

PHOTO BY CARLYN KRANKING/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 4 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6 FOLLOW ON TWITTER: @BURKECONNECTION

McLean CONNECTION

WELLBEING
PAGE 7

Vocalist and percussionist Kristen Long added high-energy dance moves to her performance with the Black Masala on Sunday in the first of this year's Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park.

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Presented to Community

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Intersection Options Presented to Community

Residents hear about plans to improve Balls Hill Road and Old Dominion Drive intersection.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

The intersection of Balls Hill Road and Old Dominion Drive is one of the worst in McLean — often taking drivers more than three minutes to pass through it during peak morning and evening rush hour. On Thursday, June 28, 2018, more than 50 residents got to hear about a \$20.5 million plan showing four different options to improve that intersection by Project Manager Gibran Abifadel of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation held at Cooper Middle School.

It all started with the Transportation Priorities Plan in 2014, which cost \$200,000. The study started in March 2016 and includes conceptual design and analysis showing four alternatives to improve the traffic flow of the intersection through better configuration, signal operations, accessibility and safety. Residents will have the opportunity to weigh-in on which of the four options they prefer and offer their feedback. Comments are due back to the county by July 13.

THE EXISTING CONDITIONS of the intersection include three-minute backups in the a.m. and p.m. rush hours; poor sight distance at all legs of the intersection; left turns that act as U-turns from Old Dominion Drive onto Balls Hill Road; and right turns that act as U-turns from Balls Hill Road onto Old Dominion Drive. Crash data indicates there have been eight crashes on Balls Hill Road and 21 crashes on Old Dominion Drive. The speed limits on those roads are 35 mph and 45 mph.

According to John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor: “Balls Hill and Old Dominion is one of the worst intersections we have in the McLean area in terms of delay. We’ve been looking at it, studying it, and now have the funding to improve it. Fortunately, there are options that would dramatically improve the ability of the intersection to handle the traffic.”

Foust said after showing the options to the community, they’ll take feedback from the residents and then try to address them. Next, they’ll come back again to the community, address some of the concerns that have been raised and make a recommendation as to which of the four options is best and see how the community reacts.

He added: “I hope we’ll be able to as a community come together and come up with a plan to address this and hopefully improve it dramatically.”

According to Tom Biesiadny, Director with



Residents look over maps showing various options to improve the Balls Hill Road and Old Dominion Drive intersection at a transportation meeting held Thursday, June 28 at Cooper Middle School.



The intersection of Balls Hill Road and Old Dominion Drive.

the Fairfax County Department of Transportation: “The current intersection at Balls Hill and Old Dominion is failing and it’s resulting in a considerable amount of congestion pretty much in all directions during the peak period.”

He continued: “So, the purpose of this effort is to look at several different options to improve the operation of the intersection. We have four different alternatives and we’re looking at feedback from the public as to which ones they like and which ones they don’t like.”

Alternative A would be taking the exist-



Fairfax County Department of Transportation Project Manager Gibran Abifadel and Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust address the crowd at the meeting of the Balls Hill Road and Old Dominion Drive intersection.

ing intersection and splitting it into two intersections — one in the north and one in the south. At a cost of \$13.5 million, the community will gain a mile-and-half of 5-foot bicycle facilities and 3,000 feet of pedestrian facilities. It helps to solve the delay and queuing issues and is a small right-of-way footprint compared to Alternative B.

Alternative B is a roundabout option. The pros are that it reduces queuing, maintains VDOT design standard (horizontal curvature); offers the option to landscape and keep its historic look; has a traffic-calming effect; is the lowest cost (at \$12.1 million);

and the community gains 2,000 feet of walkways; and it improves the alignment at Balls Hill Road and Old Dominion Drive.

Abifadel said the third option is to leave the intersection where it is, put two different slip ramps, provide additional storage bays to improve the intersection so it keeps the existing footprint of the intersection as it is but widening it out a little bit to help facilitate the traffic to get through the intersection.

Alternative C takes the existing intersection and widens it out at a cost of \$12.7 million. It adds a dedicated left-turn lane and the intersection would stay as it already is. The community would gain a mile of bike facilities, and 3,000 feet of walkways. It would have a smaller right-of-way footprint compared to Alternative B; and lower cost than Alternative A.

Abifadel added: “The fourth option is exactly the same as the first one where we’re taking the intersection and splitting it into two but the bottom part of the intersection has a little more of a modification to improve it and make it a little bit better and efficient to facilitate the traffic at Balls Hill Road and Old Dominion.”

Alternative A.1 offers an improvement on the first alternative A, by taking existing intersection and splitting it into two. At a cost of \$15 million, it solves delay and queuing issues; has a small right-of-way footprint compared to Alternative B; and the T-intersection is improved. The community also gains a mile-and-half of bicycle facilities and 2,750 feet of walkway facilities, and there’s space provided for storm water management.

THE NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVES are if the county does nothing, the intersection will fail and there will an increase in delays with more congestion and aggravation for residents. It would have an “F” grade for level of service.

Two housing developments are located near the intersection: Mehr Farms with 10 homes is currently under construction, and Summerstone development with four homes was approved in April. Another unnamed parcel west of the intersection has the potential for development.

As far as the timing of the project, the Board of Supervisors approved \$20.5 million local funding for the intersection improvement on May 15, 2018.

The county is now taking comments (due by July 13) from the community and will be finalizing a recommendation in the Fall to take to the Board of Supervisors. In the Spring 2019-Spring 2023, they’ll do the preliminary engineering design; in the Spring 2021-Spring 2023, they’ll do the right-of-way acquisition, and in the Spring 2023-Fall 2024, they’ll be doing construction. So, the project may be completed in six years.

For more information on the project, visit the website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/projects/balls-hill-road

Or contact Gibran Abifadel at email Gibran.Abifadel@fairfaxcounty.gov.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Local Newspapers Under Siege

Need to address restraining orders and gun violence.

EDITORIAL One member of Connection News papers staff is Kemal Kurspahic, who shares with us his first-hand experience of running a newspaper from a war zone when information was desperately needed by the besieged residents of Sarajevo. Kemal Kurspahic is managing editor for The Connection Newspapers. He was the editor-in-chief of the Bosnian daily *Oslobodjenje* in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina, 1988-94. Under his leadership the paper published every day from an atomic bomb shelter during the siege of Sarajevo, maintaining high professional standards and Bosnian culture and tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance in the midst of terror. The paper published the names of those killed each day in Sarajevo.

He experienced first hand the horror of having staff members killed while out on assignment. He was critically injured himself when a vehicle taking him to his newsroom crashed as it traveled at high speed down "sniper alley." The International Press Institute named Kurspahic one of its first 50 World Press Freedom Heroes in 2000.

Journalism is a dangerous occupation in many other countries, usually not here in the U.S.

I tell this story now because of the newly minted fear that many journalists feel after the murders of five in the newsroom of the *Capital Gazette* in Annapolis. Police and survivors say the shooter had long held a grudge against the newspaper, and had sued for defamation. The targeted attack came very close to home.

The dead were Gerald Fischman, 61, editorial page editor; Rob Hiaasen, 59, editor and features columnist; John McNamara, 56, sports reporter and editor for the local weekly papers; Wendi Winters, 65, a local news reporter and community columnist; and Rebecca Smith, a sales assistant.

The shooter had restraining orders against him because of violent threats made in a different situation, but restraining orders apparently do not result in restricting gun purchases. He was still able to buy the gun he used in the attack. This is a loophole that desperately needs to be closed. A person subject to a restraining order of any type or duration for making threats should certainly not be able to buy a gun.

Every newspaper editor knows the experience of talking to a subject, source or reader who is irate over something the paper published. If we aren't making anyone angry, it's probably because we aren't writing about anything important. But my conversations with people who object to something we've reported have always had a subtext of respect. Many complaints have resulted in greater understanding on all sides that can create more lasting connections. Other times have resulted in agreeing to disagree.

Now, we lock the doors at least for now, knowing that there could likely be copy cat attacks, as school shootings began with one high profile attack. But we are not afraid.

We will continue to publish our 15 weekly papers.

The threat to survival for most local papers is the decline in advertising, compounded now by a tariff on newsprint. Don't forget that if you have an advertising or marketing budget, you should spend some of those dollars with local newspapers.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

About This Week's Papers

Our papers go to press a day early due to the July 4th holiday. That means that this week's papers will not contain coverage of July 4th events. Watch for coverage next week.

Submit Your Photos for the Pet Connection Now

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of July, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Friday, July 20.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a managing pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and their humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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The Welcoming Inclusion Network

Making Fairfax County accessible to all abilities.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



COMMENTARY One of Fairfax County's greatest strengths is in being a home to over a million people from all walks of life. While we have made great strides in bringing the community together, adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities can find it very challenging to participate fully in community life. After they leave school or home, many rely on employment or day services to integrate them into society and allow them to contribute by working or through other activities. This population is growing and deserves a seat at the table. Current services are helpful, but there remains a great deal of work if we want a truly inclusive society.

The Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board established the Welcoming Inclusion Network (WIN) collaborative to address these pressing issues and devise long-term solutions to create an environment where everyone is valued.

I have the honor of chairing WIN, but the real work is done by my operations co-chair Lori Stillman, who is a former CSB official and parent. Joining us on the steering committee are a number of experts who have a great range of experiences with developmental and intellectual disability services. WIN stakeholders include county staff, parents of those with disabilities, special needs services providers, self-advocates, and employers. Together we work to achieve WIN's four key goals:

- ❖ NETWORK: Build opportunities for increased information and resource sharing
- ❖ DESIGN: Ensure service equity and efficiency through community-designed services

ciency through community-designed services

- ❖ EMPLOYMENT: Boost employment opportunities through existing and new service models

- ❖ INCLUSION: Identify and address other challenges to full community inclusion

WIN stakeholders meet regularly at the Fairfax County Government Center for presentations and working sessions. Each meeting has a new topic of discussion and breakout sessions to delve deeper into the obstacles for inclusivity and to find effective solutions. The next WIN meeting is on July 9 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. and will be in the Fairfax County Government Center. Anyone interested in learning more about day and employment services for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities is welcome to attend.

It is up to all of us in the end to make the world a more accessible place for those of us with different abilities. I hope you will join me in supporting this important cause and the hardworking stakeholders seeking to make our county a better place for all.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Trisha Hamilton
Display Advertising
703-624-9201
trisha@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

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

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

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

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Girl Scout Troop 6963, from left, front row: Mele Melton (mom), Elshadye Bussie, Michelle Arcari (mom), Eloise Lorenze, Jane Sullivan, Rian Klanderman, Catherine Lorenze (mom); top row: Jammie Parise (mom), Summer Parise, Amelia Swenson, Kathy Swenson, Cindy Sullivan. Missing: Caroline Chaze and Marin George .

McLean Girl Scout Troop 6963 Earns Silver Awards

Eight-member troop each earned one of the Girl Scouts' highest awards given in scouting.

Cadette Girl Scout Troop 6963, Service Unit 50-6 based in McLean, announced their eight-member troop each earned one of the Girl Scouts' highest awards given in scouting – The Silver Award – for their year long community service projects. The troop is led by Catherine Lorenze and Michelle Arcari and its members include Elshadye Bussie, Caroline Chaze, Marin George, Rian Klanderman, Eloise Lorenze, Summer Parise, Jane Sullivan and Amelia Swenson.

Troop Leaders Catherine Lorenze and Michelle Arcari said the Silver Award took their troop of rising ninth-graders over a year to complete and requires a 50 hour commitment.

"Leadership projects are designed for Girl Scouts to make a lasting difference in their community. Following the completion of specific badge requirements, our Scouts focused their Silver Award 'Take Action' projects on a variety of efforts. These were designed to assist people in need, engage newcomers to the area, inform others about the unique historical offerings right here in McLean, and interest others in Girl Scouting," said Arcari.

ONE COMPONENT for achieving the Girl Scout Silver Award requires a group project. Troop 6963's project focused on a clean-up day to clear overgrown brush, plant flower bulbs and expose hundred-year-old graves in the original Shiloh Baptist church cemetery, located in the woods behind the Hamlet Swim Club in McLean. Cadette Girl Scout Eloise Lorenze said, "We learned a lot about McLean's early African-American history

and how former slave Alfred Odrick purchased the land in 1872 that is now Shiloh Baptist Church."

Based on this group project, two of Troop 6963's scouts focused their individual Silver Award projects on history-related themes particular to McLean. Girl Scout Rian Klanderman worked with another of McLean's historic, African-American churches - Pleasant Grove, located on Lewinsville Road.

"I helped create a digital catalogue of the documents and remaining African-American historical objects. This catalogue can be used by the public and volunteer staff for research and presentations," said Klanderman. "I'm grateful Girl Scouts helped me be a part of preserving the contributions that African-American families made in creating Pleasant Grove Church in McLean."

Girl Scout Eloise Lorenze was dismayed by recent tear downs occurring in her Greenway Heights neighborhood and wanted to inform her neighbors about the area's contributions to McLean's founding and growth.

"I learned you don't have to go into Washington, D.C. to see history. I assembled, sourced and documented research about the legacy of the Carper family and our neighborhood's raw origins that were rooted in slavery, the Civil War, the W&OD Railroad and Fairfax County's once-thriving dairy farming industry," said Lorenze. "My research has subsequently been turned into a website with the hope that more homes here will be preserved and not torn down."

SEE GIRL SCOUTS, PAGE 10

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Black Masala — Brendan Schnabel, Scott Clement, Kirsten Warfield, Kristen Long, Mike Ounallah, Chris Lee, Peter Kalavritinos — performed at the McLean Central Park Gazebo Sunday.



McLean residents Mike Morosky and Terry Halter attend summer concerts in McLean every year.

PHOTOS BY CARLYN KRANKING/THE CONNECTION

Summer Sunday Concerts Begin at Central Park

BY CARLYN KRANKING
THE CONNECTION

Boyfriend and girlfriend Mike Morosky and Terry Halter joined upwards of 40 others at the McLean Central Park Gazebo to see Black Masala on Sunday in the first of this year's Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park.

"It's free, so I don't have to spend money on her," Morosky said, and Halter laughed. Seriously, he added, "How often do you get to go to outdoor concerts unless they're big productions?"

In contrast to such productions, these Sunday concerts are small-scale and intimate. Audience members sat in folding chairs or on blankets, and some even chatted with the band members during intermission.

Black Masala brought lots of energy to the stage. Vocalist and percussionist Kristen Long danced as the group played a wide range of music with multicultural influences.

"You can't put us into just one category,"

Upcoming Concerts

Sundays at 5 p.m. in the McLean Central Park Gazebo

July 8 – Backtrack

July 15 – Oh He Dead

July 22 – Hip-Hop Meets the Music of India

July 29 – The English Channel

Aug. 5 – Kara & Matty D

Aug. 12 – Morgan Taylor's "Music of Gustaf Yellowgold"

Long said. "I guess we can identify ourselves as gypsy, funk, brass, New Orleans, horn-driven dance music."

Black Masala's two-hour concert had people on their feet and dancing despite the 90-degree heat.

"They're very upbeat," Halter said. "I feel like I'm in New Orleans."

This was the first of seven weekly concerts this July and August, presented by The Alden at the McLean Community Center in cooperation with Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust.

McLean resident Cecilia Closs attended the concert because she "love[s] to support the McLean Community Center's activities." Sunday was her first time seeing Black



Vocalist and percussionist Kristen Long added high-energy dance moves to her performance.



Brendan Schnabel and Kirsten Warfield make up Black Masala's brass section.

Masala.

"They're fantastic," Closs said. "I really enjoyed their cover of 'Valerie.'"

Black Masala will perform again this Fri-

day at Jazz in the Garden at the National Gallery of Art, and the a cappella group Backtrack will perform at this week's Sunday concert in McLean.



Kirsten Warfield plays the trombone in Black Masala.



Chris Lee and Peter Kalavritinos play guitar in Black Masala.

WELLBEING



A lack of swimming skills is one of the top factors increasing the risk of drowning.

PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Summer Water Safety

Supervision and learning to swim are top ways to prevent drowning.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Blazing heat and sky rocketing temperatures often mean cooling off with a dip in the pool. As the summer is in full swing, safety officials are reminding the public of drowning risks and prevention methods.

"Learning to swim at any early age is all about being safe in and around the water," said Gina Bewersdorf, owner of Goldfish Swim School in Reston, Falls Church and Alexandria. "Undeniably we all will have an opportunity to visit a pool, lake or ocean at some point, and our goal is to equip our swimmers with water safety skills early on."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cites a lack of swimming ability, failure to wear life jackets, alcohol use and a lack of close supervision while swimming as some of the top factors that affect drowning risk. According to the CDC, from 2005 to 2014 there was an average of 3,536 unintentional drownings. One in five people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger.

"A person can drown in a matter of seconds," said Aaron Schultz, a lifeguard in Arlington. "When I'm

at the pool, I notice that parents are often texting while trying to watch their children, but even if children look like their playing they could easily go under and be in danger a less than a minute. This is especially important to remember at the beach."

Taking part in formal swimming lessons reduces the risk of drowning among children between one and four years old, but many people lack basic swimming skills, according to the CDC. "Beginning formalized lessons as early as 4 months old has shown benefit in children developing a love for water and foundation upon which to build water safety skills," said Bewersdorf.

American Red Cross swimming safety tips such as always swimming in a designated area attended by lifeguards, avoiding swimming alone, wearing life jackets, securing a pool with barriers and making sure everyone in your family is a strong swimmer, are among those that Mary Anderson of the Montgomery County Office of Health and Human Services says the county is reinforcing.

"There's a website that we put together called 'Summer of Safety', and it's got everything from A to Z with summer safety and swimming pool safety."

Other suggestions include enrolling in courses to learn CPR, having appropriate equipment such as a first aid kit and cell phone to make emergency calls.

"If someone is around water and discovers that their child is missing, it's a good idea to check

the water first because even seconds can make a big difference in stopping a drowning," said Schultz.

"Learning to swim at any early age is all about being safe in and around the water."

— Gina Bewersdorf, Goldfish Swim School

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PET Connection

Publishes: July 25, 2018 • Ads close: July 19, 2018

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

The Pet Connection will publish on July 25, 2018, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 19.

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

Find more information about submissions online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: “Too Much of Too Much.” Through Aug. 18, gallery hours in the Bullock | Hitt Gallery at MPA@ChainBridge, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. McLean Project for the Arts will open “Too Much of Too Much: Overstimulated, Overexposed, and Overextended,” featuring works by mid-Atlantic artists whose works explore the ideas of overstimulation, excessiveness and bombardment, be it through too much information, activity, expectation, or by any other means. Visit mpaart.org.

Row by Row Junior. Through Oct. 31, local quilt shop proprietors like Jinny Beyer Studio (776 Walker Road, Great Falls) are welcoming children participating in Row by Row Junior to their shops. It's the junior version of the summertime travel event for quilt making fans known as Row by Row Experience. Kids visit shops in person, collect a free sewing pattern, and find inspiration in colorful, creative world of sewing. At home, families can find free tutorial support and activities online by visiting www.rowbyrowexperience.com or jinnybeyer.com for local quilting.

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.

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.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 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/.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

5K, Parade and Hometown Celebration. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre. 5K Walk/Run begins promptly at 8 am. See the registration site for the route map details. INOVA Blood Drive at Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Everyone who completes the donor screening procedure will receive a free Donor T-shirt. Photo ID required. Allow 1 hour for donor visit. Little Patriot Parade at the Gazebo, 9 a.m. Babies and Toddlers up to age 5 are welcome to parade their finest patriotic display around the Green. Main Parade at the Great Falls



Naz Akbar Exhibits at Katie's Coffee House

A Great Falls artist Naz Akbar is exhibiting at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Rd, Great Falls, July 2-31. Her work has been exhibited widely and seen world wide.



Backtrack (family friendly) performs in McLean Central Park on Sunday, July 8, 5 p.m. Known for pushing the limits of a cappella, Backtrack's repertoire spans past and present pop covers to classical and electronic music.

Village Centre, 10 a.m. See the floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade. Festivities, Food & Fun at the Village Centre Green, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Enjoy burgers, dogs and snow-cones along with music, field games and festivities on the Village Centre Green with your Great Falls neighbors. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade.

Journey to the Potomac River. 10:30 a.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. This 90-minute program includes a wagon ride through the woods and along the river. Learn about Riverbend Park's wildlife and the American Indians who once lived there. \$7 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered for the program. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend to register.

Sprinklers and Sparklers. 2-4 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Children can enjoy a makeshift waterpark on the Vienna Community Center grounds that offers a variety of water-based and other amusements. Water slides, slip 'n slides, snow cones, balloon twisting, and more are

teed up for a good time. Be warned: participants will get wet. Visit www.viennava.gov.

Fireworks & Fun. 6 p.m. at Turner Farm Park, Great Falls. Pack up the family and come tailgate with neighbors at Turner Farm Park. Live music, games, contests and food trucks will entertain until the Big Show gets underway just after dusk. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade.

Fireworks Celebration. 6:30 p.m. at Churchill Road Elementary School, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean. The McLean Community Center (MCC) will present its 4th of July Fireworks and Independence Day Celebration. Fireworks show begins at sunset, approximately 9:15 p.m. There will be musical entertainment and food trucks. Parking is not available at Churchill Road Elementary or Cooper Middle School. Beginning at 6:25 p.m., free shuttle buses will run to and from three satellite parking sites. Admission is free. Call 703-790-0123, TTY 711, or visit www.mcleancenter.org/special-events.

Fireworks and Festivities. 7:15 p.m. at Yeonas Park, 1319 Ross Drive SW, Vienna. Celebrate with live music by Mars Rodeo. The Vienna Little

League concession stand will be open for business. Fireworks blast off at approximately 9:30 p.m. Bring chairs and blankets to enjoy the show, but no alcohol or pets please. Visit viennava.gov.

FRIDAY/JULY 6

Tysons Concert Series: O-Town. 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. **Contest Entry Deadline.** 11:59 p.m. Singers are invited to submit an acapella video singing The National Anthem to tysonsmallinfo@macerich.com. The top three submissions will be invited to perform in front of a panel of industry judges and live audience at the Ocean Park Standoff concert on Tysons Corner Center Plaza, Friday, July 20. The winner will perform the National Anthem at Nationals Stadium prior to the Sept. 3 game versus the St. Louis Cardinals. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events/NationalAnthemComp for details.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 6-7

NSO at Wolf Trap. 8:30 p.m. at the Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. The National Symphony Orchestra continues its series of performing all of the Harry Potter film soundtracks live to picture in concert. There are two performances of the third installment in the series, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. Visit nationalsymphony.org or wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 8

Alden Summer Concerts: Backtrack (Family Friendly). 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. **Concerts on the Green: Oxymorons.** 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Sundays throughout the summer, bring a picnic and chairs for an evening of free, live music. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

JULY 12-22

Logan Festival of Solo Performance. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. The festival will gather solo performers from across the country for two-weeks of performances, workshops, discussions, and events. The main stage festival schedule features: “The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey” written by James Lecesne; “Where Did We Sit On The Bus?” written and performed by Brian Quijada; and “Brahman/i” written by Aditi Brennan Kapil. General admission \$20; students \$10; festival passes, \$50. Purchase online at www.1ststageTysons.org or 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY/JULY 13

Three Classical Comedies. 4:30 p.m. at The Madeira School – Chapel Auditorium, 8328 Georgetown Pike,

McLean. After weeks of learning classical theatre, practicing movement and vocalizing, and roasting s'mores over the fire, Traveling Players' youth ensembles will present a festival of three classical plays. \$10 tickets available at the door. For directions to Madeira, visit www.madeira.org/about-madeira/contact-us/. Visit www.travelingplayers.org or call 703-987-1712.

River Fishing by Boat. 5:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Get an introduction to fishing and boating in the “River Fishing by Boat” program. Participants age 5-adult will fish for smallmouth bass and sunfish from a canoe or jon boat. The two-hour lesson starts with an introduction to boating and fishing basics. Previous experience rowing or paddling is not required. Boats, personal flotation devices (PFDs), fishing rods and bait are provided. \$16 per person, and each participant must register. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Tysons Concert Series: Matt Nathanson. 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. **Summer on the Green: Mary Lou & the Drugstore Lovers.** 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.

SATURDAY/JULY 14

Teddy Bear Picnic. 10:30-noon at Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna. Bring a blanket and your favorite bear or other stuffed creature (dolls are welcome, too) and picnic on the Freeman Store grounds or inside the Freeman Store if it rains with a lunch just for Bear Lovers. Partake in Bear-Friendly activities. Aged 9 and under. \$5 per child; no charge for Bears. Parents are asked to stay to accompany their child. Call 703-938-5187 or email stuntzag@aol.com. Reservations and prepayment required by Wednesday, July 11.

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.

SUNDAY/JULY 15

Alden Summer Concerts: Oh He Dead. 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. **Concerts on the Green: The Unfinished.** 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Sundays throughout the summer, bring a picnic and chairs for an evening of free, live music. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

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THEATRE

Logan Festival Returns to 1st Stage

Festival showcases some of the nation's notable solo performing artists.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With the success of the initial Logan Festival of Solo Performances in 2017, 1st Stage will be once again showcasing some of the nation's notable solo performing artists. This summer's edition of the Logan Festival will introduce entirely new performers and performances to Northern Virginia audiences.

"Forget any preconceived notion you have of solo work. The festival will change everything you might think about the art form," said Alex Levy, artistic director, 1st Stage. "The solo work is intimate and epic...It is an incredible experience."

"There's really very little opportunity for these kind of shows to be experienced," said Levy. "These highly skilled storytellers on the national scene who are not household names have largely remained un-produced in this area. I wanted to help fill that gap and allow these amazing artists an opportunity to share their work."

The solo plays curated by Levy provide Northern Virginia audiences a "diversity of voice, style and approach that are very different. As a collective they represent the full spectrum of what solo work might look like."

The three solo performances in the 2018 Annual Logan Festival include:

"The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey" by James Lecesne. A brash New Jersey detective visits a vibrant seaside town to investigate the disappearance of teenager Leonard Pelkey. Through interviews with at least half a dozen distinct characters, the truth of Leonard's disappearances unfolds to a luminous conclusion.

"Brahman," written by Aditi Brennan Kapil, is an unusual, comic stand-up routine exploring everything from Indian heritage to history, mythology, gender roles, and horrifying middle school experiences.

"Where Did We Sit on the Bus?" by Brian Quijada: During a third grade lesson on Rosa Parks a young boy asks, if white people sat at the front of the bus and black people sat at the back of the bus, where did Latinos sit?"

With continuing support from the Riva & David



PHOTO BY DAVE BURBANK/COURTESY 1ST STAGE

Aila Peck in "Brahman," written by Aditi Brennan Kapil, directed by M. Bevin O'Gara. Performed at the Logan Festival of Solo Performances, 1st Stage.



PHOTO BY GERRY GOODSTEIN/COURTESY 1ST STAGE

"Where Did We Sit on the Bus?," written and performed by Brian Quijada. Performed at the Logan Festival of Solo Performances, 1st Stage.

Where and When

1st Stage presents the 2nd Annual Logan Festival of Solo Performance at 1524 Spring Hill Rd, McLean. Performances from July 12 to 22, 2018. Tickets: \$20 per show, \$10 per show for students with valid ID. Festival Pass (valid for all three festival shows) can be purchased for \$50. Individual tickets and Festival Passes can be purchased online at www.1stStage.org or call 703-854-1856.

Performances of each show of The Logan Festival of Solo Performances as follows:

- ❖ "The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey": July 12 at 7:30 p.m., July 15 at 5 p.m., July 19 at 7:30 p.m., July 20 at 8 p.m., July 21 and 22 at 2 p.m.
- ❖ "Where Did We Sit on the Bus": July 13 at 8 p.m., July 15 at 7:30 p.m., July 17 at 7:30 p.m., July 21 at 8 p.m., and July 22 at 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ "Brahman": July 18 at 7:30 p.m., July 14 at 8 p.m., July 15 at 2 p.m., and July 18 at 7:30 p.m., July 21 and July 22 at 5 p.m.

Logan Foundation, this year's Festival also received grant support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Inviting audiences to the Festival, Levy also spoke of some of the differences of a solo performance compared to a multi-actor theater production. "The difference is the intimacy. The relationship of a single person speaking directly to an audience is an incredibly powerful experience. I think 1st Stage audiences have come to love intimate and highly skilled theater. The Logan Festival is an extension of that relationship."



Jeffrey Plunkett in "The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey," written by James Lecesne, directed by Kate Alexander. Performed at the Logan Festival of Solo Performances, 1st Stage.

PHOTO BY ALEXANDRIA HILL/COURTESY 1ST STAGE

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News

Girl Scouts Win Highest Honors

FROM PAGE 5
www.GreenwayHeightsHistory.com.

Two cadettes partnered up on a project to benefit the Falls Church Homeless Shelter.

"We met with shelter representatives several times to learn about how we could best help vulnerable community members. We learned shelter clients are always in need of shower and toiletry items, so that became our focus," said Girl Scout Marin George. "We implemented our project with the help of our churches and local schools by establishing numerous collection sites for these items and delivering them to the shelter on an on-going basis," said fellow Girl Scout Amelia Swenson.

Girl Scouts Jane Sullivan and Caroline Chaze also partnered up on their project to welcome new neighbors who move into the popular and active McLean Hamlet neighborhood. "After meeting with our homeowners association, we learned we have a high-turn-over neighborhood. That means lots of new faces, and we wanted to make them feel welcome in our large neighborhood," said Cadette Jane Sullivan.

"Jane and I prepared welcome kits with helpful information about local sights, community and civic organizations, social links, voting locations and of course, some Girl Scout cookies!" said Girl Scout Caroline Chaze. "It feels good to know we are making a positive difference where we live," added Sullivan.

Summer Parise took her Girl Scout silver project across borders helping those in poor countries to see. "As someone who wears glasses myself, I wanted to address the lack of money and access to glasses in developing nations. I worked closely with school officials at Longfellow Middle School to set up donation boxes and publicized my efforts in the PTA newsletter. I've collected nearly 100 pairs of glasses to date," said Parise.

SILVER AWARD PROJECTS may also focus on recruiting other girls to Girl Scouting which is the route Cadette Elshadye Bussie took while working at a weeklong day camp for potential new Girl Scouts. "I planned, organized and led activities for large groups of girls," said Bussie. "It took me a lot of time to prepare my activities, and I was really proud that Girl Scouts gave me the responsibility to create interesting and engaging programming for the day campers. I really enjoyed working with younger kids and hope I in-



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Girl Scout Troop 6963, from left, front row: Elshadye Bussie, Eloise Lorenze, Jane Sullivan, Rian Klanderman, top row: Amelia Swenson, Summer Parise. Missing: Caroline Chaze and Marin George.



Girl Scout Troop 6963 leader Catherine Lorenze presents Silver Award to Cadette Caroline Chaze at service unit 50-6 awards ceremony.

spired them to try Girl Scouting."

Girl Scout Troop Co-Leader Catherine Lorenze said all members of Troop 6963 met the rigorous requirements for their Silver Awards. Troop 6963, Service Unit 50-6 is part of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital and

has been an active troop for nine years. Its members will attend Langley High School, the Madeira School and Bishop O'Connell High School. Scouts from Troop 6963 all plan to work towards their Gold Awards as Ambassador Girl Scouts.

BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

Free Sober Rides. Wednesday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Thursday, July 5, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's Independence Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 5 p.m. on July 4 on www.SoberRide.com. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Merrifield Center offers a new stand-up information kiosk. Part of a pilot project, the new feature aims to improve the customer service experience and decrease wait times for individuals who are seeking mental (behavioral) health services. To check in, individuals respond to five simple questions, then the CSB's Patient Track software alerts staff. Based on clinicians' schedules and availability, as well as the needs of the client, individuals are triaged and seen by the next available staff member. For more information on available services, call the CSB at 703-383-8500 (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). In an emergency 24/7, call CSB Emergency Services at 703-573-5679 or the Fairfax Detox Center at 703-502-7000 (TTY 703-322-9080).

TUESDAY/JULY 10

Story Time: Focus and Self-Control. 10-11 a.m. at The Parent Resource Center Library, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 105, Dunn Loring. This Story Time will highlight books and activities to support focus and self-control in young children. Focus and self-control is an evidence-based executive functioning skill that involves paying attention, following the rules, thinking flexibly, and exercising self control. Registration is limited and required for children ages 4-6 and their parents. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 11

Public Information Hearing. 5-8 p.m. at Spring Hill Elementary School Cafeteria, 8201 Lewinsville Road, McLean. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is hosting a public hearing to inform and solicit comments from the community about proposed toll rate increases along the Dulles Toll Road. There will be informational exhibits related to the Dulles Toll Road and planned improvements that may be made, the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Silver Line Extension Project, the revenue projections associated with the proposed toll rate increases and how this additional revenue will be spent. Representatives from the Airports Authority will be present to discuss these items. Visit www.mwaa.com for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 12

Story Time: Perspective Taking. 10-11 a.m. at The Parent Resource Center Library, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 105, Dunn Loring. This Story Time will highlight books and activities to support perspective taking in young children. Perspective taking is an evidence-based executive functioning skill that forms the basis for children's understanding of their parents', teachers', and friends' intentions. Registration is limited and required for children ages 4-6 and their parents. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more.

TUESDAY/JULY 17

Story Time: Making Connections. 10-11 a.m. at The Parent Resource Center Library, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 105, Dunn Loring. Making Connections is at the heart of learning. This Story Time will highlight books and activities to support this evidence-based executive functioning skill in young children. Registration is limited and required for children ages 4-6 and their parents. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more.

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Well Blow Me Down



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Ah. The whirr of chain saws finally cutting their way through the nearly two dozen trees in my front half acre knocked down during the March 2 wind storm. Given what this cut down and clean up will cost, it is not an expense to be paid out of petty cash. In fact, we needed a little help.

And considering the time allowed by Rigo (the man for the job), to come back and do the work; it's been approximately two months since we shook on the deal, it's enabled us to arrange for payment on a mutually beneficial schedule.

He'll the do the work when he can (not a fixed time and date) and we'll pay him what and when we can; sort of a trade and sort of because he's doing some other regular work in our neighborhood (the adjacent property in fact).

Typically in the past, when I've received knocks on my door by other tradesman saying they're doing similar work in the neighborhood to what I've needed - or appeared to need: yard clean up, tree maintenance, driveway repair/repaving, etc., offering me discounts because they're "working on the street," I've always resisted because I've never had the money (cash) or trust to pay them.

Well, I don't exactly have the money now, but neither did Rigo knock on my door. I had been given his name and number months ago by an extremely reliable former neighbor so I had the trust and the time seemed right. When I spoke to Rigo and told him who I was, he said he had been expecting the call, as my neighbor apparently assured him I would.

And so, almost four months since the trees "thudded" to the ground, Rigo and his men have hit the ground sawing. As Dennis Eckersley, a Major League Baseball Hall of Fame inductee and current member of the NESN/Boston Red Sox television broadcast so often says: "It's a beautiful thing."

And what makes this "treatment" a "beautiful thing" is not just the sense of accomplishment for work which most definitely needed to be started - and finished, but specifically work yours truly is incapable of doing.

As the homeowner of a registered historic property built in 1742 ("Belly Acres" I call it) sitting on two acres, constantly in need of something or other both inside and out, to say that I am - and have been overwhelmed since we took ownership in May of 1992, is an understatement.

The overstatement would be: I am in so over my head that to invoke a childhood expression that still doesn't make any sense: "I need to look up to look down."

Hearing multiple chain saws, even starting at 8:30 a.m., as I had been forewarned two days prior would occur, is music to my ears. Any progress I can make - or others can on my behalf - in stemming the tide of my maintenance malfeasance is huge. It's not exactly a sense of pride, it's more a sense of passing homeowner 101, the entry level course I've mostly failed going on 26+ years.

Needing the kind of help I do - in terms of time, money, tools, skillset and inclination - is an unrelenting burden of incompetence which I readily accept. Unfortunately, time does not lessen the responsibility. Nevertheless, I'm lucky to own such a unique and historic property.

If some maintenance suffers, it's not for lack of concern, it's for lack of ability and knowledge. Moreover, I just can't summon up the necessary fortitude. Throw in a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis and the prospects in the future for home-owning improvement are not great.

It's been my nine+ years experience that a cancer diagnosis (especially a "terminal" one) tends to rearrange your priorities/rewire your brain, so to speak. And even though I'm very happy seeing and hearing the trees being tended to, I'm more concerned about the forest.

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



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