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McLean residents Mila Schy-
manski, 5, with her balloon
butterfly and brother Reed, 3,
with his balloon dog during
McLean Day.

McLean CONNECTION

Having Fun in the Rain

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**Authentic Neapolitan
Pizza in McLean**

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DINING



Pizzaiolo Neco Lopez prepares a Margherita pizza.



General Manager Massimo Papetti with Owner Madge Gazzola in front of Assaggi Osteria Pizzeria.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Authentic Neapolitan Pizza in McLean

Assaggi Osteria Pizzeria re-opens on Old Dominion Drive.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION



Bar Manager Maurizio Arberi.

Looking for authentic Neapolitan pizza in McLean? The newly re-opened Assaggi Osteria Pizzeria is the place to go. It serves D.O.P. authentic Neapolitan pizza at 6641 Old Dominion Drive in McLean. In order for it to be D.O.P.-certified, which comes from the Italian phrase, Denominazione d' Origine Protetta (roughly, "protected designation of origin") it has to have three authentic ingredients: San Marzano tomatoes, which are grown south of Naples where the soil is volcanic, buffalo mozzarella, and wheat flour, according to owner and COO Madge Gazzola.

The restaurant, which the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce recognized as the Restaurant of the Year last October, offers three signature D.O.P. pizzas: Marinara with Tomato, Garlic, and Oregano; Margherita with Tomato, Mozzarella di Bufala, and Basil; and Margherita Bufalina with Mozzarella di Bufala, Basil, and Cherry Tomatoes.

"The restaurant is a place to come for authentic Neapolitan pizza, but more than that, it's a place to come with your family and friends and taste some bites from the Osteria. It's a place to relax," said Gazzola. "We wanted to bring something authentic here. To bring out people to celebrate McLean."

In addition to D.O.P. pizzas cooked on a \$20,000 Marra Forni terra cotta and tile oven imported from Italy, they also serve Regina: tomato, mozzarella; Funghi Misti: forest mushroom, fontina, grana, basil pesto; Bianca: fontina, mozzarella, Gorgonzola and sage; Cime di Rape: broccoli rabe, mozzarella, mild Italian sausage and parmigiano reggiano, among others.

THEY ALSO SERVE small plates with beef and veal meatballs; Suppli, which are rice, mozzarella and tomato sauce; crispy brussels sprouts; caprese salads with heirloom tomatoes and mozzarella; and bruschetta with bread and olive oil with a touch of garlic. Insalates include: Mozzarella di bufala; to-

mato, basil and caprese; Rucola: argula, fennel, and radish; and Mista: garden greens, balsamic vinaigrette.

The bar is stocked with 25 red, white and sparkling wines, from Central and South Italy and two islands: Sicily and Sardinia, as well as Italian beers.

Husband and wife Ken and Madge Gazzola operate both the fine-dining Assaggi Osteria, which opened in 2009 and seats 70, and the casual Assaggi Pizzeria next door, which seats 50. Madge said they leverage one kitchen facility to deliver two concepts: One is fine dining and one is Neapolitan pizza. Six investors (three married couples) signed on in May 2017; they renovated the space with the intent of building a dual-concept pizzeria and Assaggi Osteria side by side. After being closed for eight months, they re-opened the pizzeria with an industrial-chic design, on April 18, 2018. The two restaurants have many shared resources including a bar manager and bartender.

The couple had been coming to the pizzeria for many years and loved it. "Having loved this restaurant when we saw it closed, we were really disappointed. Our goal was to re-open the restaurant in McLean. ... We're very proud of what has resulted and the response from the community. Many people have thanked us for reopening it," she said.

Ken, who worked 30 years in aeronautical publishing, added: "The formula is working because both restaurants are very crowded and the response has been excellent. ... My greatest satisfaction was to have done so much work to renovate and reopen as a pizzeria and then to see the numbers of people flowing in, thanking us for reopening and creating the Neapolitan pizzeria."

SEE TASTE, PAGE 11

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NEWS

Blue Firefight

Six Democrats vying for Democratic nomination to face Barbara Comstock in November.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Democrats are so eager to take on two-term incumbent U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) that several of them actually moved to the district specifically to run against her. The field of six candidates vying to become the Democratic nominee on June 12, has a wide range of experience and expertise — people who have lived there for decades and people who are new to the neighborhood. Military vets and doctors. People who have experience running for office and people who were inspired to run after the 2016 presidential election.

The stakes couldn't be higher because this congressional district is the hottest ticket in Virginia, one of the hottest in the nation.

"The 10th is a district that Hillary Clinton carried but has a Republican member of Congress in Barbara Comstock, so it's a high level target for Democrats," says Geoff Skelley at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "Comstock will, to some degree, probably be hanging on for dear life. She may be able to pull it out. But at the same time, we rate that race as a toss-up."

Most of the candidates want to keep the consumer protections created by the Dodd-Frank Act, disagreeing with a bill cosponsored by U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) that would reduce the number of banks that have to comply with regulations many in the industry consider burdensome. On the issue of health care, several of the candidates support a single public health system that covers all residents funded by taxpayers — an idea long supported by the liberal wing of the party that remains divisive among Democrats. Two of the candidates are ready to move forward with impeachment now while the others want to wait for the investigation to conclude.

"There'll be a ton of money in this race," says Skelley. "Comstock raised \$5 million last time, and there's a decent chance she'll best that this year."

In the order the candidates will appear on the ballot:

Lindsey Davis Stover

A native of Humble, Texas, Stover, 39, is partner in a consulting firm in Fairfax County. She has a Bachelor of Arts in communications and political science as well as a Masters in Public Policy, both from Baylor University, as well as a Masters in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School. She spent time in the AmeriCorps VISTA program then worked for U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards (D-Texas) before taking a position in the Obama administration working on veterans policy. She moved to the 10th Congressional District in 2011, when she moved to McLean. She is a partner in the consulting firm Edwards, Davis Stover & Associates which provides outreach to federal agencies and congress.



Lindsey Davis Stover



Jennifer Wexton



Paul Pelletier



Alison Friedman



Dan Helmer



Julia Biggins

"I was raised by a single working mom who worked really hard to make ends meet for our family. In fact I actually got my first job when I was 14, and got a job at my local church," says Stover. "My husband and I are still paying off more than \$80,000 of student debt, and I'm running for Congress because my story is not a unique story. There are millions of Americans and many families across our district who are working two and three jobs and can still barely make ends meet."

She is in favor of moving forward with impeachment proceedings, although she says she wants to make sure the case is "air-tight" before charges are brought in Congress. She says the country should move toward a single-payer health care system, although she adds that she'd also like to look at a Medicare-for-all system as well as other proposals for a system that could not be undermined by a future administration. She supports the consumer protections in the Dodd-Frank Act, and she disagrees with Democrats who believe that the regulations are overly burdensome on banks. If elected, she says, she would work to support public education and implement gun control.

"Our children are being murdered in our school, and our country is failing them. And we have to do more," says Stover. "If you're too dangerous to board an airplane, you should be too dangerous to walk into a gun store and buy a gun. And I also believe that the guns our soldiers use on the streets of Baghdad shouldn't be used on the streets of our communities."

Jennifer Wexton

A native of Washington D.C., Wexton, 49, is a state Senator representing parts of Loudoun and Fairfax as well as Leesburg.

She has a bachelor of arts in history and economics from the University of Maryland at College Park and a juris doctorate from the College of William and Mary. She was in private practice in Alexandria before joining the office of the commonwealth's attorney in Loudoun. During her time as a prosecutor, she prosecuted everything from reckless driving to first-degree murder. One case that attracted national headlines involved a woman who persuaded her boyfriend to kill her father with a samurai sword.

Wexton moved to 10th Congressional District in 2004, when she worked in the prosecutor's office. Wexton is the only one of the six to hold elected office.

"Congress has lost the bipartisan spirit of cooperation to represent the people who sent us here," says Wexton. "For me and what I've been able to accomplish in the General Assembly, I see that there's a lot that we have in common and a lot of areas where we can find common ground. But it seems like in Congress they are more interested in shouting past each other than working together to get solutions."

She is not yet in favor of moving forward with impeachment, adding that her time as a prosecutor taught her to collect facts and evidence before applying the law.

She says the country should be "evolving" toward a single-payer health-care system, although she says she's not sure the country is ready for that yet. On banking reform, she says she would vote against Warner's bill although she adds some of the regulations in Dodd-Frank are overly burdensome and she doesn't want to choke community lending for smaller borrowers.

If elected, she says, she would work for more cooperation on health care as well as gun safety legislation.

"The views of the majority of legislators

who have stymied any sort of gun safety legislation in Congress are out of the mainstream, even on things like universal background checks and closing the gun show loophole," says Wexton. "The people are going to speak about this, and I hope that we'll see some progress."

Paul Pelletier

A native of Beverly, Mass., Pelletier, 61, is a former federal prosecutor and adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center. He has a Bachelor of Science in economics from Providence College in Rhode Island and a Juris Doctorate from New England Law in Boston. After law school, he had a trial court clerkship and an appellate court clerkship before taking a job in the tax division at the Department of Justice. As a federal prosecutor, he went after everything from drug smuggling to health-care fraud. His work against bank executives who helped crash the global economy is featured in the 2017 book "The Chickenshit Club." He moved to the 10th Congressional District last year specifically to run against Comstock.

"I'm doing this because I care, and I believe I can make a difference," says Pelletier. "I've spent a career attacking and solving big problems in a non-partisan and a bipartisan way. I have found ways to not only attack the immediate problem before me but also see the big picture as to what is the problem and how do we solve this bigger issue."

He supports the House moving forward with impeachment proceedings, and he says he wants Trump to be accountable for his actions. He describes the single-payer health care system as the "gold standard," but he says he would work toward pragmatic health-care solutions like driving down the cost of health care. When asked about banking reform now being considered in Congress, Pelletier says he disagrees with the effort to roll back consumer protections in the Dodd-Frank Act. If elected, he says, he would work to restore the insurance mandate under the Affordable Care Act that was overturned by Trump and amend the tax reform effort to allow deductions of state and local taxes. He says he would also work to remove guns from the hands of dangerous people.

"The most important thing that I would absolutely fight like crazy to do is to pass legislation to ban assault weapons, like we used to have in the 1990s," says Pelletier. "We need common sense legislation like expanded background checks and outlawing bump stocks."

Alison Friedman

A native of Takoma Park, Md., Friedman, 39, is a former Obama administration official. She has a Bachelor of Arts in political

SEE SIX, PAGE 10



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Children ride on the Full Tilt ride.



Enjoying McLean Day are (from left): Emma Campbell, Abria Hamberg, Susannah Bianco, Kyla Duggal, and Izzie Germain, all ninth-graders at McLean High School.

Fun at McLean Day

The week-long rainy weather did not stop residents from enjoying McLean Day 2018 held on Saturday, May 19, 2018, at Lewinsville Park in McLean. Sponsored by the McLean Community Center, the day included amusement rides, Bubble Ball, a climbing wall, laser tag and Squeals on Wheels Petting Zoo. The festival also included two stages for entertainment as well as the Teen Character Awards presented by the McLean Citizens Association. 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.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Sam Cooper, 3 of Falls Church, rides the Merry-go-Round.



Melissa Himmelsteib, 7 of McLean, rides the Bumper Cars.



McLean residents Sarah Lazarus, 5, and brother James, 7, with their painted faces during the McLean Day Festival 2018.



Francesca Bellora and Elizabeth Hughes, ninth-graders at McLean High School, show off prizes they won from the Balloon Lagoon.



All aboard the Dragon Train Ride during McLean Day 2018 at Lewinsville Park in McLean.



McLean residents Mila Schymanski, 5, with her balloon butterfly and brother Reed, 3, with his balloon dog during McLean Day.



Mat Tham of Falls Church tries his hand at Hoop Shot Mini Basketball.



PHOTOS BY JENNETH DYCK/THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), Lindsay Nyquist, Eliza Seigel, Isabella Swigart, and school board chairman Janie Strauss.



Eliza Seigel pictured with Supervisor John Foust after receiving recognition for her work at the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue and her MCA Youth Leadership involvement.

Teens Receive Character Awards

BY JENNETH DYCK
THE CONNECTION

Amid a late-spring drizzle that left park grounds sodden and sneakers muddy, the McLean Citizens Association honored three teenagers on May 19 during McLean Day for their public acts of service.

Dale Stein, president of the MCA, gave the ceremony's opening remarks, applauding the honored students for giving their "time, talent, and effort" back to the McLean community.

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and school board chairman Janie Strauss presented the three Outstanding Teen Char-

acter Awards.

Eliza Seigel, a junior and leader at Langley High School, received her award for volunteering at the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, as well as working with the MCA Youth Leadership to involve fellow students in high school policies that affect the community.

"I was just really interested in taking control of my own education, and being able to understand what goes on that influences the daily life of everybody around me," said Seigel.

Lindsay Nyquist, a junior at Langley High School, received her award for providing students in low-income schools with the opportunity to learn science and math

through a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) robotics program.

"They didn't really have an opportunity to have a robotics program, because the robotics cost a lot of money, and I had kits at home, so I thought I would just bring it to the school," said Nyquist.

Isabella Swigart, a junior at McLean High School, received her award for volunteering her leadership at SHINE for Girls, an after-school program for elementary students that blends dance with math education.

"[SHINE] was perfect for me because outside of school I also dance—that's my main extra curricular," said Swigart.

Strauss said during the ceremony, "Girls in her [Swigart's] program averaged a 107 percent increase in math performance and a 25 percent in confidence assessment."

Paige Pilewski, a junior at McLean High School, was unable to attend the ceremony, but was also nominated for the Outstanding Teen Character Award for coaching the 7-8 grade McLean Youth Volleyball team.

David Lee, chair of the MCA Education Committee, believes that the Outstanding Teen Character Awards are a long-term investment in McLean's youth.

"Recognizing students today shows that not only do we appreciate them, but it's also acknowledging that what they're doing matters to our community," said Lee.



Anh-Thu-Pham, of Cooper Middle School, performs a work by Fritz Kreisler.



Muriel Wallach, of Cooper Middle School, plays an Art Detrick piece on the tuba.



Melanie Chuh, of Longfellow Middle School, performs a work by Paul Taffanel.



Adele Park, of Longfellow School, plays a piece by Gabriel Fauré.

PHOTOS BY LAURA SHERIDAN/WOMAN'S CLUB

Musicians, Safety Patrols Receive Awards

The musicianship of four students from Cooper and Longfellow middle schools was recognized by the Woman's Club of McLean at a ceremony on Tuesday, May 1, where the students also performed on their instruments. Students Anh-Thu-Pham and Muriel Wallach, of Cooper Middle

Woman's Club honors middle- and elementary-school students.

School, played solo works by Fritz Kreisler and Art Dedrick on the violin and tuba, respectively. Students Melanie Chuh and Adele Park, of Longfellow, performed pieces by Paul Taffanel and Gabriel Fauré on the

flute and cello, respectively. The four students each received an award of \$100 from the Woman's Club.

Ten students at McLean elementary schools were recognized for their significant

contributions as safety patrol members. The honorees were: Andrew Von Elm and Melina Turnage, from Chesterbrook El

SEE AWARDS, PAGE 7

OPINION

Keep Teens Safe for Summer

BY JOHN C. COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



COMMENTARY

Prom and graduation seasons are upon us, and these are the biggest landmarks in our teens' lives so far. While it is certainly a time for celebration, it is also a time for parents to ensure the safety of these young adults. I want to ask all parents to keep our community safe by not hosting parties teen parties with alcohol and speaking to your children about the dangers of drunk driving.

The way parents raise their own kids in the privacy of their homes is their business. However, when other children are involved and given alcohol, it becomes a community concern and threat to public safety. Through a motion I presented, the Board of Supervisors unanimously directed our Police Department

to arrest parents who host parties for minors where alcohol is served. If you are caught hosting one of these parties then you will be arrested and sent to jail.

There is no responsible way to host a teen party with alcohol. Not only are teens underage, but teen brains are more negatively impacted by alcohol than an adult's. The developing mind already has a tendency to take risks and not perceive consequences for their actions. When one introduces alcohol to this situation, the risky behavior goes into overdrive and puts our young people in a dangerous position. Teens are also more likely to binge drink, which creates an even greater risk to their health in the short and long term. At its worst, teen drinking can result in drunk driv-

ing, assault, drug use, teen pregnancy, injury, or even death. When parents provide youth with alcohol, they are jeopardizing these children's lives.

Every year we hear stories about devastating accidents caused by teens driving under the influence after prom or graduation. It is not something that just happens in other neighborhoods. These accidents happen in our own backyards. Nationally, 10,497 people died in 2016 from drunk driving accidents. Fifteen percent of those accidents were caused by drivers under 21. A single accident like this is one too many.

That is why it is up to us as parents to set good examples to our children. We have to set clear rules and expectations for them to follow in this season of celebrations. Talk to your teens about the dangers of drinking. Make it clear that if they drink and drive or go to these underage drinking parties they are risking their future.

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

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



COMMENTARY

As the General Assembly heads back into Special Session on May 23 to continue work on the biennium budget impasse, I looked back at how long we've been fighting to expand Medicaid — the major sticking point in our current budget standoff. Here's what I wrote in September 2014 — nearly four years ago!

"Recently the New York Times editorial board wrote about the 'health care showdown in Virginia.' Their comments were not favorable. 'In Virginia, there are 400,000 low-income people who can't afford health care coverage but don't qualify for federal subsidies,' they wrote. 'If they lived across the state line in Maryland, West Virginia or Kentucky, which have expanded their Medicaid programs, they could get the coverage they need.' The reason they cannot; 'a group of recalcitrant Republicans in the House of Delegates' have blocked Medicaid expansion at every opportunity."

Highly regarded retired editorial writer for the Virginian Pilot, Margaret Edds, wrote about the current impasse in Virginia two weeks ago. Drawing on her extensive command of Virginia's history, Edds points out that Virginia was the last state to join Social Security in the 1930s. She argues that there is a moral imperative that "we cannot afford to take this risk" of not expanding Medicaid. She writes that "designing a health care system that embraces everyone is the right thing to do." Reston resident, Elliot Wicks, in a recent letter to the editor makes the same argument that closing the coverage gap morally is the right thing to do.

In an unprecedented move, the Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Retired People (AARP) called a press conference to announce that letters sent by the Speaker of the House and other Republican lawmakers to their constituents over age 60 contained "inaccurate information about changes in Medicare."

These letters from Speaker Howell and other lawmakers implied that expanding Medicaid in Virginia would hurt Medicare beneficiaries. "Expanding Medicaid to uninsured Virginians won't harm the Medicare program or its beneficiaries," the AARP spokesperson said.

Revenues for the Commonwealth are expected to fall short of projection for this year by as much as \$300 million. Ironically, Virginia is losing \$5 million a day amounting now to three-fourths of a billion dollars paid by Virginians that could be returned to the state through Medicaid expansion. The money could

not be used to balance the budget in the current year, but in future years more than \$200 million that Virginia pays for indigent care from its general tax revenue could be paid by Medicaid.

State and local chambers of commerce, medical and health care associations, and editorial boards of the major newspapers in the state have endorsed Medicaid expansion. A major compromise in the form of Marketplace Virginia, proposed by three Republican senators and endorsed by all Democratic legislators, has been introduced. The compromise proposed in Marketplace Virginia addresses the Republicans' stated concerns by including a provision to discontinue the program if the federal government reneges on its commitments. It is time for Republicans in the House of Delegates to agree to the compromise. Their insistence on separating Medicaid from the state budget is a costly stalling tactic that is hurting a large number of Virginians and threatens to hurt even more if the budget stalemate continues.

While the players have changed—it's now Senate Republicans resisting Medicaid expansion—the song remains the same.

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.

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PHOTO BY LAURA SHERIDAN/WOMAN'S CLUB

Woman's Club President Kathryn Mackensen (center) pictured with honored student musicians. From left: Anh-Thu-Pham and Muriel Wallach, of Cooper Middle School; Adele Park and Melanie Chuh, of Longfellow Middle School.

Awards

FROM PAGE 5

ementary; Liam Schuette and Hailie Perry, from Churchill Road Elementary School; Connor Bo and Kirsten Long, from Franklin Sherman Elementary; Luke Hoffman and Camille Stephant, from Kent Gardens Elementary; and Jase Fitch and Reem Halawi from Spring Hill. The students received trophies engraved with their names and those of their schools,

and each school received an award of \$80 for safety program equipment.

The students' parents and the school principals, music directors and patrol sponsors attended the ceremony, as did Pfc. C. N. Gardner, safety patrol officer of the Fairfax County Police Department. The awards ceremony is an annual event of the Woman's Club of McLean.

—LAURA SHERIDAN

WEEK IN MCLEAN

Police Auditor to Address McLean Citizens Association

The June 13 McLean Citizens Association Public Safety Program will focus on the Fairfax County Independent Police Auditor.

On Aug. 17, 2017, Fairfax County announced that the Independent Police Auditor was prepared to receive complaints.

The Independent Police Auditor monitors and reviews police department investigations into use of force incidents (including officer involved shootings) which result in death or serious injury; in-custody deaths; and use of force incidents which are subject of a public complaint. The Auditor, Richard G. Schott, will provide a Presentation about the Independent Police Auditor at the June 13, 2018 McLean Citizens Association Public Safety Program to further explain his responsibilities and to answer questions. The program will be held 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Governmental Center Community Rooms, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean.

For more information about the Fairfax County Independent Police Auditor, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policeauditor/>

For more information about the McLean Citizens Association, visit <http://mcleancitizens.org/>

Memorial Day Concert in McLean

The National Men's Chorus will give its Memorial Day Concert on Sunday May 27, at the Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

This will be the last concert to be performed by the Chorus, concluding 19 years of performances. The Chorus had a great concert recently at the Kennedy Center to a near sell out audience.

The Concert will provide a musical tribute to America and to those who have given their lives in service to the country. In addition, the concert will feature the great pianist Thomas Pandolfi, Paul Skevington on the Organ and the Washington Symphonic Brass.

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 » Diplomate of American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology

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WOMEN'S HEALTH

Virginia Department of Transportation

I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Study (NEXT)

I-495 (Capital Beltway) in vicinity of Dulles Toll Road interchange to American Legion Bridge and Maryland line

Fairfax County Public Information Meeting

Monday, June 11, 2018, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presentation starts at 7 p.m.
 Cooper Middle School
 977 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101

Learn about the Virginia Department of Transportation's environmental study regarding plans to extend the I-495 Express Lanes by approximately three miles from the Dulles Toll Road interchange towards the Maryland line, in the vicinity of the American Legion Bridge.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared. VDOT is currently conducting environmental analyses and coordinating with regulatory agencies to obtain information about environmental resources in the vicinity of the project.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to learn more about the project and discuss your questions with VDOT staff. A short presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

Review study information on the VDOT website (www.virginiadot.org/projects), at the public information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Give your written comments at the meeting or submit them by June 25, 2018 to Susan Shaw, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Study" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Susan Shaw, P.E. at 703-691-6715.

Federal: NHPP-0495(095), State: 0495-029-419, UPC: 113414

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 p.m. in April; 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.

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Games are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna, April-October. Other activities during the year. Visit www.goldengirls.org.

Colvin Run Mill open 11-4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages



FILE PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Fat Chance played to a hardy group seated on a wet lawn at Viva! Vienna! 2017.

Viva! Vienna!

Vienna celebrates its annual three-day festival Saturday, May 26-Monday, May 28 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.

through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

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/.

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 a presentation by 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

VCE Fairfax County 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 at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

SATURDAY-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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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www.quiltersunlimited.org/quilt-show

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

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.

Memorial Day Ceremony. 11 a.m. at Great Falls Freedom Memorial, behind the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The annual Memorial Day ceremony will honor those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" in service of freedom. Longtime Vienna resident and World War II "civilian veteran" Rita C. Stead will give the keynote address on the meaning of Memorial Day. The ceremony is open to all. Limited seating and shelter provided; attendees may bring portable chairs. Visit www.gffreedom.org for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Summer on the Green: U.S. Navy Band – Country Current. 6:30 p.m. area residents can catch a new and diverse musical act at the Town Green or at Chillin' on Church. Bring blankets and chairs, but please leave Fido and any other pets at home. The concerts are free and open to the public. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

Tyson's Concert Series: Mat Kearney. 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Tysons Corner Center's 5th annual free Summer Concert Series offers a variety of musical guests and has proven to be a popular event for families, couples and teenagers. The Plaza is located off of The Tysons Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 1-3

Tyson's-Pimmit Book Sale. Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday 1-4 p.m. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Half price/\$10 per bag sale on Sunday. Call 703-790-4031 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-tysons-pimmit-regional-for-more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Used Book Collection. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at SunTrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Used books, CDs, DVDs, software, children's books, records, and recent books will be accepted. No encyclopedias, VHS or audiotapes. The Book Sale will be held on Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Spring Hill Recreation Center. The sale proceeds benefit scholarships for women. Questions: aauwbookfair@gmail.com or 703-527-4206.



Bluebird by Cindy Dibbs.

'Nature's Palette'

Cindy Dibbs takes every opportunity to enjoy and photograph nature whether hiking in Great Falls National Park, Glacier National Park or strolling along the beach. Her photos reflect the beauty of nature and she hopes the images will inspire others to protect and treasure the valuable gift of nature. June 1-30 at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Visit www.cindydibbs.com.

Spring Fair. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pleasant Grove historic site and museum, at 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Free community fair will feature "attic treasures" quality yard sale and antiques, a homemade bake sale, lunch, an artisan-made quilt raffle, and a Tom Sawyer clean-up day. All proceeds are donated to Pleasant Grove. Stop by Friday to drop off donated "attic treasures." Visit www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 3

Alden Summer Concerts: Tim Kubart and the Space Cadets. 5 p.m. in McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Free parking at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. The Alden's 2018 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park expand this year to include a "welcome, summer" concert on Sunday, June 3, and then seven concerts from July 1 through Aug. 12. Visit www.aldentheatre.org for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 5

The C&O Canal. 12:30-2 p.m. at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Learn about the C&O Canal, its history, its beauty and its uses. Presented by Carole Herrick. One lesson for 1 hour, 30 minutes. Cost is \$7/\$5 MCC district residents.

THURSDAY/JUNE 7

Benefit of Chocolate. 6-8:30 p.m. at Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave., Vienna. The Stroke Comeback Center is hosting the Benefit of Chocolate cocktail reception to support its programs for survivors of stroke and brain trauma. \$100. Visit strokecomebackcenter.org for more.
Author Event: Joseph Esposito. 7:30-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library,

101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Meet Joseph A. Esposito, the author of "Dinner in Camelot." Books available for sale and signing. Free admission. Call 703-938-0405 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3931227 for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 8

Summer on the Green: Vienna Idol Finale. 6:30 p.m. area residents can catch a new and diverse musical act at the Town Green or at Chillin' on Church. Bring blankets and chairs, leave pets at home. The concerts are free and open to the public. Rain date is June 9. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.
Tyson's Concert Series: The Legwarmers. 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Tysons Corner Center's 5th annual free Summer Concert Series offers a variety of musical guests, popular for families, couples and teens. Tysons Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 8-9

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Pre-sale open to members of the Friends of the Library Thursday, June 7, 6-8 p.m. Membership purchased at the door for the pre-sale-night-only, \$15. Thousands of lightly-used donated books, CDs, DVDs in every category. Many like new. Great for care packages, beach house, building home library, literacy programs, traveling companions. Free admission. Email friendsofthegreatfallslibrary@gmail.com or call 703-757-8560.



Here's What's Happening at MCC

All are welcome!

MCC Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.
MCC Administrative Offices

The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips
Dinner and a Movie
Friday, May 25, 3:30-10 p.m.
\$40/\$30 MCC district residents



Closing Notice

Monday, May 28
MCC and the Old Firehouse Teen Center will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

The Old Firehouse After 7 Dance Party
Friday, June 1, 7-10 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$5 admission

Open to All MCC Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 6, 7:30 p.m.
MCC Administrative Offices

Presented by The Alden Audience Choice Quote-Along Movie
Sunday, June 10, 2 p.m.
The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$3 per person/\$5 per couple. Popcorn is free. Prop bags are \$5 each.

Get in the Game! MCC Summer Camp Programs
Camp McLean
The Old Firehouse Summer Camp Trips
Dance, Fitness
Outdoor Adventure and Science Fun Weeks

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org
Administrative Offices
6631 Old Dominion Dr.
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Six Vying for Nomination

FROM PAGE 3

“The 10th is a district that Hillary Clinton carried but has a Republican member of Congress in Barbara Comstock, so it’s a high level target for Democrats.”

**—Geoff Skelley,
University of Virginia Center for Politics**

science from Stanford University and an executive master of business administration from Oxford University. She served as national director of students for Gore during the 2000 presidential campaign before becoming a legislative and program coordinator for People for the American Way. She worked for U.S. Rep. Jane Harman (D-Calif.) before founding the nonprofit organization known as Alliance to Stop Slavery and End Trafficking. During the Obama administration, she served as deputy director for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and later helped establish a public-private partnership known as the Global Fund to End Slavery. She moved to the 10th Congressional District last year for a number of reasons, one of which was running against Comstock.

“I’ve spent my career standing up to abuses of power,” says Friedman. “And now we have an epitome of one in the White House, who is being enabled by my representative. And I can’t do nothing.”

She says she’s not yet ready to move forward with impeaching President Trump, although she adds “nobody wants this president out of office more than I do.” On health care, says she wants to improve the Affordable Care Act rather than pursue a single-payer health-care system. When asked about banking reform now being advocated in Congress, she says she would keep the consumer protections created by the Dodd-Frank Act. If elected, she says, she would work to improve affordability and accessibility of health care as well as tax reform and infrastructure needs.

“You can’t knock on a door or go to an event in Northern Virginia or the Shenandoah Valley without hearing horror stories about commutes,” says Friedman. “And that’s one place where my record of taking on big issues that are mired in bureaucracy and actually driving to solutions that make people’s lives better on the ground will be really valuable.”

Dan Helmer

A native of New Brunswick, N.J., Helmer, 36, is an Army veteran and management consultant. He has a Bachelor of Science in history and Arabic from West Point. After graduating, he served a tour in Iraq and then became a Rhodes Scholar at University of Oxford, where he earned a master’s degree in philosophy and international relations. He served 11 years of active duty in the military, including tours in Iraq, Afghanistan and Korea. In the private sector, he worked with the Boston Consulting Group, where he helped U.S. manufacturers, and he remains in the Army Reserves. He was recruited to run for Congress by a Boston-based group known as New Politics. He moved to the 10th Congressional District in 2013, when the Army stationed him in Northern Virginia.

“This is a country that welcomed my family when they were immigrants and refugees — my dad is an immigrant, and my grandparents are Holocaust survivors,” says Helmer. “I’ve always felt a deep desire to defend the country that gave my family a shot at the American dream, and the dysfunction and hatred in Washington is the greatest danger to other Americans continuing to have a shot at that American dream.”

He supports impeaching President Trump. On the issue of health care he says he supports a “Medicare for all” option that would allow Americans to opt into Medicare if they choose. On banking reform now

being considered in Congress, he says he would have to spend more time studying it before committing one way or another. If elected, he says, he would work to enact gun safety legislation.

“I’ve carried assault rifles in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I’ve seen the consequences of Washington cowardice in terms of a war of choice in which I’ve lost friends,” says Helmer. “Now I think we’re seeing the consequences of cowardice here at home, where both in Richmond and in Washington we’ve seen time and again Republicans and Democrats fail to pass meaningful gun safety legislation. I look forward to working diligently in Congress to fight back against the NRA and the gun lobby and pass meaningful gun legislation reforms.”

Julia Biggins

A native of Joliet, Ill., Biggins, 41, is the a medical researcher. She has a bachelor of science in microbiology from the University of Illinois at Champagne and a doctorate in molecular virology from Baylor College of Medicine. After graduate school, she took a job as a contractor at the United States Army Medical Institute for Infectious Disease at Fort Detrick, where she worked on a team that developed vaccines and therapies for the Ebola virus. She moved to the 10th Congressional District last summer. She is currently the assistant director for in vivo research against viral and bacterial pathogens at Integrated Biotherapeutics in Rockville, Md.

“This is not something I thought I would ever be doing prior to the election in 2016, and then I started really paying attention and being concerned,” says Biggins. “In the scientific community, I don’t think we ever thought we’d have to stand up and defend science. So I felt like this was something I needed to set my research aside and stand up to protect science and help make change in the country.”

She does not support impeaching President Trump at this time, adding that she wants the investigation to run its course. She is in favor of a single-payer health-care system, adding that she would like to see an overhaul of the system rather than patching up the Affordable Care Act. When asked about banking reform now being considered in Congress, she says she would keep the consumer protections created by the Dodd-Frank Act. If elected, she says, she would use her expertise to reform the healthcare system and overturn the ban on federal funding for gun violence research. She also wants to focus on education.

“The way that we fund education needs to be improved since it’s based on our property taxes, and that leads to inequality,” says Biggins. “I would like to see more money coming from the federal government to education so that we can ensure all kids, regardless of where they live, have that foot in the door.”

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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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

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.

THURSDAY/MAY 31

Meet with Virginia WMATA

Representatives. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Virginia's representatives to the board of directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will meet the public in a forum sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. The event will include a presentation focused on funding, governance and safety, followed by a question-and-answer session. The facility is within walking distance of the Vienna Metro station. Visit www.novatransit.org.

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.

Taste of Italy

FROM PAGE 2

According to General Manager Massimo Papetti, who is originally from Rome by way of the Hamptons: "When I came here, people asked me where can we go for a pizzeria for a family with kids. So, I did a little research in McLean. We wanted to do something for the family and we use ingredients from Italy — tomatoes from San Marzano, buffalo mozzarella from Campania, and the art of art of the Pizzaiolo, the pizza chef."

BEFORE COMING ON BOARD, the Pizzaiolo Neco Lopez worked for 17 years at Two Amy's Pizza in the District. "One of the things I learned in the beginning and I really like about this pizza is how light it is and you can taste all the fresh ingredients all the way from Italy.... The freshness of the pizza and how delicious it is. It's very simple, light, and fresh."

Assaggi Osteria Pizzeria is located at 6641 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Call 703-918-0080 or visit the website at www.assaggiosteria.com.

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Find us on Facebook and become a fan! www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online The Connection to Your Community www.connectionnewspapers.com		An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mis- takes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg		

Oh Happy Daze



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sat on the couch Saturday morning with my wife, Dina, and pretended not to watch or listen — too attentively, anyway, to the “fairy tale” wedding of the former Meghan Markle and the current Prince Harry, in Windsor Castle on May 19, I was reminded of my own wedding, proposal, courtship and introduction to Dina, dating back to November 1976 when we first met. (I’ll try not to self-indulge too much; it’s boring I know.)

After graduating undergraduate school in May 1976, I moved back home to Boston, and began looking for work. Upon receiving an offer from the now-defunct Prince Georges Post to write a weekly column, I returned back to Maryland in late summer and moved in with my brother, Richard. Unfortunately, after meeting with the Editor-in-Chief, I was informed that due to a revenue shortfall, the tabloid was shrinking its page count to 32 from 40, and with it my column and budget for it was shrunk as well. At that moment, my Art Buchwald-type dream was over.

Though living with Richard in his one bedroom apartment and sleeping on his living room couch was not costing me much money, it was hardly the ideal transition to post-college life I had anticipated. I needed to find a job and my own place to live. Soon after speaking with my college buddy, “Mot,” my housing and job status would change. I moved in with him into a group house in Potomac, where one of his roommates, Rick, was a lunch manager at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn Restaurant in upper Georgetown.

Always looking for daytime staff, I was immediately hired and within days began my new job. On my first day, I drove in with Rick. After parking behind the restaurant, we walked in the back door, through the kitchen and into the dining room. Rick looked around at the various employees doing their pre-lunch set-up, saw Dina to his right and said: “Dina, train the new man.” After spending the morning together, she thought I was weird; I thought she was stuck-up. Amazing how little has changed. Six months later we were dating.

I remember the exact circumstance when I told Dina that I loved her. We were driving north on Connecticut Avenue past the Avalon Theatre heading into Chevy Chase Circle. While rounding the Circle, it just hit me so I said it: “Dina, I think I love you.” I don’t recall how Dina responded but my ill-timed delivery didn’t seem to be a problem.

A few months after that, another awkward progression toward our getting married. We were sitting in a sub/pizza place called C.J.’s located in the Cabin John Shopping Center having a casual lunch. While we were talking and eating, it struck me that I wanted to ask Dina to be my wife. Without too much thought or preparation — and with no ring — I grabbed my paper placemat and wrote a proposal on it — in the margins, if I recall, and then slid it around toward Dina for her to read. Again, I don’t remember too much about her reaction other than her answer was “Yes.”

A year or so later, we were married — twice. Due to our differences in religion, we agreed to be married by a judge, for whom Dina’s maternal grandmother had once worked. Five weeks after the invitations had been mailed and five days before the wedding, we went to visit the judge to discuss the service. After we made our in-person introductions and exchanged pleasantries, the judge says to us with as serious a look as he could muster: “I can’t marry you on Sunday.”

A moment of silence/horror passed between us. “What!?” we murmured politely. Then he smiles reassuringly and says: “I’m a Pennsylvania judge. I can’t legally marry you in Delaware on Sunday. (Another collective gasp as we’re trying to process what we’re hearing.) He goes on: “Just come by my chambers on Friday and we’ll do it legally. Then on Sunday, I’ll do it for show.” The result: two wedding-anniversaries, Oct. 20 and 22, one year though: 1978.

Harry and Meghan may have their “fairy tale,” but we have our funny tale; still being told almost 40 years later.

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