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Great Falls CONNECTION

Great Falls Tour of Artistic Discovery

Painter Joyce Lee works on a colorful flower at the Artists' Atelier at the Great Falls Art School, where she also teaches. The annual Great Falls Studios Art Tour ran for three days, from Oct. 19 through Oct. 21

Twitter, Guns, Best Friends and #MeToo
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PEOPLE

Active in Retirement

Stan Corey retired as a financial planner and financial fiduciary helping families and small businesses for almost 40 years. His first office in Great Falls was opened in 1986 at Oliver's Corner. In 1989 he moved his office to the new Crossroads building on Walker Road next to the old Exxon station. In 2013 he merged his firm with United Capital Financial Advisers and officially retired from the business on Aug. 31, 2018. The business continues to serve clients in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area.

Corey had a reputation for taking complex financial issues and making them understandable. He continues to do select consulting as a financial advocate in Family



Stan Corey

Law, mediation and estate settlements and financial guidance in special needs situations. He also does speaking engagements at colleges and professional conferences. He is a featured guest writer for a women's blog; "Sixty and Me" as well as his own blog as part of his web site, www.stancorey.com. He has published two books: The Divorce Dance <https://amzn.to/2JW7IGs> in 2016 (Amazon "Best Seller") and When Work Becomes Optional <https://amzn.to/2OniDff> in 2018.

Corey lives with his wife, Jayme, in Great Falls and they have six grandchildren. They enjoy playing golf at River Bend Golf and Country Club, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Corrections

In the last week's report on the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department's Open House ("We Are Here for the Community," Great Falls Connection, October 17-23) in a photo caption we had the name of Sarah McMichael misspelled and she was incorrectly identified as career firefighter instead of volunteer EMT. In another caption, the volunteer identified as Mandy Buttenshaw is actually Chris Webster. In the write-up, the role of Joan Bliss was also misidentified: She is a long time volunteer paramedic.

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Twitter, Guns, Best Friends and #MeToo

Comstock, Wexton answer voters most-asked questions in The Connection's Congressional Midterm Q&A.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

This fall, voters wield all the power. On Nov. 6, they will decide who controls Congress for the next two years of Donald Trump's presidency, a decision that could significantly reshape the current political landscape, impacting both Republican and Democratic agendas for years to come.

In Virginia, the 10th Congressional District race between Republican Barbara Comstock, the incumbent, and her Democratic challenger, state senator Jennifer Wexton, is one of the most closely-watched, competitive races in the nation. Democrats are eyeing the 10th as a strong pick-up opportunity, trying to flip a seat that Republicans have held for more than half a century.

The Connection reviewed dozens of "frequently-asked" questions culled from various national, state and local forums, focus groups and surveys. Out of nearly 100 questions, we narrowed it down to the top 12. Both candidates agreed to answer our questions in writing. Our only request to the candidates: keep answers to a 750-word total. Here are their complete answers, unedited.

Q: Do you think the Second Amendment should be repealed?

Comstock: No.

Wexton: No. But we do need to pass common sense gun violence prevention measures.

Q: If not, do you think there should be any new gun restrictions to deal with what feels like an epidemic of mass shootings?

Comstock: We passed three important pieces of legislation for prevention of gun violence in the past year: 1) The Stop School Violence Act, which was the number one priority of school violence prevention advocates. It provides billions in increased funds for school resource officers, school safety programs, mental health treatment, crisis intervention and hardening of school security. 2) We passed bipartisan legislation to improve and provide more funding for the national background check system – the most significant improvement in the system in a decade. 3) I passed my "Project Safe Neighborhoods" legislation which provides funding for tackling gun crime, as well as gang crime and drugs. In addition, I support banning bumpstock and I am pleased that process is going forward at the Justice Department. Finally, I support "red flag laws" that allow law enforcement and fam-



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION
Democrat Jennifer Wexton takes voters questions at Virginia International University's Candidate Forum, held in Fairfax last month.

ily members to petition a court for an Extreme Risk Protection Order to get weapons out of the hands of those who are a danger to themselves or others.

Wexton: Meaningful gun reforms like expanded background checks and legislation to keep weapons of war out of the hands of dangerous people enjoy wide popular support and we should pass them.

Q: What would you do if Trump fired special counsel Robert Mueller?

Comstock: I am confident that the President will not fire Bob Mueller. I support the Russia investigation being completed quickly and having as much information as possible disclosed to the public.

Wexton: What is most important right now is that the Special Counsel be protected from outside influence and insulated from attacks by Donald Trump. We need a Congress that is willing to stand up to Trump and be a check on the Administration, not just a rubber stamp.

Q: What's the best indication of economic health – the stock market, unemployment rate, income?

Comstock: We are experiencing an incredibly healthy economy as a result of lowering our taxes and cutting regulations – and the indicators are things such as a 4.2 percent growth rate, the highest family income ever, high consumer confidence, high small business and manufacturing optimism, growing wages, a strong job market, and low unemployment rates for men and women in all demographic groups. I am the only candidate in this race to have authored



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Republican Rep. Barbara Comstock at the kickoff of her annual Young Women Leadership Program this summer.

and passed tax cuts, and to have been endorsed by business groups such as the U.S. Chamber, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the National Association of Women Business Owners and other industries because jobs and the economy have always been a top priority for me. A healthy economy should lead the world in innovation, research and development and provide expanded opportunities for men and women from all walks of life. Economic health also would be enhanced by having more women in senior roles because studies have found that businesses and companies with more senior women actually are more financially strong and sound.

Wexton: Labor participation, wage growth, and unemployment are all key indicators because they show whether the middle class is experiencing the kind of growth already enjoyed by the wealthy.

Q: Should there be a citizenship question on the census?

Comstock: I am fine with or without a question, but what is disappointing with the questions on this survey is that there are no questions on the importance of our national security or homeland security and the importance of stopping defense sequestration (which we did); and not a single question about our veterans who deserve the added services and support we have provided over the past 2 years.

Wexton: No. The Constitution says to count all people, and this measure is designed to prevent that from taking place.

Q: Is it fair to trade a border wall with Mexico for protected status for DACA recipients?

Comstock: Legislation that includes

both border security and a solution for DACA recipients has been supported at various times by Democrats, Republicans and the President, so this provides the outlines for a compromise. I have voted for such a compromise so that we can have a solution instead of a stalemate and have a system that is fairer and simpler and rewards those who play by the rules. I also support expanding H1B Visas and agriculture visas and other reforms that support growing our economy.

Wexton: We should not have to trade anything to get protections for Dreamers. It's the right thing to do, it's overwhelmingly popular with the American people, and it should not be subject to a ransom.

Q: Should felons who served their sentence be able to vote?

Comstock: This should be handled on a case by case basis. I don't support violent felons automatically having their rights restored. I have supported criminal justice reform that addresses racial disparities in the system. This Congress I authored and passed my "Project Safe Neighborhoods" legislation which supports community policing and assistance to address gun crime, gang crime, and drug crime. I have been endorsed by the Police Benevolent Association because I am committed to public safety and I have worked extensively with the law enforcement community since my time as a senior Justice Department official.

Wexton: I support restoration of voting rights for felons who have completed the terms of their sentences.

SEE Q & A, PAGE 10

NEWS

Pictured, from left, are JoJo Phillips, Kevin Martell, Caroline Martell, Leah Connell, Lily Brookfield, Katie Dzwonczyk, Natalie Hutchinson and Jay Shuey.



Great Falls Girl Scout Completes Silver Award Project

On Oct. 8, Caroline Martell, an eighth grader at Cooper Middle School, completed her Girl Scout Silver award project along with the help of friends, neighbors and fellow Scouts. The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. Caroline has been a Girl Scout for 9 years and is a member of Troop 2784 in Great Falls. Caroline has been working since February of 2018 with Kimberly Schauer, a Fairfax County Park Authority naturalist, and Emily Knupp, a science teacher at Cooper Middle School, on her project. For her project, Caroline chose to build a riparian buffer to reduce the flow of chemical and sediment pollution that flows into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. She selected an area along the Difficult Run stream in Great Falls as her planting site. Meadows Farms Nursery in Great Falls donated the rud-

beckia plants for her project. Caroline was inspired to design her project by previous environmental projects. She was one of 60 middle school students selected from Virginia to participate in the Virginia program STEAM (Science, Technology and Applied Mathematics) where she spent a week working with a Biology professor from the College of William and Mary. While there, Caroline designed a prototype for a machine that would help reduce the acidity of oceans and improve the health of coral reefs and collected, tested and analyzed water samples from local waterways. Caroline also worked with two friends on eCybermission to design a project to protect the Chesapeake Bay. They designed and built a storm drain filter prototype to help block out trash and other debris from flowing into storm drains that lead directly to streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

Caroline Martell, friends and fellow Scouts planting riparian buffer.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Caroline Martell with her brother Kevin (Boy Scout Troop 1144).

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Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SOBER-RIDE FOR HALLOWEEN

Free Sober Rides. Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 28, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 5 p.m. on Oct. 27 on www.SoberRide.com. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

THROUGH NOV. 9

Food Drive. Drop-off canned goods at Sheehy INFINITI of Tysons, 8527 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Sheehy Auto Stores will collect canned goods and non-perishable food as part of the company's annual Fall Harvest Food Drive to benefit food banks serving each community. Benefiting food banks include the Oxon Hill Food Pantry, ECHO, Manna Food Center, Central Virginia Food Bank, Ashland Christian Emergency Services (ACES), Fauquier Food Bank, House of Mercy, Emmaus Center, Samaritan Project, The Light House, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, Perry Hall United Methodist Church, SERVE, Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank and Food for Others.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 24

Tysons 2050. 4-8 p.m. at Hilton Tysons, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, Tysons. Tysons 2050 is a community-building event, focused on sharing insights and visions from thought-leaders helping transform Tysons. Panelists will discuss the challenges, opportunities, and developments that are on the immediate and distant horizon. \$75. Call 703-281-1333 or visit www.tysonschamber.org/tysons-2050 for more.

MCC Governing Board. 7:30 p.m. at the MCC Administrative Offices, 6631 Old Dominion

Drive, McLean. All meetings of the Governing Board are open to the public. Tax district residents (Dranesville District-1A) who wish to speak during the "Citizen Comment" portion of the meeting are asked to call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 to be placed on the agenda. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 25

Public Comment Deadline. The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) announces a 45-day public comment period for its proposed policy and guidelines for transit capital prioritization and urban transit agency strategic plans. The proposed plans are available online at drpt.virginia.gov/transit/tsdac/public-comment. Comments on the plans can be sent to Jen DeBruhl at DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov or DRPT, 600 East Main St., Suite 2012, Richmond, VA 23219.

SATURDAY/ OCT. 27

VolunteerFest. A region-wide day of community service helps nonprofits accomplish tasks they would not have time or resources to do on their own. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php for more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 30

Learn to Prevent Bullying. 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. You Can Help Prevent Bullying: Strategies for Parents. Workshop to learn what is bullying, bullying in a cyber world, bullying vs. harassment, signs to look for and ways to prevent and support. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center to register.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14



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The Retina Group of Washington (RGW), the country's largest provider of retinal and macular care, has added yet another subspecialty to better serve the eye-related needs of people throughout Northern Virginia.

RGW is pleased to announce that **Dr. Brian Do** has joined the practice and is seeing patients in the Fairfax and Tysons offices. **Dr. Do is the only retinal surgeon in the entire Washington, DC metro area specially trained to treat Uveitis**, an often-misdiagnosed and mistreated group of inflammatory diseases that can destroy eye tissue and lead to blindness.

We hope our current patients will have the opportunity to meet and be treated by Dr. Do sometime soon. And for anyone who requires the expertise of the area's only Uveitis specialist, he is ready and available whenever you need him.

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Responding to Climate Change Warnings

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



COMMENTARY

Last week I wrote about the dire warning of the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change about the more immediate consequences of climate change than had originally been predicted. Avoiding the damages to our planet and to our way of life would require "transforming the world economy at a speed and scale that has no documented precedent," according to the report.

The greatest economies in the world must lead the changes necessary to preserve our planet and the quality of life for our families rather than dismissing or debating its findings. The time for action is now with the report describing a world of worsening food shortages and wildfires and a mass die-off of coral reefs as soon as 2040, a little more than two decades away.

What we have instead are politicians at the highest level of the federal government making promises at political rallies in West Virginia

to bring back coal, the greatest offender of climate change, and in Iowa to increase corn production for ethanol that when added to gasoline may release more carbon from the lands than it saves. Scores of regulations intended to reduce climate change have been rescinded to gain favor of those who see them as interference in their quest to make more bucks or to gain more votes from a political constituency.

Absent little or no help on this concern at the federal level for the next couple of years, what can be done in the meantime? At the state level I will be pushing for a strengthening of a commitment by state government to increase its efforts at energy conservation, eliminating any subsidies for coal production, intensive economic development in green jobs for areas previously dependent on coal, a tax on carbon, accelerating the use of renewable energy, and establishing Virginia as a green state in its policies as well as reforestation. There are

many reasons to take this immediate action in Virginia if for no other motive than that we stand to be among the first states to lose a significant chunk of our land mass with climate change and sea level rise.

I am pleased that Fairfax County has made a nod in the direction of concern about sea level rise, but there is reason to believe that one of the wealthiest counties in the country can find the will and the resources to do even more. We have been planting trees, but we need to plant many more. We have been working to get people out of their individual cars, and we must incentivize more people to use cleaner transit. Thanks to School Board Member Pat Hynes for her resolution calling for state and federal action on climate change. It is a beginning, but the locality must budget as a social cost for the county and not for the school district the addition of solar panels on the millions of square feet of roof space on our schools. Also, our school lots should be forested and not lawns.

Small actions taken by many can produce significant results. We have our warning. No time for hand wringing. We need to get to work.

Warner, Wolf and Davis Endorse Comstock

Dear Friends,

We are writing to you today to endorse our friend and fighter for Virginia's 10th Congressional District ... Barbara Comstock. In our extensive careers serving Virginia, we have worked with Barbara. We know she is a uniquely effective legislator with deep relationships throughout the 10th District and in Congress that enables her to deliver bipartisan results that are improving the lives of her constituents as well as our community.

As the Congresswoman for the 10th District, Barbara Comstock has demonstrated that she is a strong fighter for the people and diverse interests of the district — our military, our veterans, our federal employees, our farmers, our technology community, our hospitals and medical and research community, our schools and universities, our historical and heritage communities, our charities, and more. Barbara is immersed in the issues vital to the 10th District, her constituent service continues to be strong, and we strongly endorse her re-election.

As the only female member of the Virginia congressional delegation, Barbara has taken on an important leadership role

for women: Barbara led the charge on cracking down on sexual harassment in Congress and the workplace, passing major reform legislation to require mandatory training for all staff and Members of Congress to prevent harassment, as well as legislation to reform the process by providing a victims advocate office and demanding more accountability and transparency.

Barbara has also been a leader promoting women in the STEM fields with the passage of her "INSPIRE" Act and other STEM education efforts, and she established the 10th District Young Women's Leadership Program that has mentored over 1,500 young women in high school and junior high school.

Barbara has fought for and delivered results for the 10th District on key issues vital to our community:

❖ **Rebuilding our Military:** Barbara championed rebuilding our military and ending the national defense sequestration budget cuts that were hollowing out our military and threatening readiness and hurting Virginia's economy

SEE COMSTOCK, PAGE 14

Comstock Fails SNAP Test

To the Editor:

Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) has taken a hard core right wing stance in supporting President Trump and the House's Farm Bill version that would gut the vital SNAP nutrition program.

In contrast, state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33), the Democratic nominee in the 10th Congressional District, has endorsed the moderate, bipartisan Senate version that preserves the SNAP program and passed with overwhelming support by most US senators of both parties, 86-11. The House version barely passed by 2 votes, 213-211.

We have asked several times if Rep. Comstock would move to the Senate version to avoid the House bill that would cut benefits and inevitably result in kicking deserving Virginians off of this key nutrition program. All we have received is a generalized comment that she supports a compromise that ends the impasse, and this does nothing to answer the question about SNAP.

The SNAP nutrition program is vital for all demographic groups, including the large Latino community which makes up approximately 13 percent of the population in the 10th District.

We received feedback on key safety net issues like SNAP at our nonpartisan forum for 10th District candidates in McLean in late May, and the Comstock campaign was the only one of the then eight campaigns from both parties that was not represented by either the

candidate or a senior surrogate.

As many nonprofits and anti-hunger and poverty advocates in northern Virginia know, even in our relatively prosperous area there are substantial numbers of people who are immigrants, economically under stress, homeless, or otherwise in need of nutrition assistance.

The Farm Bill is essential for the SNAP nutrition program that is the key bulwark against hunger and malnutrition, as well as agriculture provisions that are important for farmers in the western part of the 10th District. SNAP promotes food security, enhances health, improves child development and learning, lifts households above the poverty line, helps people facing temporary setbacks, and stimulates local economic activity.

We have not gotten any meaningful feedback from either the Comstock Congressional or campaign offices despite repeated efforts, and Virginians need to know that Comstock not only voted for the House version earlier in the year that would harm SNAP, but published a statement praising the House's reactionary bill.

Comstock and Congress as a whole can't evade responsibility for taking a stand on this crucial issue by kicking the can down the road and saying, "Trust us, we'll come up with a resolution after the election." The SNAP vote reportedly will now take place some time

SEE SNAP, PAGE 14

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LETTERS

Comstock Tax Cut Promises Fail to Deliver

To the Editor:

The evidence is in about the Trump tax cut bill and what happens when you drop the federal corporate tax rate from 35 to 21 percent but leave all the tax loopholes. Donald Trump's staunch supporter, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock, said corporate America would spread the wealth and set new records for the economy.

Instead, corporate America is taking the money and lining its own pockets. The tax cuts mean corporate stock buyouts, higher stock prices, and guarantees that the already rich get richer. Any crumbs the tax cuts threw to individuals have been wiped out at the gas pump. There is nothing left for workers to celebrate.

Long-term, our country is the real loser. There is no money to shore up our crumbling infrastructure. Federal programs like Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid and Veterans Affairs are at grave risk. With about a quarter of corporate tax revenue out the window, benefit cuts down the road are inevitable. And remember all that election talk about infrastructure? You can forget about it.

A country risks too much if it opens its purse only to its military but closes its eyes to the health, education and welfare of its people. And if the financial crisis of 2008 taught us anything, it's that good people and nations can lose everything in no time at all. The tax cuts took away the financial wiggle room that would help us dig out of the next crisis.

VA-10 needs and deserves real leadership as we head into ever more challenging times. Voting with the Trump administration 98 percent of the time is not leadership. Say "no" to more empty promises from a phony "moderate" that will leave the rest of us – young and old – hanging out to dry. It is time for a change in VA-10. Send Jennifer Wexton to Congress!

Wes Callender
Great Falls

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Photos by Walt Lawrence

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Hosts for the third annual Great Falls Rotary Club Oktoberfest – Board members of the Club and the Rotary Club Foundation.



From left: Teresa Yurt, CoryAnn Stefansson, Faye Whaley, Roz Drayer, Deborah Nagy and Paula Garrison show a little feminine camaraderie dressed in their dirndl-best at the Rotary Club Oktoberfest.

Raising Funds with Lots of Fun

Honoring, Missing William 'Butch' Sevilla

Rotary Club of Great Falls holds third annual Oktoberfest.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Rotary Club supports a host of worthy causes, both locally and abroad. True to the "Service Above Self" Rotary ideal, the members of this non-political, non-religious organization have helped build sports facilities in Honduras and educational infrastructure and supplies for schools in Pune, India.

In their own Northern Virginia "backyard" they sponsor the bi-annual First-Time Campers program at Wolf Trap Park, provide quarterly dinners at the Embury Rucker Community Shelter in Reston, support the provision of Thanksgiving food baskets for their struggling neighbors, and raise money for Stop Soldier Suicide and the Jack and Jill Late Stage Cancer Foundation. And the list goes on.

BEING THIS GENEROUS with their time and their financial support obviously means they need to raise funds to continue their service to community. It doesn't mean they can't have fun – a lot of it! – while doing so.

Saturday, Oct. 20, saw pretty much the entire clubhouse at the River Bend Golf and Country Club on Walker Road in Great Falls packed with lederhosen-clad "herren" and dirndl-dressed "frauleins" at the club's major fundraiser – the third Annual Rotary Club Oktoberfest.

Surrounded by Bavarian-style decorations, seated at long, neighborly-encouraging tables and supplied with mountains of schnitzel, salted pretzels, mouth-watering desserts and plenty of mugs of "bier" to go round, the revellers could easily imagine themselves enjoying the action at one of the Munich Oktoberfest tents.

And what would Oktoberfest be without rousing German music and calls of "Prost!" from the bandleader? Not to worry. The Alte Kameraden (The Old Comrades) of Fairfax band had that covered, providing plenty of "oompa" to keep the partiers swaying, dancing, and raising their mugs when instructed.

With a little bit of encouragement and some band-member assistance, a few of the attendees were persuaded to hit the dance floor for that Oktoberfest tradition – the Chicken Dance. Those who survived that frolicking, stayed on the dance floor to try their hands – or feet – at another true traditional German dance that involved a lot of jumping, hand-holding, and imitating an airplane making a dicey landing.

When the band finally took their much-needed breaks, live music continued, with Michael Leggett Jr. of Die Echten Steirischen Musikanten Bavarian/Austrian folk music group handling the accordion with superb style.

Were folks having fun? Just ask long time Great Falls residents like Jon and Sue Wickwire who showed how couples really own the dance floor when the polka music started up, although Sue modestly insisted they "just did their best."

Paula and Greg Garrison may have "only" lived in Great Falls for the past eight years, but this was their second time at the Ro-



Listening to the blowing of this classic Alpine horn was just one of the musical highlights at the Great Falls Rotary Club Oktoberfest bash where traditional music, food and fashion helped raise funds for the many charitable causes supported by the organization. And yes, the woman who wielded this instrument played an actual song.

tary Club Oktoberfest. Greg got his authentic lederhosen gear while in Germany, and made sure that Paula was as traditionally kitted out for the event.

In the midst of the frivolity, there was one sad note. While thanking the sponsors and the attendees for their support and donations, an emotional Rotary Club President Kevin Crabtree asked that everyone raise their glasses in memory of club President-elect William "Butch" Sevilla, a long time area resident and Rotarian, who died suddenly on Friday night.

Sevila, who was an active member of the club, also served on the board for the regional Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. An avid collector of antique and classic cars, Sevilla hosted the annual Cars for the Cure drive to raise awareness about Type 1 diabetes, and money to find its cure.

"He is missed tonight and will always be missed," said Crabtree, but noted that his fellow Rotarian would be pleased at the turnout for the event and want everyone to enjoy an evening of community, raising funds for so many of the good works that he gave of himself to support.

"I am originally from Bolivia," said Paula, "so I hope I look ok in this!" The Garrisons had other invites on the table for Saturday, "but this is so much fun, a good thing to support - and my husband really loves the German traditions."

THE ROTARY CLUB OF GREAT FALLS was founded in 2011 by Jeff Thinnies, now Chairman of the Rotary Club of Great Falls Foundation, Inc. The group welcomes "like minded people who want to give back and be involved in their communities" to learn more about the organization. The Rotary Club meets on Thursday mornings at

7:30 am for breakfast at the River Bend Golf & Country Club, and hosts Happy Hours, as well. More information is available at www.rotarygreatfallsva.org.

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 24

72nd Annual Halloween Parade. 7 p.m. On Maple Avenue in downtown Vienna. Don't miss out on the costumes and floats, the marching bands, the performances, and the sense of camaraderie and community as the parade moonwalks down the road for the 72nd time. Costumed children and families who wish to march in the parade should meet at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot of United Bank, 374 Maple Avenue E. The parade is sponsored by the Town of Vienna and the Vienna Business Association. Contact the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360.

FRIDAY/OCT. 26

McLean Farmers Market. Fridays through Nov. 16, 8 a.m.-noon at 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean.
Riverbend Bird Walks. 8-10 a.m. at Riverbend Park - Visitor Center, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Riverbend Park is offering free birding walks in October. Participants should be prepared to walk about two miles in comfortable, closed-toed shoes. There likely will be gentle uphill and downhill stretches on slightly uneven terrain. Bring binoculars. Rain or shine. Call 703-759-9018, or stop by the Visitors' Center front desk to register.
McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Naomi Chung, a semi-

Langley High Orchestra to Perform Halloween Music

BY ALEX MONTANO
LANGLEY HIGH SENIOR

Halloween just isn't the same without great music to fit the occasion, and nobody knows this better than the award-winning Langley High School Orchestra, which will present a Spookfest concert on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Langley High School Auditorium.

The Freshman Orchestra will begin the night with classics such as the soundtrack from "The Phantom of the Opera."

Immediately afterward, listeners will be riveted by a performance of the famous "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by a unique ensemble of more than eighteen cellists known collectively as The Cello Choir.

The Philharmonic Orchestra will dazzle the audience with dark 19th-century masterpieces by composers Saint-Saens and Liszt, featuring a violin soloist, three virtuoso pianists, and musicians from the accomplished Langley High School Band.

Finally, the night will be capped off by a rendition of Michael Jackson's iconic "Thriller," played by the Symphonic Orchestra.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HELEN BECKNER

The Langley High School Orchestra will perform Halloween music on Tuesday, Oct. 30

Before the music, concert-goers are encouraged to admire the work of the Langley photography department, which will be displaying their own Halloween-themed photography in the hall adjacent to the auditorium.

This concert is free to the public and designed for all ages. Appropriate costumes are welcome for performers and audience members alike.

If you dare, come out and enjoy the show.

120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Kathleen Barth makes her Vienna Theatre Company directorial debut the final two weekends of October and the first weekend of November. Tickets are \$14. Advance tickets may be purchased online at viennava.gov/webtrac or in person at the community center; if available, tickets may be purchased at the door.

SATURDAY/OCT. 27

Fall Festival. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at George C Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. George C Marshall HS Dance Team presents a Fall Festival and Craft and Vendor Bazaar. Food, shopping, raffle prizes, and entertainment, free activities for children. Admission is free. Email kristen.farrand@gmail.com or call 913-680-7902.

Vienna Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, through Nov. 3 at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. The Vienna Farmers Market, hosted by the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, has more than 30 vendors from across the region, the Vienna Farmers Market provides locally-sourced fruits and vegetables and homemade eats. Visit www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/ for more.

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

abstract landscape painter in oils will be the presenter. Chung has a B.F.A from Virginia Commonwealth University and is a member of The McLean Project for the Arts and The

Art Council of Fairfax County. She will focus on "working toward abstraction." Guests are welcome. Call 703 356-2998 for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 26-27

"Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight." 8 p.m. at Vienna Community Center,

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Cooper's concert home is the Langley High School Auditorium, where it presents several performances throughout the year.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Eighth grader Morgan Marenburg clarifies a passage of music with Assistant Director Alexandra Singer and Director Matthew C. Baker during a rehearsal.

Cooper Symphonic Band Gets Ready for National Music Festival

Trombonists perfect their harmony, flutists refine their trills and trumpet players hit their high notes in the clarion call of an introductory movement. These are the sounds in the band rooms of Cooper Middle School where Director Matthew C. Baker and Assistant Director Alexandra Singer ready their students for concerts throughout the year and a special trip to the Music for All (MFA) National Festival this spring in Indianapolis, Ind.

MFA is the destination of Cooper's Symphonic Band, one of only eight middle school bands selected, through blind audition, from across the United States to perform at the annual event. MFA is a prominent, long-running showcase held for scholastic bands, percussion ensembles, orchestras and choirs. Cooper's invitation is a special local recognition, as it is the first middle school band ever invited from any of the Mid-Atlantic states. Performing at MFA comes on the heels of last year's honor in which the Symphonic Band was selected, also through blind audition, as the sole middle school performer at the 2017 conference of the Virginia Music Educators Association.

THE 78 STUDENTS who make up the Symphonic Band have only a few months to perfect the pieces Baker selected for MFA. "We've chosen a demanding program of music that usually is performed by experienced high school bands," Baker explained, "but I know what these students are capable of accomplishing musically."

Arlene Randall, Principal of Cooper Middle School, is confident the Symphonic Band will perform well. "Cooper's motto is A Quest for Excellence, and our band program is the epitome of this," she added.

MFA will be a high-point experience for the local musicians. During the event, students will take in the advice from noted music professionals during instrument master classes and full band clinics. They'll have a chance to enjoy numerous concert performances and perform their own program in Indianapolis' prime concert venue, the 2,200-person Schrott Concert Hall. "Performing our program in such a beautiful and artfully acoustic space will be a memorable experience and a thrill," stated Singer.

When Baker arrived as Director of Bands at Cooper five years ago, he joined a program that consisted of two bands and 57



Stephen H. Rice, Past President of the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association, with Director Matthew C. Baker after Cooper Band and Baker receive awards at last year's annual conference of the Virginia Music Educators Association.

students. Under his baton the program has flourished, this year reaching nearly 200 students, making up three concert bands and a jazz band. "If you close your eyes and just listen to our Symphonic Band play," Randall said, "you cannot believe it is middle school students who are performing. The students have done incredible things, and Mr. Baker has taken our band to a level I have never seen in a middle school."

RANDALL AND BAKER commend the band students at Cooper, noting their hard work and commitment. "I'm so proud of

the dedication these students and their families have to music and our band program," said Baker, "especially in light of the many interests and activities these kids are involved in." Students are quick to point to Baker's and Singer's dedication and enthusiasm as the key to their success, but the directors add that many factors have helped the program. "We're fortunate to build on the foundation of great band programs in our area elementary schools," explained Baker, "and we keep growing, with support from Cooper and the determination of our middle school musicians."

Q&A with 10th District Candidates

FROM PAGE 3

Q: Name three Democrats/Republicans (people in the opposing party) with whom you are friendly – or actual friends.

Comstock: Rep. Debbie Dingell, Rep. Lois Frankel, and Donna Brazile.

Wexton: Emmett Hanger, Jill Vogel, Randy Minchew.

Q: How would you address the #MeToo movement as a member of Congress?

Comstock: I have been a leader battling sexual harassment in Congress passing bipartisan landmark reform legislation to provide victims support and more funding to the EEOC office that handles complaints. I also passed legislation requiring anti-harassment education and training for all Members of Congress and

their staff. The legislation also provides due process for both the victim and the accused. The hearings we have held have also highlighted how sexual harassment can impact the pay gap by driving women out of their chosen professions and we will aggressively address this problem to keep women in their chosen professions.

Wexton: Electing more women is an important start. We need our leaders to send a clear message that those who commit sexual offenses will be held accountable, no matter who they are. It has taken far too long for Congress to pass even basic measures to reform its own processes in this area.

Q: Do you believe climate change is real and man-made? If yes, how should Congress address it?

Comstock: Yes, and I am a member of the Climate Change Caucus but my focus is

not on increasing regulations or adding taxes, but instead using innovation and technology to provide solutions for cleaner, more efficient, and more affordable energy.

Wexton: Yes. Congress should renew America's commitment to the Paris Accords, and take steps that address climate change while helping the economy convert to cleaner energy sources with minimal disruption.

Q: Would you vote to overturn a presidential veto to keep the government running?

Comstock: I am the only Member of Congress in the Washington Metropolitan region – Democrat or Republican - who has NEVER voted to shut down the government. I have worked to keep the government open and functioning and fought to get the federal pay raise restored. I have worked closely with NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees) and have earned the support of their PAC because of my

strong support for our federal employees.

Wexton: Yes.

Q: Should President Trump tweet more/less/same?

Comstock: My apologies, but I think this is a ridiculous question when there hasn't been a single question about the importance of getting better cures and treatments for chronic diseases such as Alzheimer's, cancer, and diabetes – something I am passionate about and have worked to provide record funding for at this critical time when we have the opportunity for breakthroughs in medical research. We have also provided a record \$4 billion in funding and support for prevention and treatment of addiction to opioids and heroin – something the President has declared a national health emergency – something that he may have tweeted about too.

Wexton: Less

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Oakton Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats/eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Admission is free. Visit community-foodworks.org.

Genealogy Fall Fair. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. At Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Cost is \$45/\$55. Program topics include: Genealogy in the Digital Age, presented by Genealogist James Beidler; "Digital Databases bringing Libraries to your desktop;" "Ancestors Seen through Newspapers;" "Headline to Bylines: sing all the Newspaper in your Genealogy." Email: conference@fxgs.org or call 703-644-8185. Visit the website: www.fxgs.org.

Trunk or Treat. 4-6 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lewinsville is hosting a Trunk or Treat Block Party event for the community, safe fun for the whole family. Trick or Treaters go from car to car and trunk to trunk, collecting candy from the volunteers who have decorated their vehicles to serve as a backdrop for this spooktacular event. Free and open to the public. Call 703-356-7200 or visit lewinsville.org for more.

Together Under the Northern Lights Gala. 6 p.m.-midnight. At Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Sponsored by Arlington Free Clinic. This year's event will celebrate the Clinic's commitment to providing free, high-quality medical care to low-income uninsured Arlington County adults. For event details and to purchase tickets and sponsorships, please visit www.gala.arlingtonfreeclinic.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 28

Halloween Outing. 2-6 p.m. At Krop's Crops, 11110 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Krop's Crops and Safespot have partnered for a fun family Halloween outing. Select your favorite pumpkin from Krop's pumpkin patch, carve or decorate your pumpkin with help from Safespot volunteers, take a hayride and snack on s'mores, a treat for kids and a treat for Safespot! All proceeds go to Safespot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax. Cost is \$15/per person. Early registration at <https://conta.cc/2xzKusT>.

"Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight." 2 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. See above. Advance tickets online at viennava.gov/webtrac or in person at the community center; if available, tickets may be purchased at the door.

"Grant Us Peace." 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. New Dominion Chorale will begin its 28th season with a program titled "Grant Us Peace." The concert, conducted by Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge, will feature Gabriel Fauré's "Requiem," Felix Mendelssohn's "Grant Us Peace," and two works by Franz Schubert: "Psalm 23" and "Mass in G Major." Vocal soloists will be soprano Annie Schwartz, tenor Benjamin Pattison, and bass-baritone James Shaffran. \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors (62+), and \$15 for students up to age 22. Purchase tickets at www.newdominion.org or at the door.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 31

Hitchcocktober: Psycho (1954). 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center – Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Every Thursday night in October a classic film by Sir Alfred Hitchcock will be featured with a bonus screening of PSYCHO on Halloween.

Tickets are \$10. Visit angelikafilmmcenter.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 1

Submission Deadline. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax will be accepting work for its next open art exhibit in December. This artwork will illustrate *Mystery and Solstice* - the theme for worship at UUCF in the month of December. All types of media qualifies, including painting, photography, mixed-media, and the written word. The deadline to submit a jpeg image and application is Nov 1. Artwork will be hung on Friday, Nov. 30 and should be picked up by Jan. 6 and 7. All sales will be handled by UUCF with a 20% commission given to the organization. Email artspeaks@uucf.org to request a submission form.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 2-4

"The Story of Hansel and Gretel." Friday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 3 at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. At The Stage at Holy Trinity Church, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Cost is \$10. Purchase tickets at bit.ly/oshanselgretel. Visit the website www.oakcrest.org.

McLean Farmers Market. Fridays through Nov. 16, 8 a.m.-noon at 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean.

SATURDAY/NOV. 3

Bulb Sale. 8 a.m.-noon at Town of Vienna Farmers Market, on the grounds of the Vienna Community Center. The Ayr Hill Garden Club presents its annual bulb sale supporting the community gardening efforts of the Ayr Hill Garden Club. Email emilielarson@rcn.com for more.

Vienna Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, through Nov. 3 at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. The Vienna Farmers Market, hosted by the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, has more than 30 vendors from across the region, the Vienna Farmers Market provides locally-sourced fruits and vegetables and homemade eats. Throughout the year, great music will be featured. Visit www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/ for more.

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

Great Gatsby Night. Cocktails and dinner, 6 p.m.; performance, 7:30 p.m. at Vinson Hall Community Ballroom, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean. The Tysons McLean Orchestra will feature Pianist Thomas Pandolfi performing Rachmaninoff and selections from the 1920s and '30s. Dinner and performance, \$200 per person. Contact info@tysonsmcleanorchestra.org or call 703-893-8646.

Cancer Research Fundraiser. 7-10 p.m. At Vienna Volunteer Fire Dept - Flame Room, 400 Center Street, South, Vienna. Come to a wine tasting and silent auction hosted by Upsilon Gamma. Have fun while raising money for cancer research. Cost is \$20 per ticket includes two wine/beer, hors d'oeuvres, and several door prize opportunities. A Wine Pull and a cash bar will be available. Auction Items include restaurant gift cards, specialty baskets, massage services. Get tickets at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sip-and-shop-mission-possible-fundraiser-tickets-50561085568>

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Public Meetings Fall Transportation Meeting

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with an open house followed by a public comment period. At the open house you can learn about various transportation initiatives, as well as Virginia's project prioritization process (SMART SCALE), Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and the VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment and Departments of Transportation and Rail and Public Transportation will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and discuss your ideas and concerns about Virginia's transportation network. The open house will be followed by a public comment period, where you can provide comments about the various initiatives. Comments will be accepted at the meeting and may also be submitted via email or online at www.CTB.Virginia.gov.

Public Meetings* to be held at the dates, locations and times listed below:

Monday, October 15, 2018 at 4 p.m. Culpeper District Office 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	Wednesday, October 17, 2018* at 4 p.m. Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	Monday, October 22, 2018* at 4 p.m. Southwest Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210
Thursday, October 25, 2018* at 2 p.m. (Note: Start time has changed) Holiday Inn - Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, VA 24017	Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 4 p.m. Hampton Roads District Office 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 4 p.m. Homewood Suites-Chester 12810 Old Stage Road Chester, VA 23836
Monday, November 19, 2018 at 4 p.m. Lynchburg District Complex Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 4 p.m. Fredericksburg District Office Auditorium 86 Deacon Road Fredericksburg, VA 22405	Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. NOVA District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030

*These meetings will be held in conjunction with planned I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan meetings. Fall meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/> beginning October 15, 2018.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may send your comments on highway projects to Infrastructure Investment Director, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219, or Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov .	You may send comments on rail, public transportation, and transportation demand management to Public Information Officer, DRPT, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov .
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Comments will be accepted until December 13, 2018.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



During the 2018 Great Falls Studio Tour Jill Banks was on hand at the Art School, where she teaches. Banks answers questions and chats with fellow Great Falls resident Robert Mobley amid her many oils, quite a few inspired by European street scenes and café life.



Penny Ross Burk had the entryway spot at the home of fellow artist Gurusangat Khalsa's home and studio where she showcased her works and actually had time to work on the illustrations for her latest children's book – to the delight of tour goers.

Great Falls Studios Host 2018 Art Tour

A tour of artistic discovery.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The annual Great Falls Studios Art Tour with its 2018 15th edition, ran for three days, from Oct. 19 through Oct. 21. Good thing, since even three days probably weren't enough to really take in all of the talent on display by some forty local artists and artisans.

Painters working in all styles, sculptors, illustrators, jewelry and furniture makers, potters, printmakers and photographers and mixed media masters opened their studios – in many cases their homes – to hordes of art appreciators who wandered Great Falls with map in hand to see the artists at work and the amazing fruits of their labor. Some of those visitors (including one Connection reporter who shall remain nameless at this point in the story) couldn't resist taking home a few of the pieces that they found along the way.

Many of the tour-goers started their adventure at the welcome stand, hosted by TD Bank, right in the center of town, where tour managers Linda Jones and Vlad Moskowitz were on hand to greet and meet and offer suggestions and information about hands on activities taking place during the tour.

From the TD Bank tour headquarters, without having to re-park the car, "tourists" could easily move over to the Green and visit the gallery at the Artists' Atelier at the Arts of Great Falls School. On Saturday, this gallery, studio and art school featured painters Jill Banks, Joyce Lee, Jennifer Duncan, Elaine Elinksy and John Francis McCabe, along with the photography of Walt



Laura Nichols' Pig Pen Pottery is located on her family's long-held Hidden Springs Farm. In addition to producing beautiful and useful pottery, Nichols enthralled visitors with stories about the farm, the "early days" of Great Falls, and the origins of the Great Falls Studio and the artistic happenings in the community.

Lawrence and the mixed media works of Roberta Beasley.

Lee had her easel all set up and was working away on a beautiful floral painting while Banks talked teaching and inspiration as she stood in the midst of many of her European street and café scene oils.

A SHORT WALK around the corner and painters Cindi Berry, Robin Rosner and Donna Robinson all had their works on display at The Artists' Loft.

If all that fresh air had you hungry, Great Falls Studio partner The Old Brogue and Katie's was handy and another place where local art can often be seen, like at TD Bank, the Great Falls Library and local Brightview Assisted Living.

Before venturing deep into the wooded lanes of Great Falls, there were several stops either on or just off Georgetown Pike, Walker Road, River Bend Road and even the Leesburg Pike.

At one of those stops, three talented ladies – Roberta Drabyk, Ann Noel, and Mary Ellen Mogee — share working space at AHH! (Art Happens Here!) at 717C Walker Road. All three were happy to illustrate the creative process. Drabyk is exploring abstract art in the "color field" style, a movement that was pioneered right in D.C. by artist Kenneth Noland in the 1950s.

Mogee was busy experimenting with the "pouring paint" technique using a flowing, diffusing paint. "I'm still working with it, getting to know it," she said as she "encour-

aged" one of the colors to mix with another to look "more like flower petals." Studio neighbor Noel was a long-time Torpedo Factory artist in Alexandria and is still associated with the facility. During the tour, she had brightly colored portraits and whimsical pieces on display.

For the more intrepid and better map readers – although helpful Art Studio Tours signs with numbers and hundreds of balloons tied to trees helpfully highlighted the way – there were artistic finds well worth a trek off the main road.

Soroush and Moara Parsa, who came from Silver Spring, rather accidentally discovered the tour and are not really familiar with Great Falls, agreed. The long, gravel road that brought them to Hidden Springs Farm, the Farmhouse, and the next door Milk House Studio were well worth the finding.

The pair spent a lengthy time with mixed media artist Ronni Jolles. Soroush was particularly fascinated with the various papers, sourced from around the world, that Jolles uses to create scenes that "almost jump out at you, they are so real."

Hidden Springs Farm is the family home of craftswoman Laura Nichols who is as happy to talk about life on the farm from its early days of angus beef raising as she is to show off her beautiful and utilitarian pottery works, standing in front of the warmth of the large fireplace in her Pig Pen Pottery studio. She can also tell you all about the founding of the Studio Tour "when we started with seven artists and had about 50 guests attending through torrential rains."

AT THE FARM HOUSE up the hill is where Jolles and painter Doreen Montis were to be found, Jolles with her paper paintings, and Montis with a series of oils

SEE ARTISTS, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Artists Meet Community

FROM PAGE 12

featuring local wildlife. “I can spend a lot of time watching the foxes,” said Montis, and her observations certainly come to life on canvas.

Just next door at the Milk House – so named because that is where the family’s cows were indeed milked, the family tradition is carried on by Nichols’ daughter, Jenny. The younger Nichols is a filmmaker by trade, producing documentaries mostly for environmental organizations and causes, but somehow manages to find the time to also create water colors, ink drawings, prints, greeting cards, and even tea towels.

Off of Leigh Mill Road and down another interesting gravel road, Gurusangat Khalsa opened a home that is filled with eclectic, mixed media works, from an imposing metal sculpture. “Yup, I like the fire and the heat of the welder”, she said. She also displayed a large

number of repurposed pieces, using layers of stickers from everyday items painted over, and sometimes given a recycled “something or other” to add to the story that Khalsa sees when she creates.

Penny Ross Burk was stationed in the entryway of the Khalsa home/studio. Burk’s “day job” is as a makeup artist, starting “with the gory stuff for movies” but now mostly for television. On the Saturday of the tour, she was there as an author and illustrator of children’s books and was delighting visitors as she sat and worked on an upcoming new literary endeavour. Working in vivid watercolors, Burk painted her characters in miniature in a small artist’s notebook – the second physical step in her process after pencilling out the creations that she will soon bring to “life.”

It was painfully difficult to choose just this handful among the



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Artist Mary Ellen Mogee experiments with the “pouring paint” style in the Art Happens Here! studio she shares with Roberta Draybk and Ann Noel on Walker Road.

many talented Great Falls artists who participate in the Tour and that choice doesn’t reflect anything but the time and space allowed.

THE GREAT FALLS STUDIOS, officially established in 2003, is an organization of more than 100 independent artists who work in Great Falls in a variety of diverse media. The group maintains a website at www.greatfallsstudios.com that in-

cludes Artist’ Pages with information and contact details about these mentioned artists and their equally talented compatriots. On this site you can even see a virtual gallery showing some of their work. It’s also a good place to keep up with other events, like the “Three Days with the Artists at Hidden Springs Farm” coming up on Nov. 16 through Nov. 18, and the venues that showcase the creations of the Great Falls art community.



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OPINION

Comstock

FROM PAGE 6

❖ **Fighting for our Veterans:** Barbara has fought for better health care and choice for our veterans and she worked with local and federal officials to bring a Veterans Community Access Center to Leesburg – in just 8 months — which now provides a wide range of services for Veterans as well as active duty military personnel and their families.

❖ **Battling the Opioid Crisis:** Barbara has fought the opioid crisis, working with local sheriffs, schools, hospitals, churches, faith-based groups to address the addiction crisis. She fought for \$4 billion in new resources for coordinated responses and treatment as well as law enforcement help. She obtained HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Assistance) for the western part of the district and has led efforts to increase this funding.

❖ **Fighting for Metro Funding:** Barbara has secured \$150 million in funding for Metro every year she has been in Congress – sometimes having to fight attempted cuts by her own Republican colleagues. Barbara also introduced much needed Metro reform legislation that was endorsed by the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce, former D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams and bipartisan leaders and business groups.

❖ **Protecting Dulles Airport:** Barbara has had to fight the extremely powerful Texas Con-

gressional Delegation to protect Dulles Airport when her Texas colleagues tried to change the flights in our region at Reagan and Dulles Airports. With this victory, Dulles Airport will remain a thriving economic engine for our entire region.

❖ **A Stalwart for Federal Employees:** Barbara is the only member of the National Capital Region to never vote for a government shutdown and she firmly believes that we cannot balance the federal budget on the backs of our hardworking federal employees. That is why she worked to broker a bipartisan agreement with her colleagues to include scheduled pay increases for federal employees. The political action committee for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) supports Barbara.

❖ **Preserving our History:** Barbara works with the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and The Journey Through Hallowed Ground and its partners to preserve the hallowed ground of the Valley's Civil War battlefields, to share its Civil War story with the nation, and to encourage tourism and travel to the Valley's Civil War sites and increase economic growth tied to our historic sites, parks, restaurants, and hotels. She has continued to support grants for preserving our historical areas and that is why she has strong support from our heritage community as well as our tourism and hospitality community.

❖ **Tax Cuts for Families and Businesses:** Barbara delivered on tax relief for our families and

businesses; lowering personal tax rates; doubling the child tax credit to \$2k and giving 90 percent of Americans increased take home pay; providing new tax incentives for family leave; lowering utility costs; cutting business taxes by 40 percent and tax cuts for small businesses all helping bring back jobs to the U.S. and grow our economy by over 4 percent. That is why Barbara has the endorsement of the U.S. Chamber, NFIB and all the major business groups – she works with and understands our diverse business community.

❖ **Claude Moore Colonial Farm:** Barbara is fighting to preserve this historical landmark in our community that we supported decades ago and she has introduced legislation to keep the farm open and broker a continued public-private partnership solution so that families can enjoy it for years to come.

For these reasons and more, Barbara Comstock is a leader in every sense of the Virginia way and is always fighting for her constituents and the District. It is important that the region continue to have bipartisan leadership in Congress because one-party domination in our region would ill serve many of our constituencies that need both parties fighting for their interests.

We strongly support her in her re-election to Congress this year, and ask 10th Congressional District residents to vote for her on Nov. 6.

Senator John Warner
Congressman Frank Wolf
Congressman Tom Davis

SNAP

FROM PAGE 6

after mid-November or later.

We have commended many thoughtful Republicans in the US Senate who voted for the constructive Senate version.

Billing the House version as pushing allegedly “lazy” people to find work is demagoguery, because the great majority of SNAP recipients are either people who already have low-wage jobs, seniors,

people with disabilities, or unemployed people who are doing their best to find work, and SNAP already has programs to help people to find work.

SNAP benefits are very small at approximately \$1.43 per person per meal, so there is no incentive for people to avoid work and try to “live off” SNAP, formerly known as food stamps.

This program has a waste and abuse level of a little over 1 percent, which is very good for such

a huge program. There are always a few bad actors in any program involving about 39 million recipients and about 766,000 people in Virginia, and government officials are doing their best to eliminate waste and abuse. The program is sound.

Lee Powell, Economic
Equality Caucus Virginia Committee
J. Walter Tejada, Virginia
Latino Leaders Council

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

FRIDAY/NOV. 2

Introduction to Special Education.
10 a.m.-noon. At Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring; Entrance 1 - Room 100. Workshop that will serve as an orientation for parents new to Special Education. The workshop will outline the special education process and resources will be shared.

Knowledgeable staff will be able to answer your questions. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center to register.

THURSDAY/NOV. 8

Planning Study Open House. 7-9 p.m. at McLean High School Cafeteria, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The community will have the opportunity to view the drafts of

the McLean Community Business Center vision plan and provide feedback. This open house will focus on a refined draft of the vision plan to serve as an illustrative site plan of downtown McLean that will incorporate input from the first open house. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/mclean-cbc-study for more.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 14

FRIDAY/NOV. 9

Collaborative IEP Meetings: Parents as Partners. 10 a.m.-noon. At Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. Parents are essential partners in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process. Join us for this important workshop for parents of children receiving special education services. Participants will explore the IEP process and its components, your role in the IEP meeting, responsibilities of the IEP team members, and planning for your child's IEP meeting. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center to register.

SATURDAY/NOV. 10

Incident Management Open House. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. At VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax. An outdoor touch-a-truck exhibit will feature a simulated crash scene to help the public see an incident from the perspective of first responders who work in the roadway every day. Attendees can watch live demonstrations of patient extrication, towing recovery, drone operations, and tree removal. An indoor expo will feature booths for VDOT incident management coordinators, public affairs, safety manager, signal operations, Safety Service Patrol, and Transportation Operations Center, as well as Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC), and Transurban. The event will also feature food trucks and a kids' zone. Visit vdotopenhouse.eventbrite.com.

MONDAY/NOV. 12

32nd Annual Caregivers Conference. 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St., Alexandria. 32nd Annual Caregivers Conference: Finding Hope & Harmony in Caregiving is presented by the Northern Virginia Dementia Care Consortium. \$35. Register online at www.eventbrite.com/e/32nd-annual-caregivers-conference-finding-hope-harmony-in-caregiving-registration-48699561700. View or download the conference brochure at alz.org/media/nca/documents/NoVA_Dementia_Care_Consortium_Conference_2018.pdf.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 14

Alzheimer's Awareness. 1:30-3 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Free. A speaker from Integrated Neurology Services will present a program about Alzheimer's disease. Learn about the early signs and symptoms, statistics, the genetic component, environmental factors, exercise, as well as ongoing research. Call 703-938-0405; visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4267425>

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 28

Fairfax Commission on Aging Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon at the Hunter Mill District Office, Community Room A, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

Health Seminar. 6-7 p.m. at Rose Wellness, 2944 Hunter Mill Road, Suite 101, Oakton. Michael Liss will talk about the homeopathic approach to treating children with ADHD and ADD. Integrative Nutritionist Elizabeth McMillan will discuss the nutritional aspect. Free. Space is limited. Call 571-529-6699, option 3 to RSVP or visit www.rosewellness.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

There I was, Wednesday evening, Oct. 17, around 6:30, sitting on my living room couch, club sandwich in hand, preparing for the League Championship Series game 5 between my Boston Red Sox and the Houston Astros when as I've done a thousand times before, grabbed the remote to turn on the television. Pressing the usual button, I was distressed to see no picture and hear no sound. Having experienced this kind of disappointment numerous times before, I didn't panic yet. I went about the diagnostic process first.

I checked my remote to see if the batteries were firmly connected, which they were. I then pointed the remote back at the television, but still no response.. Next, as I have been prompted previously under similar circumstances ("Your X-1 platform ..."), I pulled the plug and waited 30-plus seconds before reconnecting. Thirty seconds later, I re-plugged and still my television sat idle. Next I went into my home office to check the status of my computer since they're "cableized" together. The lights on my modem were flashing (a hopeful sign) so I clicked on one of my desk top icons and was met with the dreaded "No internet connection," confirming my worst suspicion. For the moment, 90 minutes before game time, I was out of service (heck, I was out of luck). Finally, I called my cable provider for clarification/further confirmation when I was met with the equally dreaded pre-recorded message: "There has been a service interruption in your area. Service is expected to be restored tomorrow afternoon." "TOMORROW AFTER-NOON? THE GAME IS TONIGHT!" That was the exclamation I can print. What came next was not particularly complimentary.

For the next hour or so I puttered and muttered and did nothing to improve my circumstances. At 9:30 pm I called my brother to get a score. (He lives in Washington, DC and has a smart phone. I live in Maryland and have a flip phone, a k a "stupid phone"). Unfortunately, he had left his cell phone in another room and didn't hear my call. Frustrated, I swore yet again and trudged upstairs to go to bed. After getting into my "jammies," I laid down in bed and rolled onto my left side to set the alarm on my clock radio when it hit me (not the clock radio); the baseball game is being broadcast on the radio! And so I scrolled the dial on the clock radio until I heard ESPN radio broadcasters John Shambee and Jessica Mendoza calling the game. If I can't watch the game, I can certainly listen to it. And so I did, just like I did as a "little-leaguer" all those many years ago listening to Ken Coleman and Ned Martin of the "Boston Red Sox radio network" while living on Athelstane Road in Newton Centre, Ma. Except this time, I wasn't clutching a transistor radio. I was hands free, listening.

For the next nearly three hours, I laid in bed and listened. Most of the broadcast I heard and some of it I missed as occasionally I fell asleep. But for a time I was transported back in time sort of, before cable television proliferated when the games were broadcast almost exclusively on radio and baseball was seen through the eyes of those sitting in the "Catbird seat," to quote the legendary Red Barber. Listening to how they described what they saw during the game was how many of my generation - and the preceding generation, fell in love with baseball: "How about that!" to quote the late, great, Mel Allen.

It was a late night, but happily, for me and Red Sox Nation, the Sox won and will now be returning to the World Series for the first time since 2013. Game one will be Tuesday night, Oct. 23. I can't imagine that there will be a repeat non-performance from my cable provider, but if there is, and I am forced to go to plan "B", radio, I will do so. The circumstances got us a win in game five, so there's no reason to think it wouldn't get us a win in game one, too. After all, it's not only the ballplayers that are superstitious.

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

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