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# Great Falls CONNECTION

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Stories from the Great Falls Farmers Market: Jerry of Jerry's Gourmet Berries was an aerospace executive responsible for building missiles before he desired to promote people's health through growing organic berries, heirloom tomatoes and fermented vegetables.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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AUGUST 22-28, 2018

ONLINE AT [WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2020 Budget

(July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)



### McLean Community Center Governing Board

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers list. The draft budget proposal is available on the Center's website. Copies will be available at the Public Hearing.

Written comments may be delivered to the Center's temporary Administrative Offices (see address below) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to [george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov). Written comments may be provided after the Public Hearing up through Monday, Oct. 22.



**The McLean Community Center**  
Temporary Administrative Offices  
6631 Old Dominion Dr., McLean VA 22101  
703-790-0123/TTY: 711 | [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)



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## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

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[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter)

## OBITUARY



**Samira M. Hadeed**

### Samira M. Hadeed

Born in Ramallah, Palestine on Jan. 24, 1939. Samira M. Hadeed died peacefully in her sleep on Aug. 17, 2018, at her home of 50 years in Alexandria, Va.

A loving mother and homemaker, Samira was a remarkable cook and enjoyed entertaining, dancing and preparing meals for her family and friends, most especially over the holidays. While never using a cookbook or reading recipes, her classic middle eastern food dishes were famous among her party guests, church community and all who knew her. After raising her children, she spent her later years generously sharing her knowledge of the foods she loved while working as a hobby at the Mediterranean Bakery.

Samira is survived by the love of her life for 60 years, Michael Hadeed; her children, Michael Hadeed Jr., Mary Hadeed Zaboli, and Joseph Hadeed; her two daughters-in-law, Marcella Hadeed and Valerie Hadeed; 12 grandchildren, John Hadeed, Michael Hadeed III, Teresa Hadeed Ragno, Joan Hadeed, Catherine Hadeed, Thomas Hadeed, Samantha Zaboli, Alexander Zaboli, Adam Zaboli, Sarah Zaboli, Michael Frix and Samira L. Hadeed; her two great-grandchildren, Samir Minda and Elizabeth Hadeed, and several siblings. Samira was predeceased by her son-in-law, Shawn Zaboli. Samira's unconditional love and support for her family and others in her life was exhibited daily in her humble and kindhearted manner.

A funeral service celebrating her life will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2018, at 11 a.m. at Holy Transfiguration Greek Melkite Catholic Church, 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean, followed by a Meal of Mercy at the Church Hall.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to United Palestinian Appeal, [upaconnect.org](http://upaconnect.org)

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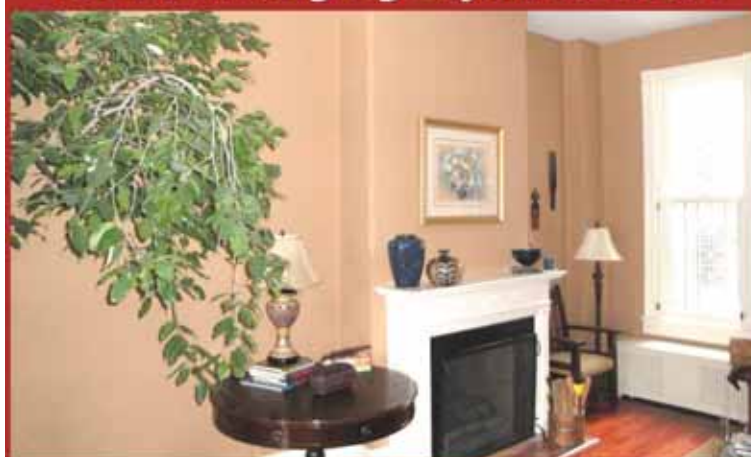
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# Getting Somewhere with Sewer Rehab

Great Falls residents meet with a team from DC Water to spur progress on pipeline improvements.

ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

Not everyone in Fairfax County is familiar with the Potomac Interceptor. A quick, non-scientific survey on the streets of Vienna and at the Wiehle-Reston Metro station yielded responses like “Potomac Interceptor? Something that catches ice flows on the Potomac?” “Is it military equipment named after our area for some reason?” and “No idea, what is it and is it important?”

Well, it's not a military jet or an ice flow net, and it's actually of vital importance to the entire region, since the Potomac Interceptor is a massive sewer system combining pipes and a tunnel that conveys on average 60 million gallons of sewage per day (MGD) starting from Dulles International Airport in Virginia to the Potomac Pumping Station in D.C. – a distance of almost 50 miles. In drier weather that flow can slow to 20-45 MGD. With significant rainfall, the peak observed flow has risen as high as 80 MGD in a system that can theoretically handle a capacity of 112 MGD.

In addition to the airport, the sewage system carries wastewater flow from Loudoun County, Montgomery County, the Town of Vienna, and Fairfax County.

Many residents of Great Falls are acquainted with the Potomac Interceptor, even though there is no sewer service in Great Falls. Some of them are more familiar with the Interceptor than they would like to be as portions of the pipe and tunnel sewerway, from manhole (MH) 31 to MH 30, run alongside their properties.

Quite a few of those residents attended a meeting on Aug. 15 at the Great Falls Library, where no less than nine District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) team members were on hand to revisit the history and the logistics of the interceptor and to talk about its current status and future plans to maintain the health of the system.

DC Water may have felt compelled to bring such a large contingent to the meeting since the interceptor has been a topic of conversation in this area for more than a decade and the citizenry in attendance were well-informed on the subject, and understandably skeptical after so many years of being told that needed repairs to the over-50-year-old system were all but on the way. At a meeting between the DC Water crew and Great Falls residents as far back as 2005, the company representatives de-



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**Robert Bell, Sewer Program Manager with DC Water, details the Potomac Interceptor pipeline system to interested residents at the Great Falls Library. The meeting is one in a long series of gatherings between the company and the community to discuss rehabilitation of the system.**

**“They allowed participants to É ask questions they’ve been asking for years without answers. And they gave answers. If they continue this pattern for the rest of the process, communicate regularly É and stay on the prescribed schedule, they will have the cooperation of the community.”**

— Great Falls resident Eric Knudsen

scribed a one-mile-long section of the system, running through Great Falls, as severely deteriorating due to corrosion by hydrogen sulphide and other debris building up in the pipes.

**TO DATE**, no repair work has been initiated.

There has been progress, but in the eyes of many, it has been slow to arrive. After complaints about overwhelming odors from communities near portions of the Potomac Interceptor, a study in the late 90s recommended the construction of odor abatement facilities to pump and treat gases in the system, rather than rely on intermittently-spaced vents in the system that allowed the gases to escape into the atmosphere.

It wasn't until 2013 that DC Water cut the opening ribbon on some of these abatement facilities, and the project wasn't completed until 2015 – and the Virginia sites were at the end of the completion line.

DC Water explains that some of the delay for the Virginia facilities was due to the fact that more permitting was required, more jurisdictions involved, and more homeowners affected with whom they had to coordinate their efforts.

Even while the odor abatement project was in progress, the water and sewer au-

thority was proposing a solution for the degradation in the line, using a method called slip lining. Work on the interceptor rehabilitation was initially scheduled to begin following the completion of the odor control facilities.

“It's 2018, what happened to the project?” more than one meeting attendee wanted to know.

Members of the DC Water team took turns answering residents' questions and responding to their remarks, but it was Sewer Program Manager Robert Bell who spearheaded most of the presentation, and who answered the slip line inquiry.

“Constructability was a challenge,” said Bell. Further study determined that the slip line method wasn't the answer and, in fact, would actually narrow the current diameters of the system, which range from 24 to 96 inches.

So, what now? the residents from Great Falls wanted to know. While most use their own septic systems and are not tied into the sewer system, the stability of the Potomac Interceptor in Great Falls is still of concern.

“Won't a failure of the PI or serious leakage affect the groundwater in our neighborhoods?” asked one Great Falls resident. In Great Falls, water comes from individual

wells.

Bell had assurances on that score.

A multi-sensor inspection of the PI was conducted in March of this year, using CCTV, sonar, laser and Pipe Penetrating Radar inspection equipment.

While corrosion, particularly near MH31 is still quite evident, the inspection found no structural deficiencies and no significant debris obstructing the line, nor is the tunnel portion, which makes up the majority of the interceptor, in any imminent danger of failure.

Bell went on to say that even in the case of a sewage overflow, residential areas would not be impacted because of the area's topography. It took Bell a few repetitions to help all of the non-scientists in the room completely understand that the pressure being exerted on the system from the outside by bedrock and the water table above it would keep the flow from pushing outward to any catastrophic extent.

While Bell, nor his colleagues were able to provide the details, he did assure the audience that DC Water “has an emergency response plan for the PI to mitigate any impacts.”

Bell then offered some highlights of the new rehabilitation proposals, adding that the segment between MH31-MH30 is one DC Water's top priorities.

The plan is “unique” he acknowledged, calling for the complete replacement of MH31 and rehabilitation of 133 ft. of pipe with corrosion resistant liner along with other extensive work.

“It would also mean having to construct a bypass pumping system while MH31 was taken out of operation.”

**THE GOOD NEWS** is that plans have already begun. Better news is that funding for the project has been approved, and Bell said that further geotechnical exploration would be performed along the tunnel before work begins in order to test the rock “quality and strength” to look for other potential problems and deal with them accordingly.

No timeline was presented at the meeting, but Bell and Emanuel Briggs, the Community Outreach Manager for DC Water stated that community outreach activities would continue, and information brought more promptly to residents as it becomes available.

Great Falls resident Eric Knudsen left the meeting hopeful. “This is the first time I felt that DC Water was actually communicating with the community,” he said. Knudsen is past president of the Great Falls Citizens Association and the current chairman of the group's Land Use and Zoning Committee.

“They allowed participants to É ask questions they’ve been asking for years without answers. And they gave answers. If they continue this pattern for the rest of the process, communicate regularly É and stay on the prescribed schedule, they will have the cooperation of the community.”

## Celebrating Women's Equality

BY JUDY HELEIN AND ANU SAHAI  
CO-PRESIDENTS  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

**O**n Aug. 26, our nation celebrates Women's Equality Day. This day recognizes the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote.

Many fearless and dedicated women suffered jail time, physical assaults by the police and spectators (at demonstrations), as well as insults, during the struggle for voting rights. This struggle spanned more than seven decades. However,

it was not until 1973 that Congress by resolution designated this day as "Women's Equality Day."

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, during its convention which was held six months before the ratification. She was a women's rights activist and a suffragist, who stated correctly that the vote was the "emblem of equality" for all citizens, women and men.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) celebrates the fact that in 2018 there are 38 female legislators in the General Assembly as compared to 24 in 2015, an increase of 14. Although the LWVFA does not endorse any candidates, we recognize this his-

torical achievement. The LWVFA is a non-partisan organization. It provides voter services such as voter registration for first time voters, updating registration for people who have moved or had name changes and citizen education. LWVFA also advocates and takes action at the state and local levels for particular policies that are in the public interest such as Election Reform, Voting Rights, Redistricting Reform, Firearms Safety, Transportation and Behavioral Health. To learn more about the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, please go to its website, [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org).

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.

## Stop Isolating the Children

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

**T**he federal administration policy of breaking up families as an intentional strategy aimed at refugee families has shocked the conscience of most Americans. Taking innocent children out of the arms of their mothers or fathers and shuffling them off to a "facility" without any explanation or known plans for their future has to be one of the cruelest acts of the federal government ever and is completely abhorrent to the moral standards of most Americans.

At the same time we condemn these evil acts of a misdirected federal agency and work in every way in the courts and through the ballot box to get these policies changed, it is important that the subject of isolating children be viewed in its larger context.

As more is learned about the traumatic effects separation and isolation can have on the future emotional stability, mental health, and behavior of children, the necessity of reforming the way that our juvenile justice system functions becomes obvious.

Information gathered by The Commonwealth Institute shows that almost three-quarters of youth who have been held in the state's juvenile prisons are convicted of another crime within three years of release. Data shows the longer a child is held in a facility the more likely it is they will commit a crime. ([www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org](http://www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org))

I recently talked with Valerie Slater who heads RISE for Youth: United Families, Safe Communities on my television show "Virginia Report." Listen to that conversation on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...). She points



out that racial disparities in Virginia's juvenile system are higher than the national average. In Virginia, black youth are seven times more likely to be incarcerated than their white peers, and youth of Latino heritage are 2½ times more likely to be incarcerated than their white peers. Likewise, the higher the rate of poverty in their community the more likely children are to be sent to youth prisons.

As Valerie wrote recently, "we must dismantle, once and for all, the systems that allow the institutionalization of children. The best way to protect and rehabilitate children is to ensure their parents are the foundation of their support, whether in their homes, communities or suitable community-based environments. There are community-based alternatives to youth prisons that work better,

cost less, and help young people get the support they need to get back on track." ([www.riseforyouth.org](http://www.riseforyouth.org))

At the recent meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) I learned of the important work being done by a committee in NCSL to identify the principles that states should adhere to in reforming their juvenile justice systems. It is being demonstrated in states that it is possible to reform the system to reduce crime and recidivism, enhance public safety, and produce good citizens from those who in the past may have been referred to as criminals. I am pleased that Virginia is making improvements, but we must stay vigilant to continue progress.

As a nation of high moral standards, we must insist that the youngest and most vulnerable among us have an opportunity to succeed even if they are in our poorest communities or seeking asylum for their safety among us.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## An Open Letter to Representative Comstock

Representative Comstock:

I am a lifelong Republican and voted for you in the past two elections, but I feel compelled to speak up about what is happening to our country.

After more than 18 months in office our President continues to assault our democracy on almost a daily basis.

Whether it's defending Russia and their attack on our elections, alienating our allies, attacking immigrant families, obstructing justice, sully the reputation of the country and the presidency at

home and around the world, or now, trying to punish those who speak out against his actions, this President appears willing to use whatever power is available for his own personal aggrandizement and protection. This is made much worse by the fact that the organization charged with primary responsibility for checking this abuse of power, the U. S.

Congress, is apparently missing in action. It is far past time for our representatives in government to speak out against these abuses and to let this administration

know that they must operate in the interests of the entire country, not only their personal desires and those of the minority that constitutes their "base".

I recognize that the midterm elections are approaching and that there may be some political risk associated with standing up to President Trump, but I sincerely hope that your primary motivation in seeking office is to do what is best for our country and not what is most likely to win an election. It's time to do the right thing and to speak out forcefully against this

administration and to exercise your oversight powers. I, and I believe many other Republicans, are looking to our elected representatives to actually "represent."

If you feel compelled to follow the "lead" of this president rather than try to help steer the Ship of State in a more democratic, and frankly more American, direction, we will have no choice but to send a clear message in November that we are more than dissatisfied with our representation.

**David Pope**  
Great Falls

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday.

## ONGOING

**Vienna Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, through Nov. 3 at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Visit [optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/](http://optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/).

**Oakton Farmers Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays year round at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Visit [community-foodworks.org](http://community-foodworks.org).

**Great Falls Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Email [kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org](mailto:kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org).

**McLean Farmers Market.** Fridays, 8 a.m. to noon now to Nov. 16. 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 23

**Games at Riverbend Park.** 4:30-6 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Looking for new ways to keep children entertained this summer? Play traditional Eastern Woodland Indian games of skill and luck that were popular when first Europeans reached this area. Enjoy the tradition of oral storytelling and make a game to take home. Ages 4-adult. \$12 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered for the program. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).

**SoberRide Fundraiser.** 6-9 p.m. at Glory Days Grill, 3059 Nutley St. SW, Fairfax. The Washington Regional Alcohol Program's (WRAP) third-annual "Football & Fundraising" event features former Washington Redskin Gary Clark, a sports memorabilia silent auction and door prizes. Open to the public. Visit [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org) for tickets.

**Nottoway Nights.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Featuring The Amish Outlaws (Amish cover band). Bring blankets and chairs and enjoy music every Thursday evening at Nottoway Park. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/nottoway-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/nottoway-nights).

## FRIDAY/AUG. 24

**River Fishing by Boat.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Fish for smallmouth bass and sunfish from a canoe or boat with an introductory class on boating and fishing basics. No previous experience paddling or rowing is required. Boats and personal flotation devices (PFDs), fishing rods and bait are provided. Designed for participants age 5 to adult. Maximum of three participants per boat, one of whom must be 16 or older. \$16 per person, and each participant must register. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).

**Theater Under the Stars.** 8 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The Town of Vienna offers "Paddington 2" on the Big Screen on the Green at 8 p.m. Friday, August 24. The 2017 movie, which is rated PG, follows the adventures of Paddington the bear, who spreads marmalade and joy wherever he goes. Bring blankets and lawn chairs. Free popcorn and water will be available while supplies last. Rain date: Sunday, Aug. 26. Free admission. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

## SUNDAY/AUG. 26

**Concerts on the Green: Mike Terpak Blues Explosion.** 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre



Cuppett Performing Arts Center dancers from 2017.

## Dance: Open House

Cuppett Performing Arts Center's hosts and open house for prospective students to learn about their programs: beginner through pre-professional dance classes in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, lyrical, hip hop, acro and musical theatre. Tuesday, Aug. 28, 4-6 p.m. at Cuppett Performing Arts Center, 135 Park St. S.E., Vienna. Free. Call 703-938-9019 or visit [cuppettpac.com](http://cuppettpac.com) for more.

Green. Sundays throughout the summer, bring a picnic and chairs for an evening of free, live music. Visit [www.celebrategreatfalls.org](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org).

## TUESDAY/AUG. 28

**Dance Open House.** 4-6 p.m. at Cuppett Performing Arts Center, 135 Park St. S.E., Vienna. Cuppett Performing Arts Center's hosts and open house for prospective students to learn about their programs: beginner through pre-professional dance classes in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, lyrical, hip hop, acro and musical theatre. Free. Call 703-938-9019 or visit [cuppettpac.com](http://cuppettpac.com).

## FRIDAY/AUG. 31-SUNDAY/SEPT. 2

**AAUW's Used Book Sale.** Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Spring Hill Recreation Center, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean. The McLean Branch of AAUW's 49th Annual Used Book Sale will feature 40,000 books, CDs, DVDs, and records. On Sunday, most books are \$10 a bag. Proceeds provide scholarships for women. Visit [mclean-va.aauw.net](http://mclean-va.aauw.net).

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 1

**Live Music: Hot Lanes Big Band.** 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Performance will feature Capitol Steps singer Delores King Williams. Visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 5

**Newcomers & Neighbors Coffee.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at in the Community Room of the Regency at McLean, 1800 Old Meadow Road, McLean. The McLean Newcomers and Neighbors will host a coffee for members and people who might be interested in joining. Visit [www.McLeanNewcomers.org](http://www.McLeanNewcomers.org) or email [McLeanNewcomers@yahoo.com](mailto:McLeanNewcomers@yahoo.com).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 7

**50 Years of Jethro Tull at the Filene Center.** 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap,

1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Ian Anderson presents 50 Years of Jethro Tull. Formed in 1968, Jethro Tull have released 30 studio and live albums, selling more than 60 million copies worldwide. \$35-\$95. Call 703-255-1900 or visit [wolftrap.org](http://wolftrap.org).

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 7-9

**Tyson's Library Booksale.** Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Half Price / \$10 per bag sale on Sunday. Email [TysonLibraryFriends@gmail.com](mailto:TysonLibraryFriends@gmail.com) or call 703-790-4031.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 8

**Lahey Lost Valley Open House.** Noon-3 p.m. at historic Lahey Lost Valley property, 9750 Brookmeadow Drive, Vienna. The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is preparing the historic Lahey Lost Valley property for the Resident Curator Program. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program) or Stephanie Langton at 703-324-8791.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 9

**A Doggone Good Time.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. The Water Mine will go to the dogs with a season-ending event benefiting the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and Fairfax County Park Foundation. Dogs can swim in Rattlesnake River and splash in the playground area for a suggested donation of \$10 per dog. A low-cost rabies clinic will be available in Lake Fairfax Park's Main Office from noon-2 p.m. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/watermine/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/watermine/) or call 703-324-8662.

**Countdown Concerts in the Park: Superfly Disco.** 5 p.m. in the McLean Central Park Gazebo, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. The McLean Community Center prepares for the reopening of the Ingleside Avenue facility. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre/](http://www.mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre/).

# SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH



#CallTextLive is PRS CrisisLink's social media campaign for National Suicide Prevention Month, which helps spread the word about actions we can all take to prevent suicide. Join us in changing the conversation from suicide to suicide prevention, promoting healing, helping and giving hope.

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# Middle Eastern Food Festival Returns Sept. 1

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY  
THE CONNECTION

For most Americans, Labor Day weekend marks a major change — vacation is over, kids are heading back to school, and the outdoor grilling season is just about over. For devoted foodies who love handmade treats, freshly grilled meats, and a festive atmosphere, one area destination provides family fun, frolic, and food in one appealing setting: the Middle Eastern Food Festival at McLean's Holy Transfiguration Melkite-Greek Catholic Church.

Hosted by the parish as an area family favorite, the festival is celebrating 25 years of bringing the Middle East cultures and foods together to celebrate life and brotherhood. Crowds attend, because besides the fun and frolic, the food rules.

After all, this is a food festival, and consider what's on the menu: roasted lamb dinner; kibbeh platter; vegetable platter; sandwiches such as beef-lamb shawarma and falafel; and ala carte dishes that range from spinach pie, hummus, and stuffed grape leaves to several more offerings. To wrap it up, guests have a choice among numerous Arabic sweets (also available for take-home) plus American and Arabic coffee.

One of the big draws during the festival is the grilled meats that turn up in the roast lamb dinner and among several other entrée and sandwich offerings. Of course, the smoky aroma coming from the grill out back of the parish hall sparks appetites for sure. Manning the fires this year as in years past is Robert Salem, who admits he is not a professional grill master, just doing what he loves. "I have been running the grill for 5 or so years," he said. "I just have home experience, but I get great joy when I cook for people ... There is love in what we do."

As Salem noted, the recipes are all family favorites, his and other parishioners' families, and everything is done fresh and by hand.

"When we make the kefta, sometimes I have formed all the patties on my own," he said. "I mix, and form, and grill." He added that he uses his mother's recipe, but really as a guideline. "I don't measure the ingredients. We spice to taste, then mix and taste and mix again."

The most popular grilled meat is the beef-lamb shawarma, and the chicken comes next. "The kefta is my favorite," he said, "now that I am using my



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Manning the grill last year at Holy Transfiguration's Middle Eastern Food Festival are, from left: Robert Salem, Omar Samaha, Marks Brubaker and Matt Leiva.**

## Kefta

A Middle Eastern favorite, kefta consists of ground beef and/or lamb that is seasoned and shaped into a patty or into a sausage shape. The meat can be grilled, fried, or baked. Plan to serve the meat on a pita bread with onions, spice, chopped tomatoes, and tahini sauce. This recipe is Robert Salem's creation.

Serves 6 to 8  
1 pound ground beef  
1 pound ground lamb  
1 large onion, peeled and chopped  
1 cup chopped parsley  
2 to 3 teaspoons ground cinnamon or allspice  
2 teaspoons salt

Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl. Taste for the right seasoning. Form the meat into hot dog lengths. Wrap in the pita with seasoning, tahini, and chopped tomatoes, and form into a roll.

momma's recipe," adding that in the past the kitchen served lamb on the spit. Now, the lamb is oven-roasted, but still very popular.

As he concluded, the festival serves thousands of guests, starting at 11 a.m. Saturday for a full 12 hours. Sunday's eating starts after morning liturgy, and ends earlier than Saturday hours. "God willing," he concluded, "we have good weather."

Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek Catholic Church, 8501 Lewinsville Rd., McLean, Va. 703-734-9566. Admission and parking are free. This year the festival runs from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 1 and then will be held again on Sunday, September 2 from midday until early evening.

## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Comstock Accepting Applicants for 2018 Congressional App Challenge

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) announced that her office is accepting applications for the 2018 Congressional App Challenge. The Congressional App Challenge is a competition for high school students that provides them the opportunity to join with their peers to create their own apps and learn how to code.

The Congressional App Challenge runs through Oct. 15, 2018, challenging high school students to design and create an original app for submission. Eligible high school students in Virginia's 10th Congressional District may enter this challenge as individuals or groups of not more than

four students and will be judged by a panel chosen by the Office of Congresswoman Barbara Comstock. The submitted app can be on any topic, provided it is original, appropriate, and has been made within the last year. For more information, visit <https://comstock.house.gov/services/congressional-app-challenge>.

### Used Book Sale

The McLean Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) will hold 49th Annual Used Book Sale on Aug. 31, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sept. 1, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Sept. 2, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. It will be held at the Spring Hill Recreation Center, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean, VA 22102. Forty thousand books, CDs, DVDs, and records will be available for sale. On Sunday, most books are \$10 a bag.

Credit cards will be accepted. Proceeds provide scholarships for women.



# BULLETIN

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

## VOTER REGISTRATION AND ID EVENTS

**The Fairfax County Office of Elections**  
(12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323, Fairfax) is open daily during normal business hours to provide county residents the opportunity to register to vote or obtain a free voter photo ID if needed. Applicants for ID will need to complete a photo voter ID application, have a photo taken and sign a digital signature pad. Call 703-222-0776.

The following special events will also provide opportunity to register to vote and/or get a photo Virginia Voter card.

- ❖ Monday/Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.. Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, 3440 South Jefferson Street, Falls Church.
- ❖ Thursday/Sept. 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lewinsville Retirement Residence, 1515 Great Falls Street, McLean.
- ❖ Tuesday/Oct. 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Arleigh Burke Pavilion at Vinson Hall Retirement Community, 1739 Kirby Road, McLean.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide** is looking to expand its team of volunteers for the upcoming tax season. Tax-Aide, now in its 51st year, offers free in-person preparation and assistance to anyone, especially those 50 and older, who can't afford a tax preparation service. Volunteers make a difference in their communities by assisting many older, lower-income taxpayers, and their families, who might otherwise miss out on the tax credits and deductions they've earned. To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit [aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide) or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277).

## 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).

## AUG. 26-SEPT. 9

**Pool Closure: Providence RECenter.** Four Fairfax County Park Authority RECenter pools will be closing for regular, periodic cleaning and maintenance next month. Consider trying out another county pool during the temporary shutdown. RECenter passes are valid at all nine Park Authority RECenters. Dates are subject to change. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter) for more.

## AUG. 27-SEPT. 23

**Pool Closure: Spring Hill RECenter.** Four Fairfax County Park Authority RECenter pools will be closing for regular, periodic cleaning and maintenance next month. Consider trying out another county pool during the temporary shutdown. RECenter passes are valid at all nine Park Authority RECenters. dates are subject to change. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 29

**Northern Virginia Regional Elected Leaders Summit.** 8-10 a.m. at Northern Virginia Community College's Loudoun Campus in Waddell Theater, 21200 Campus Drive, Sterling. The event will feature elected officials from across the area, including Arlington County Board Chair Katie Cristol, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall, Prince William County At-Large Chairman Corey Stewart, and Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg. \$50 for members of the co-hosting chamber groups; \$70 for non-members. Register at [bit.ly/2wOFFlr](http://bit.ly/2wOFFlr).

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

## When Did This Happen?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I remember conversations regularly occurring between me and some other person, presumably older (if heard over the phone) or in person if my sight and senses didn't deceive me, where the question was asked to me: "You're probably too young to remember?" concerning any number of subjects. Now, I'm asking the identical question, and I don't think my sight or senses are deceiving me, though they are refracted, so to speak.

Somehow, I'd like to believe that despite the obvious passage of time, I am, to quote Bob Dylan from his song "My Back Pages," included on his "Another Side of Bob Dylan" album released in 1964: "Ah, but I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now."

I wish.

I may be wiser and full of perspective, but despite flowery lyrics, I am older – just check the calendar. Father time waits for no man – or woman. As years pass, the pages turn and you simply aren't the person you used to be (or thought you were).

Benjamin Button may have gotten younger (aged in reverse, having been born an old man), but for the rest of us, we may feel that "youth," as they say, "is wasted on the young." Nevertheless, none of us is getting any younger.

Moreover, to quote Charles Franklin: "No one gets out of this life alive." (Although, I swear I remember my late mother attributing that quote to the legendary screen actress, Bette Davis.)

Life goes on is the short version, and through that passage of time, at some point, apparently you're addressed respectively as "Mister" and "Sir," and doors are opened/held, seats are offered and accommodations made. And when I have those random conversations with strangers – to pass that time or even with people with whom you have a familiarity, more and more of those people are younger than I am and I find myself asking/presuming if they know what past event, historical fact, popular culture reference or sports memory, etc., I am even referring to. And as often as not, they don't.

What's odd – or lost on me because I'm loathe to admit it, is that the former "question-ee" – yours truly – has become the current questioner – again yours truly. As is becoming abundant clear, where I was once ascending, I am now descending.

This has nothing to do with my last few cancer columns. It has to do with my birth year: 1954. Meaning, as the birthday card jokes on the front cover "I wouldn't say you were old this year" to the inside-of-the-card slam: "Hell, you were old last year."

It just seems/feels that this juxtaposition of the "space-time continuum" ("Star Trek: Voyager") time/age relative to others has happened in a blink (nanosecond) and that blink is a tell. And no matter what I do to counter that impression, I can't stop it. It seems that tell has become a tell all.

And since I'm telling all, dealing with one's own mortality for as long as I have been: Feb. 27, 2009, the official date of my non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis, has certainly had its share of wear and tear, emotionally and physically.

For me – or for any of you regular readers to think that this unexpected journey has not been fraught with before, during and after side effects – and main effects, up and down and all around, is unrealistic at best and delusional at worst. And since I'm rarely delusional except when it comes to the Boston Red Sox, it must be unrealistic.

But maybe being unrealistic is what has taken me nine years and nearly six months past my original diagnosis. If that's the reason, I see no reason to change now, age notwithstanding, or sitting, however the case may be.

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



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## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2018-2019

The Village Green and its iconic gazebo are the heart of Great Falls, both geographically and sentimentally. This lawn hosts a variety of community celebrations including concerts, parades, farmer's markets, trick or treating, and art festivals.

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## ROTARY CLUB GREAT FALLS VIRGINIA

The Rotary Club of Great Falls, Virginia, founded in 2011, is part of a global network of 1.2 million Rotarians in 30,400 clubs in over 190 countries. Rotary's global mission of "Service Above Self" is reflected in major international initiatives such as leading the effort to eradicate polio worldwide and providing scholarships for students to study abroad. Rotary is also recognized by local projects in communities around the world. Its global network allows Rotarians to support each other's local service needs directly, club-to-club.

The Club sponsors a teen-led Interact Club that is part of a global network of over 10,000 Interact Clubs. Comprised of 12-18 year olds, these "Interactors" elect their own officers, select a local and international service project each year, and manage the budget, fundraising

and execution of those projects. In 2013 the Club also established a 501 (c)(3) Rotary Club of Great Falls, Virginia Foundation to support its fundraising efforts, enhancing its ability to sponsor service activities and offer scholarships for education.

Everyone is welcome to attend the club's weekly meetings held Thursday mornings, 7:30-8:30 AM at River Bend Country Club. Our guest speakers include leaders from business, government, health care, non-profits, think-tanks and other sectors. We also organize happy hours and special occasion dinners to foster fellowship.

On July 1st of this year Great Falls Rotary Club president Vishal Chawla passed the mantle to Kevin Crabtree who will lead the club into its 8th year.

## We are pleased to present some of the many service projects the club has accomplished in its first 7 years.

### Below are some of the service projects supported by the Club since its inception in June, 2011

- Riverbend Park cleanup
- Great Falls Book Fair (collecting books for charity)
- Great Falls Elementary School Early Readers Program (1-on-1 Rotarians reading weekly with kindergartners)
- Annual Bocce Tournament (raised money for Stop Soldier Suicide and Honduras school service projects)
- Granted Multiple Citizen of the Year awards
- Sponsored publication of a children's book on diabetes used throughout Northern Virginia
- Great Falls Senior Center (contributions made annually)
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament (raised money for local and international causes)
- Donated to Alternative House in Vienna
- Cooperated with Bailey's Crossroads Rotary for winter coat drive and personal hygiene packets
- Adopted-a-Highway and manage cleanup on Georgetown Pike
- Sponsor an annual High School Speech Contest and Award
- Obtained matching grant from Rotary International for computers in India school
- Supported disaster relief for Japan Tsunami victims
- Supported Strategic Water Alliance for Zambia with other Rotary Clubs
- Supported "Rotary Exchange Program" that brought law enforcement officers from Australia to the US for benchmarking
- Texas Flood disaster relief (sent money and materials for reconstruction)
- Donated computers to Nepal
- Supported the Nepal disaster relief following the earthquake
- Supported for the USO and the Wounded Warrior project
- Supported an orphanage in Ukraine with purchase of a bus
- Provided annual support to Interactors annual fundraising activities including building infrastructure for schoolchildren in Tela, Honduras and 3 annual projects for Habitat for Humanity in Lynchburg, VA
- Raised funds for and helped organized Stop Hunger Now drive at Colvin Run Elementary School
- Contribute annually to the Polio Plus Program to eradicate polio worldwide
- Provide Annual support for Cars for the Cure - Drive to end Diabetes

**Here's to a great 2018-2019 year for the Rotary Club of Great Falls!**  
For more information please visit [rotarygreatfallsva.org](http://rotarygreatfallsva.org)





PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Outdoor Education Classroom/Picnic Shelter will support the Riverbend Park's educational mission.**



**Renderings of the McLean Community Center renovation.**

## The Year Ahead in the Dranesville District

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN  
W. FOUST  
(D-DRANESVILLE DISTRICT)



**R**iverbend Park in Great Falls, the only Fairfax County

park located along the Potomac River, is known for its natural, educational, and cultural features. Many County school children visit the park annually to learn from naturalists who make science and history fun and engaging.

In accordance with the Riverbend Park Master Plan, the Park Authority is constructing an Outdoor Education Classroom/Picnic Shelter to support the park's educational mission. The new facility will enhance the programs Riverbend currently offers, which range from bird watching to canoeing. Construction is underway and the project will be completed this fall.



**Rendering of the independent living facility.**

and other HMSAMS projects.

### Revitalizing Downtown McLean

The area designated as the McLean Community Business Center (CBC) is more commonly known as "downtown McLean." The CBC has long been planned to include a mix of residential and community-serving commercial uses and to serve as a focal point and gathering place for McLean area residents.

While there has been significant support for revitalizing downtown McLean, provisions of the current Comprehensive Plan for the CBC have not helped stimulate those revitalization efforts. That is why I asked the Board of Supervisors to direct County staff to initiate a community-led review of the Comprehensive Plan for the McLean CBC. That effort began earlier this year and has included three well-attended, consultant-led community workshops. The consultant is currently analyzing the input received at those workshops and will convert that data into a draft vision statement for further consideration by the community.

There will be two community meetings held in the fall to help finalize the vision statement. Once consensus is reached on the community's vision for the CBC, a task force composed of representatives from the McLean Citizens Association, McLean Revitalization Corporation, McLean Planning Committee and the McLean Chamber of Commerce as well as several other McLean area residents will work with County staff to translate the community's vision into recommendations for a revised Comprehensive

Plan for the CBC. The plan they recommend will then go through another community vetting process that will include public hearings at the Planning Commission and before the Board of Supervisors. We anticipate that, ultimately, the Board will adopt a revised Comprehensive Plan for downtown McLean that will help stimulate the revitalization that has long been desired.

### Welcoming Lewinsville Senior Center

This year, we will see the grand opening of the first of two buildings in the Lewinsville Redevelopment Project in McLean. That building will consist of 80 independent affordable living apartments for low-income seniors. The second building, which is also under construction, will house an expanded senior center, an adult day care center and two children's day care centers, and is expected to open in early 2019. The Lewinsville Project is a private-public partnership between the County and Wesley-Hamel Lewinsville LLC.

### McLean Community Center Expands

Early next year, residents will be welcomed back to a renovated and expanded McLean Community Center. The project involves renovating approximately 33,000 existing square feet and adding 7,700 square feet to the facility. The project includes two additional multi-purpose rooms, an enclosed

outdoor courtyard with seating and landscaping, refurbished meeting rooms, and a more modern look with new wall, ceiling, and floor treatments. The renovation will also upgrade the technology throughout the building and improve and enhance the storm water management system while bringing the MCC into compliance with current ADA and building code regulations. The parking lot will be regraded and resurfaced; additional parking spaces will be added, and walkway lighting will be improved. The \$8 million renovation project is fully funded through the MCC's capital reserves. The MCC building has been closed since April 2017; however, programs and special events have continued to be held in various locations around town.

### Transportation Projects

Several pedestrian and road projects are scheduled to start or be completed in 2018, including the following:

❖ **Route 7 Widening** – A design-build contract was awarded to the team of Shirley Contracting Company LLC and Dewberry Engineers Inc. to complete the Route 7 Corridor Improvements Project, which includes widening and improving of Route 7 from four to six lanes between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive. The improvements will decrease congestion, increase capacity, improve safety, and expand mobility for cyclists and pedestrians - all in conformity with Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan. Delivering the project using a design-build team is expected to condense the project timeline and save two years over conventional project delivery. Construction is expected to commence as early as mid-2019 in some parts of the corridor and to be completed in late 2025.

❖ **McLean Streetscape** – This project includes installation of brick pavers, lights and landscaping along the south side of Chain Bridge Road from Redmond Drive to Old Dominion Drive to Center Street, and along both sides of Chain Bridge Road from Laughlin Street to Curran Street. This project is expected to be completed in late 2018.

❖ **Baron Road Walkway** – Approximately 430 linear feet of sidewalk including curb

### Making Herndon Metrorail Stations More Accessible

Understanding the importance of the County's investment in the Metrorail Silver Line, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors directed Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) staff to initiate the Herndon Metrorail Stations Access Management Study (HMSAMS) in 2012. The purpose of the study was to engage the public to identify and prioritize necessary bicycle and pedestrian facility projects to improve access to the future Herndon and Innovation Center Metrorail Stations.

The County's current six-year transportation program includes approximately \$21 million dedicated to HMSAMS projects. Approximately half of that money has been programmed to bicycle and pedestrian projects. Currently in design is a project that will construct approximately 300 feet of sidewalk from Innovation Station to Dulles Green Boulevard. Another project that is under design will install almost 650 feet of sidewalk from the Arrowbrook Centre to Sunrise Valley Drive. Construction on both of these projects is expected to begin in fall 2019 and be completed in spring 2020. I look forward to continue working with the Town of Herndon and FCDOT staff on these

SEE THE YEAR AHEAD, PAGE 5



# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

## About the Connection

**A**s your local, weekly newspaper, the Connection's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we report on the character of your community, we include details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local government, nonprofits and business organizations, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an email. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, wed-

dings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

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— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## McLean CONNECTION NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

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[www.Facebook/GreatFallsCommunityFarmersMarket](http://www.Facebook/GreatFallsCommunityFarmersMarket)



## NEWCOMERS

# The Year Ahead

FROM PAGE 3

and gutter will be installed along Baron Road connecting the Dead Run Park trail to Douglas Drive. This project is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

❖ Jones Branch Connector - Work on the Jones Branch Connector is well underway. This project, being completed by the Virginia Department of Transportation in cooperation with Fairfax County, will provide an important new link to Route 123 over the Capital Beltway (I-495) for commuters and visitors to Tysons. The link will improve local traffic and access for drivers, as well as provide a vital option for area bicyclists and pedestrians. By providing an alternate route across the Beltway and linking the Tysons East and Central areas, the Connector is expected to relieve traffic along Route 123, at the I-495 interchange, and at other congested intersections. One lane in each direction is expected to be open to traffic in early 2019, and the project is expected to be completed in fall 2019.

❖ North West Street - Construction on an important missing link of sidewalk on the border of Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church will begin this year and is expected to be completed in early 2019. Approximately 300 feet of sidewalk will be built on the north side of North West Street to connect to existing sidewalk in Falls Church. Handicap ramps and crosswalks will also be installed at the intersection of North West and Great Falls Streets. This sidewalk will connect to a future Fairfax County project that will construct sidewalk along Great Falls Street.

## McLean Regional Traffic Mitigation Efforts

During the past year and a half, I have worked with other elected officials and staff from VDOT and Fairfax County to address resident concerns regarding congestion and cut-through traffic caused by the lack of sufficient capacity on the American Legion Bridge and the Beltway on the Maryland side of that bridge. On the north side of Georgetown Pike between Balls Hill Road and the Beltway ramp, VDOT constructed a pull-off area so that the police can safely enforce traffic violations in the area. Recently, two streetlights were installed to provide lighting for police enforcement. In addition, I formed a community group, the McLean Traffic Advisory Group, to consider traffic concerns in the area, make recommendations, and share updates with their neighbors. This group has met several times since the beginning of the year and is tasked with reviewing options through a regional lens.

Recently, VDOT proposed a pilot project to close the northbound entrance to the Beltway from Georgetown Pike from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays. A community meeting was held in early August and another will be held this fall. VDOT is seeking input from the community to determine if the pilot project will be implemented. I look forward to continuing to work with the community to address these very serious traffic concerns.

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# NEWCOMERS

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



**Ribbon cutting for new trackless train and picnic shelter at Clemjontri Park.**



**The Orientation Room is an instructional space for educational programs. The observatory features a retractable roof that rolls over the top of the fixed roof that covers the Orientation Room.**

## Places I Would Take a Newcomer in Dranesville District

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN W. FOUST  
(D-DRANESVILLE DISTRICT)

**W**e are fortunate to have many wonderful parks, historical features, and community events in the Dranesville District. The following are some of my favorites.

**Clemjontri Park:** Since opening in 2006, more than 200,000 visitors have enjoyed this playground where children of all abilities can play side-by-side. Equipment allows children who have physical, sensory or developmental disabilities to have a parallel playground experience of fun and exploration. The park also includes a carousel, picnic pavilion, and new trackless train. The parking lot is currently being expanded so more visitors can enjoy the park.

6317 Georgetown Pike, McLean

**Riverbend Park:** This park offers over 400 acres of forests, meadows and ponds. Trails include a 2.5 mile portion of the Potomac Heritage Trail that links national and regional parkland. Kayaking, canoeing and fishing are all available on the Potomac River. The nature center and picnic shelter are available for rent. Through a grant received this year, new canoes will be purchased for the park.

8700 Potomac Hills, Great Falls

**Colvin Run Park:** Colvin Run Mill offers visitors a chance to step back in time. There are tours of the restored mill, which was built around 1811. A general store offers stone ground cornmeal, wheat flour, grits, "penny candy" and snacks and drinks. Trails are available for quiet walks. Live music, craft demonstrations, ice cream making, and seasonal activities are available from February through December.

10017 Colvin Run, Great Falls

**Turner Farm:** Originally the site of a dairy farm, the 52-acre park offers a unique mix of educational and recreational facilities. In 2016, a new roll-top observatory opened in Observatory Park at Turner Farm. The observatory offers the public a chance

to see the night sky from one of Fairfax County's darkest spots through permanently mounted telescopes. The Analemma Society partners with the Park Authority to provide astronomy programs at the observatory. Equestrians can enjoy a cross country course and a large multi-purpose arena with stadium jumps and dressage makers. Small children can enjoy a tot lot.

925 Springvale Road, Great Falls

**Runnymede Park:** The Town of Herndon is located in the Dranesville District. The Town owns and maintains this 58-acre park. It is the site for many community nature-related events such as the annual Nature Fest. Situated near the Sugarland Run Stream, the park attracts over 100 species of birds, plus deer, fox and other wildlife. Two park shelters are available for rental.

196 Herndon Parkway, Herndon

**Scotts Run Nature Preserve:** One of the few nature preserves in the County. The 336-acre preserve, formerly known as the Burling Tract, had at one time been slated for development. Scotts Run offers wonderful hiking trails of varying difficulty, some of them leading to the bluffs of the Potomac River.

7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean

**Spring Hill Recreation Center:** Visitors can take advantage of the indoor swimming pool, a 2-story fitness center and a gymnasium with an elevated running track. The gym features a single high school-sized basketball court with two overlay basketball courts and a volleyball overlay court.

1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean

**MPAartfest:** Every October, the McLean Project for the Arts converts McLean Central Park into a free, one-day festival of the arts. Thousands of area residents attend. Vendor tents display the works of numer-



**Supervisor Foust with Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel, Town Council Members Grace Wolf Cunningham and Bill McKenna, and Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board Member Melissa Jonas at Friday Night Live! in June 2018.**

ous juried artists, which are complemented by the exhibitions of children's' and seniors' artwork, an Open Studio demonstration, and performances by local musicians.

McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean

**McLean Day:** Sponsored by the McLean Community Center, McLean Day is held on the third Saturday in May. The festival features live entertainment, carnival rides, exhibitions and delicious foods for visitors of all ages. The event also includes booths where artisans, local businesses, civic organizations, nonprofit groups, and local officials showcase their wares.

Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean

**Herndon Festival:** Held in early June, the Herndon Festival offers something for the whole family. The festival features three entertainment stages, 10K and 5K races, a Kid's Alley with hands-on arts, food vendors, fireworks, and more. Enjoy four days of fun-filled activities and entertainment.

777 Lynn Street, Herndon

**Claude Moore Colonial Farm:** Visit Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run to experience life on a small farm just prior to the Revolutionary War. Claude Moore Colonial Farm is a living history museum dedicated to providing visitors with an authentic look at life in Virginia in 1771. Throughout the year, Claude Moore Colonial Farm hosts several events, typical of those a farm family would have experienced and enjoyed, such as the 18<sup>th</sup> century Market Fair held in May and cutting of tobacco and hanging it to dry in August.

6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean

**Great Falls Freedom Memorial:** The Great Falls Freedom Memorial was created in 2004 to honor all who have served our country. The Freedom Memorial hosts three annual ceremonies, on Memorial Day, September 11, and Veterans' Day, as well as a 5K race on July 4. It is a special place to pay respects to and remember those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

9830 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls (Behind the Great Falls Library)

**Herndon Friday Night Live!:** Friday nights during the summer, Friday Night Live! concerts are held on the Herndon Town Green. Concerts are free and feature popular local and regional acts. Most featured bands play rock and roll covers from classic to modern rock but country and original music are also included for good measure.

Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon



## NEWCOMERS

### New President To Lead Northern Virginia Chamber

Julie Coons, CAE will serve as the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce's next president and CEO effective Sept. 10.

Coons currently serves as chief operating officer of the Council of Better Business Bureaus based in Arlington. She brings to the Northern Virginia Chamber diverse experience leading regionally-focused business organizations, guiding financial and brand transformations, and successfully advocating for business in local, state, national and international arenas. Among her leadership roles, she served previously as president and CEO of the Electronic Retailing Association and, prior to that role, as president and CEO of the Maryland Tech Council.

The selection of Coons as the chamber's next president and CEO comes after a national search facilitated by The McCormick Group, a national executive search consulting firm, and led by the chamber's Search Committee, chaired by Kathy Albarado, CEO of Helios HR.

"After a comprehensive search process, we are pleased to have identified the best individual to lead the Chamber into its next season of growth, innovation, and member service," said Jennifer Siciliano, chief communications and external affairs officer, Inova, and chair of the Northern Virginia Chamber Board of Directors.

"The Northern Virginia Chamber has an outstanding reputation serving and representing Northern Virginia's robust business community," said Coons. "This is an exciting time for Northern Virginia and



**Julie Coons**

Greater Washington, and the chamber is well positioned to develop new and exciting opportunities for businesses from across our region to engage, interact, and lead."

The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the "Voice of Business in Northern Virginia," represents over 650 local employers with more than 500,000 regional employees. For 90-plus years, the Northern Virginia Chamber has been working hand-in-hand with companies

in the region to build a strong business community. To learn more about visit <http://www.novachamber.org> and follow the Northern Virginia Chamber on Twitter: @NOVACHamber

#### UPCOMING NOVA CHAMBER EVENTS

- ❖ Northern Virginia Regional Elected Leaders Summit, Aug. 29, at 8 – 10 a.m., Waddell Theater, Join the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, Prince William Chamber of Commerce, and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission for a roundtable featuring the mayor of the City of Alexandria, chairs of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties, as well as the vice chair of Arlington County.
- ❖ Capital Region Business Forum, Sept. 6, at 7:30 – 9:30 a.m., Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan and D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser will discuss their plans to work cooperatively to bolster the regional economy.
- ❖ 2018 Virginia Senatorial Debate, Sept. 26, at 5 – 8 p.m., Capital One Bank, between U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) and **Chairman** at-large of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors Corey Stewart (R). Chuck Todd of NBC's Meet The Press, will moderate, to be televised live on NBC4.

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- View schedule online each session at [www.greatfallsart.org/school-of-art](http://www.greatfallsart.org/school-of-art)

## For Artists

- Studio Space to Rent in Great Falls Village Centre
- Open Studio Fridays: Draw and Paint from a model
- Annual Plein Air Competition



## For the Community: FREE Art Events

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## COMMUNITY GUIDE VIEWPOINTS

### What's the Greatest Part of Living in Great Falls?

— MAIA SPOTO

PHOTOS BY MAIA SPOTO/THE CONNECTION

#### Kari Lervick, volunteer, 14 years in Great Falls

"Fourteen years ago, I had thought we were moving to this big, metropolitan area. When we chose to live in Great Falls I didn't realize what a small town it was. Over the years, with all the things that your kids get involved in, and all the opportunities to volunteer, you can't help but get to know people in the community. It's just so fun to go wherever you go, whether it's Great Falls Village, or the elementary schools, or the softball field, and just know people. No matter where you go, you run into people."



#### Heidi Toloczko, director of King's Kids Preschool, 23 years in Great Falls

"The small-town feel, and the way that it is a real hometown. My girls have grown up here, and my husband and I have enjoyed living here and really feel like it's a special place."



#### Nancy Miner, employed at Cooper Middle School, nearly 18 years in Great Falls

"The parks! The Riverbend Park and Great Falls Park are great. They're right here, easy access, and you feel like you've gone away for a day, walking through the parks. I like that a lot. I saw the bluebells of Virginia for the first time this year. I like having access to that."



#### Thomas Miner, Langley High School senior, nearly 18 years in Great Falls

"I would say the community in general around here is so nice. They smile at you when you just walk outside and walk around the neighborhood, you get some nice smiles. It's a great community all around. Again, I like the parks— I just went on a walk at Riverbend Park and it was great. It's a beautiful area to be around, and to live in."



#### Steve Wilson, manager in construction services company, 19 years in Great Falls

"Many things come to mind: The beauty of Georgetown Pike and our two lane roads only a few miles from DC which never cease to amaze me. Riverbend Park, Difficult Run, and a run along the river. Always seeing a neighbor and a friendly face on quick trip to pick up something in "the Village." Inviting out-of-town friends to the Brogue. Nike Park and Great Falls Little League. The quality of our schools and teachers. Our church, Christ the King Lutheran. And most of all the many great people who also call Great Falls home."





# NEWCOMERS

PHOTOS BY MAIA SPOTO/THE CONNECTION

## Postcards from Great Falls

Family establishments in Great Falls, the Old Brogue and Katie's Coffee House have served the Village for many decades. Whether you're planning to grab victory muffins after a soccer game or you're craving relaxation and shepherd's pie, you'll find that these restaurants offer something for all ages.



Neighboring the Great Falls Library, the Grange playground is an exciting destination for young families. The playground features a merry-go-round, a tire swing, slides, climbing structures, and sports fields.



**Bitia Motesharrei MD, FACOG**

- » Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- » Diplomate of American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- » Clinical professor of OBGYN at George Washington University School of Medicine

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## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



Sunday Evening Concert on the Green



Village Centre Bandstand at Night

# Must See Places in Great Falls

PHOTOS BY WALT LAWRENCE

BY WALT LAWRENCE/PHOTOGRAPHER

I have lived in Great Falls for nearly forty years and feel very grateful that I can call this place home. Whenever my wife and I have house guests we always try to take them to see some of the local sights before we head off into the city with its endless museums or further out into the country with a myriad of historical locations to visit. We do have a few places where snapshots of our history can be seen. So if you are a new-comer to Great Falls looking for a place to explore or you have visitors that you would like to introduce to the area I would urge you to consider some of my favorites.

## Great Falls Village Centre

The Village Centre was built just about the time I moved to Great Falls and was modeled after the Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. The original plan was to have artists and craftsmen occupy the different buildings where they would be able to create and sell their work while interacting with

the public. Well, that plan never fully materialized and morphed into a mix of retail stores, restaurants and professional offices. However, the Village Centre has become the heart of our village and all manner of community activities take place on the site. Weekends bring a variety of events such as Cars and Coffee, the Farmers' Market, outdoor movies on Saturday summer evenings and outdoor concerts on Sunday summer evenings. During the year special holiday events are held for Easter, Fourth of July and Christmas and I'm sure there are a few I have missed. And as for the artists, like the swallows, they are returning to the Village Centre as at least three different group studios have opened in the past few years. I maintain my photographic studio at the Artists' Atelier located in the Centre just two doors down from the Old Brogue.

## Riverbend Park

This park is probably the best kept secret in all of Great Falls. The park is part of the Fairfax County Park Authority and offers a variety of activities that embrace the water and the woods. You can rent kayaks, canoes

and boats, you can fish, you can hike, you can bird watch, you can nature watch, you can bring a picnic or you can just spread out a blanket and take a nap. I have found that this area of the Potomac has a special place in my heart because not only is it close to home but it gives me the opportunity to go out on the water and explore the islands in search of birds and wildlife with my camera. The park also hosts an annual Bluebell Festival in the spring and a Virginia Indian Festival in early September.

## The Great Falls Grange and The Forestville Schoolhouse Area

According to the Great Falls Grange website the Grange, "is the last standing unaltered grange hall in Virginia and is listed on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites, with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and on the National Register of Historic Places." Unfortunately neither

the Grange nor The Old Schoolhouse, now called the Forestville Schoolhouse, are open to the public on any scheduled basis. The places are typically rented for special events such as art shows, weddings etc. So if you see activity in and around the buildings try to stop and see if you can get a peek inside. Both of these buildings represent another era when Great Falls was a rural predominately dairy farming community. The Old Schoolhouse building has served many purposes in the past to include a real estate office and when I moved here it was our Post Office. For families with young children there is a terrific playground right behind the Grange Hall.

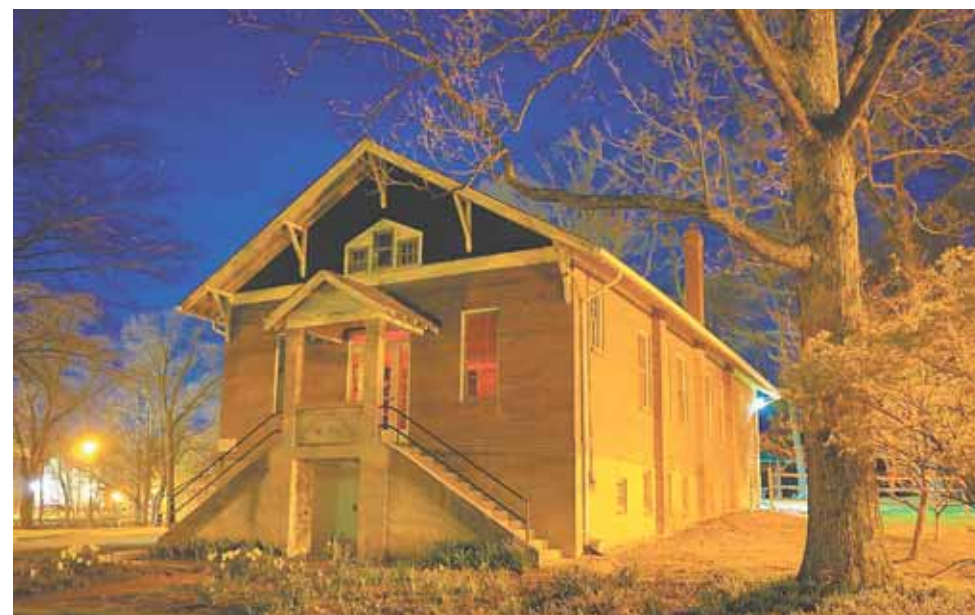
## Colvin Run Area

In the Colvin Run area you will find the iconic Colvin Run Mill at the intersection of Route 7 and Colvin Run Road and the Old Colvin Run Schoolhouse near the intersection of Colvin Run and Walker Roads. The tour guides do a wonderful job of explaining how the mill works and on certain days

SEE MUST SEE PLACES. PAGE 16



Bluebells at Riverbend



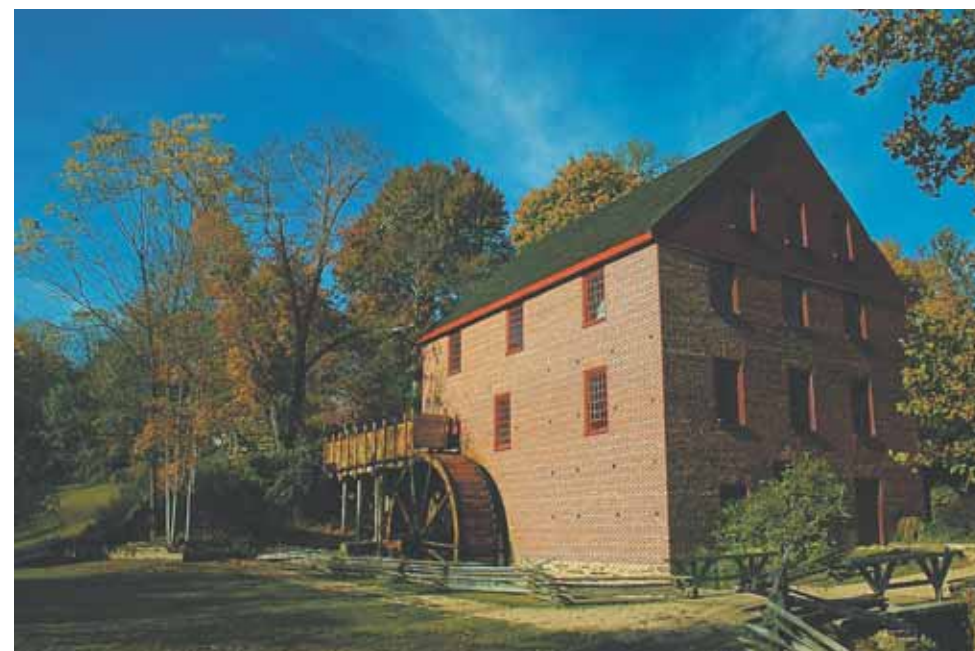
Great Falls Grange at Night



Bald Eagle at Riverbend



The Old Schoolhouse



Colvin Run Mill

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## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement in Fairfax County

Office of the Independent Police Auditor, Civilian Review Panel now reviewing cases.

**T**he Fairfax County Civilian Review Panel and the Independent Police Auditor were established by the Board of Supervisors as recommended by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, formed after the police shooting death of John Geer. The panel and the auditor are independent from the Police Department and report directly to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The nine-member Police Civilian Review Panel's mission is to enhance police legitimacy and to build and maintain trust between the citizens of Fairfax County, the Board of Supervisors, and the Fairfax County Police Department. The panel reviews police investigations resulting from public complaints about officers of the Fairfax County Police Department. The panel has nine members who are Fairfax County residents.

The panel reviews investigations involving police misconduct, including rudeness, threats, verbal abuse, harassment, racial profil-



FILE PHOTO BY MARY KIMM

**The nine members of the Civilian Review Panel marked with \*:** Gerarda Culipher, Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court; Randy Sayles, \* Oak Hill; Rhonda VanLowe, \* Reston; Kathleen Davis-Siudut, \* Springfield; Adrian Steel, \* McLean; Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Judge William Webster, former director of FBI and CIA; Supervisor John Cook, chairman of Public Safety Committee; Jean Senseman, \* Lorton; Douglas Kay, \* Fairfax; Hollye Doane, \* Oakton; Steve Descano, \* Springfield; and Hansel Aguilar, \* Fairfax.

ing, and discrimination.

Current panel members are: Rhonda VanLowe, Chair; Doug Kay, Vice-Chair; Hansel Aguilar; Kathleen Davis-Siudut; Steve Descano; Hollye Doane; Anna Northcutt; Randy Sayles; Adrian Steel.

The panel generally meets in

open session on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Check [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/calendar/ShowCalendar.aspx](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/calendar/ShowCalendar.aspx)

The Independent Police Auditor's mission is to bolster trust between the citizens of Fairfax County and the Fairfax County

Police Department by providing accountability, fairness, transparency and trust in the complaint system and investigative process. The Independent Police Auditor also provides an accessible, safe, impartial, and responsive intake venue for complaints about the Fairfax County Police Department

and its employees.

The Office of the Independent Police Auditor (OIPA) reviews police investigations involving use of force and serves as an independent intake venue for complaints.

SEE CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT, PAGE 13

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# NEWCOMERS

## Civilian Oversight

FROM PAGE 12

Both the panel and the auditor determine whether the police investigation was thorough, accurate and impartial.

### HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

If you feel you have experienced or observed misconduct by a Fairfax County police officer, you are encouraged to file a complaint. You will not be penalized by the police or any county official for filing a complaint.

### FILL OUT A COMPLAINT FORM

❖ You may use a printed copy of the online form.

❖ You may also complete a complaint form online.

Go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policeauditor](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policeauditor)

❖ You may file your completed form by mailing it to: Office of the Independent Police Auditor; 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 233A; Fairfax, VA 22035

❖ You may file online. Instructions are provided at the website.

❖ You may deliver a completed complaint form to the Auditor's Office at the above address or to any Fairfax County Police Station.

If you need help completing the form, call 703-324-3459 or email [PoliceCivilianReviewPanel@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:PoliceCivilianReviewPanel@fairfaxcounty.gov)

### HOW IT WORKS

❖ When a complaint is received, it is sent to the Police Department for investigation.

❖ Investigators interview the person who filed the complaint and witnesses.

❖ Police examine the evidence and write a report outlining the findings.

❖ The person who filed the complaint receives a letter summarizing findings of the investigation.

❖ If the person does not agree with the outcome of the investigation, he or she asks for a review.

❖ If a review is requested, either the Civilian Review Panel or the Independent Police Auditor reviews the investigation and issues a public report.

### MORE ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR

The Board of Supervisors appointed Richard G. Schott, a 27-year Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) veteran, as Fairfax County's first independent police auditor. Schott reports directly to the board, which approved the creation of the position as a follow up to one of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission. Among his

roles, Schott will be responsible for:

❖ Monitoring and reviewing internal investigations of Police Department officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths and use-of-force cases in which an individual is killed or seriously injured.

❖ Requesting further investigations if he determines that an internal investigation was deficient or conclusions were not supported by the evidence.

❖ Issuing public reports for each

reviewed internal investigation.

❖ Reviewing all resident complaint investigations of alleged excessive or unnecessary force by officers.

❖ Producing annual reports that analyze trends and recommend improvements.

Schott has spent his entire 27-year FBI career as a special agent working with local law enforcement officers, and for the past 16 years has provided training to members of state and local law enforcement agencies, including

legal issues associated with police officers' use of force and deadly force.

He has experience with Color of Law violations, including reviewing police reports and citizen complaints, recommending to U.S. Department of Justice attorneys whether or not to proceed with investigations and conducting the ensuing investigations.

Schott is also an instructor at the FBI Academy in Quantico, where he has taught thousands of new agents on basic constitutional

criminal procedure and the legal ramifications involved when an agent uses force.

He supervised the division's forfeiture program. As a special agent for the Birmingham Division, he orchestrated security for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games' soccer events in the area.

Schott received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of New Orleans and his juris doctorate from the Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans.



## The HEART Of The Great Falls Community & Proud Location Of The Following Events:

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



Photos by Walt Lawrence

## SHOP GREAT FALLS!

## Great Falls Village Centre

[www.GreatFallsVillageCentre.com](http://www.GreatFallsVillageCentre.com)

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AdGen Telecom.....	703-757-6757
Allstate Insurance/Doug White.....	703-759-7700
Aquarian LLC .....	703-438-8838
Artists on the Green.....	703-609-3092
Arts of Great Falls.....	703-232-1575
Capital Realty Services.....	703-759-4900
Dent Asset Management.....	703-286-7555
Dr. C. Ayers.....	703-757-6445
Executive Suites at Great Falls.....	703-865-2500
Georgetown Learning Centers.....	703-759-3624
Great Falls Creamery.....	703-272-7609
Great Falls Cycle Studio.....	703-585-5631
Great Falls Family Dentistry.....	703-759-4707
Greenheart Juice Shop.....	703-759-2126
H2O Pools .....	703-250-5585
Jinny Beyer Studio.....	703-759-0250
John Nugent and Son	
Plumbing & Heating.....	703-291-1926
Katie's Coffee House.....	703-759-2759
Loebig Chiropractic.....	703-757-5817
New Paradigm Capital Mgmt.....	703-757-4802
Old Brogue Irish Pub.....	703-759-3309
Pilates Place, LLC.....	703-405-3371
Pio Pio Restaurant .....	703-865-7700
River Nail and Spa .....	703-746-8886
Robert Mobley, AIA Architect.....	703-759-1927
School of Theatrical Dance.....	703-759-5652
Spectrum Property Management....	703-307-2965
Village Centre Mgmt Office .....	703-759-2485
Village Retreat/Massage Therapy....	703-638-4852
Wells Fargo Bank.....	703-757-1040
Wild Ginger Restaurant .....	703-759-5040



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## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



Andrea Mattich of Liberty Hill Farm



Eva Kronenberg of EC Pastries

# Great Falls Farmers Market: Triumph of Purpose

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY  
MARKET MANAGER

Since 2007, our community farmers market has been an integral part of the Saturday morning buzz at the Great Falls Village Centre throughout the spring, summer and autumn, and the Great Falls Grange throughout the winter. Customers who recently shopped three farmers market before venturing upon our market said that our local market had the best quality offerings and the most friendly and neighborly atmosphere. They now return every Saturday.

What makes the Great Falls market so special? The answer lies in the vendors, who bring a sense of purpose and a commitment to excellence.

Some vendors have been professionals in major corporations before realizing that their heart lies in agriculture.

**Jerry of Jerry's Gourmet Berries** was an aerospace executive responsible for building missiles before he desired to promote people's health through growing organic berries, heirloom tomatoes and fermented vegetables. He wrote a book, "Eater's Guide to Berries," which conveys that what you eat determines how healthy you are.

**Ken Mattich of Liberty Hill Farm** was a telecom engineer and sales executive before reading Jeffrey Smith's "Seeds of Deception." He and his wife, Andrea, wanted authentically healthy food but learned that there was a gap in how animals were fed. They began raising their own meat, as no one was doing organic feed or fully pasturing grass-fed animals. They began to raise a little more animals as meat for their friends. Then they were invited to sell at the Purcellville market. Over the last 12-14 years, they have built a business they are proud of that includes grass-fed beef,



Booyah Gourmet

pastured pork, organic-fed chickens and eggs, as well as raw milk, yogurt, kefir, butter and more through animal shares.

**Babette Lamarre, owner of Booyah Gourmet**, is a Board-Certified Nutritional Therapy Practitioner who realizes that healthy foods don't always taste good. She offers delicious chocolate balls of various flavors, helping people cope with giving up sugar, dairy and gluten through her amazing recipe. She believes that food is joyful and that there is added joy when we eat healthy as well. She offers nutritional counseling, and cooks for people in their homes.

Our newest vendor, **Stephanie Plunkett, owner of Lemonade Caf**, left corporate life after receiving her college degree to open her own virtual coffee shop. Her coffee, fresh squeezed lemonade, orange juice, and hand-made pretzels are unique and amazing. She seeks to create



Craig and Karen Hageman of High View Farm

an ambiance in which her customers find a reflective and quiet moment in their day, finding nourishment in her space.

Each vendor has their story, whether **Luke Wahlgren, owner of World Eats**, who sees his business as making people happy through his exotic empanada recipes from around the world; **Elaine, owner of Tyme Foods**, brings Zaatar, sharing a Middle Eastern herbal snack that her children love, bring the freshest and most nutritious offering available; **Eva Kronenberg, owner of EC Pastries**, is a master pastry chef who delights our community with her creations; **Tony, owner of OMG Micro Greens**, began growing microgreens to offer non-GMO nutrients that are free of chemicals to his family and friends; **Asiya Sen, owner of Sen Catering**, began cooking Turkish specialties for friends and neighbors before starting a catering business; **John Hobson of Our**

**Mom Eugenia** brings Greek savory and sweet delicacies made by his wife for the company owned by his sons, Alex and Phil; **Craig Hageman, owner of High View Farm**, began raising cattle when his wife was diagnosed with cancer and her wanted to be around her to offer support. **His new wife, Karen**, also had her first husband die of cancer. She told him she wanted to farm. He told her that that will have to be with your next husband. Sure enough, Craig and Karen, old high school friends, met and they got the farming going full swing, as well as silver jewelry making.

There are more stories to tell – **Baguette Republic**, **Healing Gems**, **the Great Falls Historical Society**, **Diez Berries & Veggies**, **Tuscarora Organic Growers Coop**, and more. And we are ready to tell them. Stop by on a Saturday morning, enjoy the music, and chat with your neighbors and our dedicated vendors.



# NEWCOMERS GUIDE

## Volunteering Makes a Better Place for All

Volunteer Fairfax engages thousands of volunteers of all ages annually and supports more than 600 member nonprofits and agencies striving to make Northern Virginia a better place for all.

Volunteer Fairfax's offerings include Volunteers For Change, a program that makes volunteering accessible and fun for busy adults; Alternative Community Service, a program that places a range of court-ordered clients in community service positions and RSVP Northern Virginia, a program sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax in partnership with Volunteer Arlington and Volunteer Alexandria, that matches those 55 and better with meaningful and fun volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Fairfax also offers an array of training programs that help nonprofits and volunteer groups run more efficiently. For corporations looking to engage their employees in the community, Volunteer

Fairfax's BusinessLink program offers customized employee volunteer engagement at sites in Northern Virginia and throughout the DC Metro Area.

Volunteer Fairfax also runs three signature programs to promote and recognize community involvement. They include VolunteerFest presented by AT&T, powered by Volunteer Fairfax, Saturday, Oct. 27, a regional day of volunteerism featuring project sites across the region; Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a large family-friendly event where children of all ages engage in volunteering and The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards, a breakfast held each April to honor volunteers who have given outstanding service to the community.

For more information on any of Volunteer Fairfax's programs or to find volunteer opportunities, visit [volunteerfairfax.org](http://volunteerfairfax.org) or call 703-246-3460.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit new volunteer announcements at [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar).

**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide** is looking to expand its team of volunteers for the upcoming tax season. Tax-Aide, now in its 51st year, offers free in-person preparation and assistance to anyone, especially those 50 and older, who can't afford a tax preparation service. Volunteers make a difference in their communities by assisting many older, lower-income taxpayers,

and their families, who might otherwise miss out on the tax credits and deductions they've earned. To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit [aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide) or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277).

**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

SEE VOLUNTEER, PAGE 19



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Kensington Park, another Kensington community located nearby in Kensington, MD



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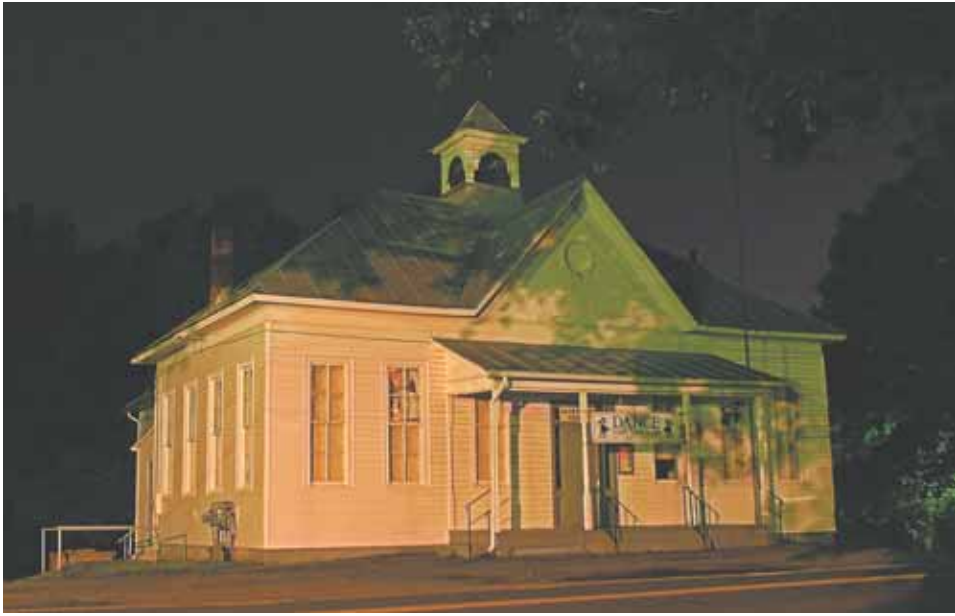
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## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



Colvin Run Schoolhouse



Great Falls in Early Spring

# Must See Places in Great Falls

PHOTOS BY WALT LAWRENCE

FROM PAGE 10

they even operate the mill so you can see the final product. I took a tour and learned that George Washington once owned the land and originally considered building a gristmill. He later changed his plans and built a mill much closer to his home at Mount Vernon. There is a gift store on the site where you will find books, pictures and actual mill-produced products for sale.

The Colvin Run Schoolhouse was converted many years ago into a dance hall where dances are held on Saturday evenings. Whether you dance or not I would urge you to try to take a look at the inside of the place as it contains a treasure trove of historical artifacts and newspaper clippings of the past. Great Falls Studios used to hold art shows in the place until it just outgrew the capacity of the building.



Great Blue Heron

## Great Falls Park

This is a must see for every resident of Great Falls regardless of whether you are a newbie or an old timer like myself. I would urge anyone to go down to the park at dawn or dusk and just watch the scene unfold as the sun does its thing lighting up sections of the falls and casting shadows on other

sections. It's also really cool to see the falls under moon light although the Park Service Rangers clear the place out around sunset. Depending upon the time of year the birdlife may be teaming or nonexistent. Perhaps one of the more interesting aspects of the falls is the roaring sound of the water as it passes over the falls and through this narrow cut in the river. After a major

storm the sound can be deafening. When the fish are running in May and June the Great Blue Herons fight over the best fishing spots close to the water and the cormorants are ever present. Try to get to know the park by hiking the trails and reading the information boards. Mather Gorge is a terrific sight to behold as the river has cut through the rock formations as it flows to

the east towards D.C. George Washington spent time in this area working to build the Patomack Canal as the locks of the canal parallel the falls. He was so taken by the beauty of the Potomac that he purchased paintings of the Potomac River and of Great Falls that are still hanging in his home at Mount Vernon.

## The Turner Farm Park

This location on Springvale Road is the most unique of all our parks because it is so eclectic, it really is two parks in a single location. There are 40 plus acres for horseback riding where individual riders can trailer in their mounts and ride on their own and there are horse show competitions that are very exciting to watch. There is also the Observatory Park where every Friday evening you can bring your lawn chairs, blankets and telescopes and watch the sky to see what might be happening in our galaxy. The park also has a few telescopes that can be used to observe the sky. I have been to the park and seen the space station go over a couple of times and have even observed a meteor or two streak across the sky.



Turner Farm Park



Setting Sun at Observatory Park





# Great Falls

## Citizens Association

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# FAIRS & FESTIVALS

A sampling of the many fun and family-friendly events taking place around Fairfax County much of the year.

## September 2018

### MONDAY/SEPT. 3

**Herndon Labor Day Festival.** 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Great music, a craft show, food, 12 wineries and micro-brews and culinary demonstrations. Visit [herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/labor-day-festival](http://herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/labor-day-festival) for more.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 8-9

**Burke Centre Festival.** 9:30 am-5 pm at Burke Centre Community Festival, 6060 Burke Centre Parkway Burke. Festival includes an Arts & Craft Fair, festival food vendors, amusement rides, pony rides, musical entertainment provided by local and nationally recognized performers, nature shows, after-hours Wine Garden. Visit [www.virginia.org/Listings/Exhibits/BurkeCentreFestival](http://www.virginia.org/Listings/Exhibits/BurkeCentreFestival) for more.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 15

**Dulles Day Plane Pull.** At Dulles International Airport, Dulles. The 2014 Dulles Day Family Festival & Plane Pull is a full day of excitement with airplane and auto exhibits, the children's zone and bus pull, varied displays and activities, vendors, food and entertainment. Visit [www.planepull.com](http://www.planepull.com) for more.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 22

**Reston Multicultural Festival.** 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. The Reston Multicultural Festival celebrates all the entertainment, dress, food, and cultural treasures from all over the world that are all here in Reston. Rain or shine. Free. Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events-exhibits/reston-multicultural-festival](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events-exhibits/reston-multicultural-festival) for more.

## October 2018

### WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY/OCT 10-13

**Fairfax's Fall for the Book Festival.** 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy literature and hear authors give readings at the Fall for the Book Festival. Visit [www.fallforthebook.org](http://www.fallforthebook.org) for more.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 13

**Taste of Annandale.** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tom Davis Drive in central Annandale, between Columbia Pike and John Marr Drive. The fourth annual Taste of Annandale will showcase local restaurants during a daylong family-friendly celebration aimed at building community spirit, engaging young people, and promoting local businesses. Other activities include a 5K; multicultural music, dance, and other live entertainment; a chili cook-off; and much more.

## May 2019

### Great Falls Artfest on the Green.

On the Great Falls Village Green. Great Falls Studios Spring Art Show and Sale under the big tent and a few little tents, too. A plein air competition and quick draw. With prizes and a reception, Sponsored by Arts of Great Falls. Then, a grand finale "Blues Explosion" to close the weekend and start the always popular season of Concerts on the Green by Celebrate Great Falls. For complete schedule and updates visit [www.greatfallsart.org/artfest/](http://www.greatfallsart.org/artfest/)



FILE PHOTO BY MARK MOGILE

## Celebrate Fairfax!

Attendees enjoy live entertainment, rides, games and food trucks as part of the 2018 Celebrate Fairfax! festival June 8-10 at the Fairfax Government Center. The annual festival attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year.

### MONDAY/MAY 13

**Great Falls Annual Charity Golf Tournament.** Hidden Creek Country Club. 1711 Club House Road, Reston. Join for a morning or afternoon round of golf and support our three Great Falls elementary schools while you are at it. Opportunities for sponsorships and volunteering are available! For more information: [www.celebrategreatfalls.org](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org).

### THURSDAYSUNDAY/MAY 30-JUNE 2

**Herndon Festival 2019.** Thursday: 6-10 p.m. Friday 5-11 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Northwest Federal Credit Union, 200 Spring St., Herndon. Four day outdoor festival with three entertainment stages, two fireworks displays, Kid's Alley with children's art area, arts and craft show and more! All ages. Visit [www.herndonfestival.net](http://www.herndonfestival.net) for more information.

### THURSDAYS/MAY-AUGUST

**Take a Break Concert Series.** 7-9 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 11404 Washington Plaza W, Reston. On Thursdays, take a break with this outdoor concert series. Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com/take-a-break](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com/take-a-break) for a weekly lineup.

### FRIDAYS/MAY-AUGUST

**Herndon Friday Night Live!** 6:30 p.m. 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Listen to great music on Friday nights during the summer. Visit [herndonrocks.com/schedule.php](http://herndonrocks.com/schedule.php) for more.

## June 2019

**Springfield Days.** South Run Park, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Springfield Days is a community wide celebration that includes a 5K run, "Pet Fest" and car show. Visit [www.springfielddays.com](http://www.springfielddays.com) for more.

**Cardboard Regatta.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Featured during Springfield Days, witness the cardboard boat creations race along Lake Accotink's shoreline at 2 p.m. \$4 vehicle fee. Call 703-569-0285 or email [julie.tahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:julie.tahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Visit [www.springfielddays.com](http://www.springfielddays.com) for more.

**Vintage Virginia Wine and Food Festival.** 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. A fun-filled day with food, musical entertainment and more. Visit [www.vintagevirginia.com](http://www.vintagevirginia.com) for more.

**Lake Anne Chalk on the Water Festival.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Chalk on the Water is a two-day street-painting festival where participants will create amazing street art. Festival goers can purchase a "plot" of brick space on the plaza and paint to their hearts delight whatever flows from their imagination. Cost for spaces are \$5 for children, \$10 for adults, and \$15 for professional artist. Individuals can register at [www.chalkonthewater.com](http://www.chalkonthewater.com). Only 100 spaces/plots are available for this event. Participants have a chance to win cash prizes for various categories, awarded by notable community judges. The festival will also include food, a live DJ, a wine garden.

**Taste of Reston.** Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Carnival games and rides with a family fun zone. Visit [www.restontaste.com](http://www.restontaste.com) for more.

### JUNE-AUGUST

**Reston Concerts on the Town.** Fridays, 7:30-10 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy live music in the Pavilion Saturday nights. Free. Rain or shine. Presented by Reston Town Center, Boston Properties, and Reston Town Center Association. Alcohol permitted at restaurants



only. 11900 Market Street, Reston. Concert information: [www.restontowncenter.com/concerts](http://www.restontowncenter.com/concerts).

**Great Falls Concerts on the Green.** Sundays, 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Green. Come out with your picnic baskets and chairs for an entertaining evening of free, live music! 776 Walker Rd, Great Falls. Full schedule list: [www.celebrategreatfalls.org/concerts-on-the-green/](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/concerts-on-the-green/).

**Lake Anne Summer Film Festival.** Select Sundays, 8 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Grab a date, the family or a group of friends, bring the lawn chairs and a picnic and enjoy the free flicks under the stars.

**Arts in the Parks.** Wednesdays & Saturdays, 10 a.m. Performance venues include Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, Mason District Park Amphitheater, and Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid-friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/arts-in-the-parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/arts-in-the-parks) for more.

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 7-9

**Celebrate Fairfax! Festival.** Friday: 6 p.m.-midnight; Saturday: 10 a.m.-midnight; and Sunday: 11 a.m.-7p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Musical performances, rides, games and food. Call 703-324-3247 or visit [www.celebratefairfax.com/](http://www.celebratefairfax.com/).

### SUNDAY/JUNE 14

**Love Your Body Yoga Festival.** Yoga studios and wellness centers of Northern Virginia will be offering classes, services, and information on ways to care for your body, along with live entertainment and activities

for children. Donations to participate in classes benefit Cornerstones. Presented by Beloved Yoga. [www.belovedyoga.com](http://www.belovedyoga.com).

## July 2019

### Herndon 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.

Bready Park at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. A family-fun event featuring games, arts and craft activities, bingo, food face painting, balloon artists, and fireworks. Visit [www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/4th-of-july](http://www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/4th-of-july) for more.

### Great Falls 4th of July Celebration & Parade.

5K Walk Run, Blood Drive, Little Patriot Parade, and floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade. Fireworks start after dusk. [www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade/](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade/)

### Vienna 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival and

**Fireworks Show.** Live musical entertainment, arts and crafts for kids, antique and classic car show and fireworks. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) for more.

### Fairfax's Independence Day

**Celebration.** In the Downtown Fairfax Historic District. Independence day parade, historical tours, games, entertainment and fireworks. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration)

**Obon Festival.** Highlighting Japanese culture at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Visit [www.ekoji.org](http://www.ekoji.org) for more.

### Clifton Film Festival.

7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Enjoy live music, food and original films under the stars. During the event there will be two awards ceremonies, student's awards will be given during intermission and the 19+ category at the closing of the festival. For more information, please visit [cliftonfilmfest.com](http://cliftonfilmfest.com)

### Claude Moore Colonial Farm 1771

**Market Fair.** 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Sit in the shade and savor roast chicken and spicy sausages, enjoy dancing and singing with the fiddler, test your water color and writing skills with Mr. Andrews at the Stationer. Visit 1771.org for more.

### JULY-AUGUST

#### Braddock Nights Concert Series.

Fridays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield or Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Listen to musical performances in the great outdoors. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/performances/sesflyers18-braddocknights.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/performances/sesflyers18-braddocknights.pdf) for location and schedule.

## August 2019

### Fairfax County 4-H Fair and

**Carnival.** At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy old-fashioned family fun with carnival games, rides and tempting foods. Stop by the 4-H Fair throughout the weekend as exhibitors display their winning entries and get their farm animals ready to show. Try a turn at farm chores, watch stage entertainment and enjoy horse and livestock shows. Thursday and Friday – free parking and discount tickets for unlimited rides. Admission to the 4-H Fair and Carnival is free; \$10 per car parking fee on Saturday and Sunday. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair) for details.



# NEWCOMERS GUIDE



PHOTO BY MAA SPOTO/THE CONNECTION

## Postcard from Great Falls

Both adventurous and historic, the Great Falls park features the town's namesake waterfalls as well as hiking trails through the remains of the Patowmack Canal. The park's cliff-top views are picture-perfect and groups can picnic on the grounds.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FROM PAGE 15

students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at [gronbiz@aol.com](mailto:gronbiz@aol.com) or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at [lynnieb517@verizon.net](mailto:lynnieb517@verizon.net).

**STEM Professionals Needed.** Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org). Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto:donaldrea@aol.com).

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

**RSVP**, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at [chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

**Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church**, 1205

Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at [info@scmafc.org](mailto:info@scmafc.org). The Center's website is [www.scmafc.org](http://www.scmafc.org).

**Master Gardener Training.** The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit [fairfaxgardening.org](http://fairfaxgardening.org) or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/).

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Respite Care** volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or [Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

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Contact Jane Ruppe Keihn at 703.759.2522 or [creche@stfranciscgreatfalls.org](mailto:creche@stfranciscgreatfalls.org) for a tour and more information.

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**CONTACT**

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Smile@CostaSmiles.com

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CostaSmiles.com