back last week as my grandson received his MBA from Virginia Tech. Growing up in a family where the high-

est educational achievement was a brother who graduated from high school, I now live in a family where I, my wife and our children and grandchildren have among us 14 college degrees with six of those degrees being beyond the bachelor's level. I am honored to represent a district with constituents who are among the very best educated in the state.

Needless to say, education is among the highest priorities I have as a legislator. I want all students to have access to educational programs that will help them realize their highest potential. Fundamental to me is that our educational system leave all students with a quest for knowledge and the appropriate tools with which to pursue their interests. We cannot afford to have students not like school, nor can we ignore the fact that learning is a lifelong adventure. We have the institutions and the resources to make education at higher levels the best in the Nation. Virginia needs to join the states that are making community colleges free. Can we afford it? The answer is simply that we cannot afford not to!

Send Father's Day Photos

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17, and once again this newspaper will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Every year at this time, we put out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Send in photos with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 12.

You can submit your photos online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday. You can also email photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

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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Call: 703-917-6444.

By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com
Upload: www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/

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