

Hadeed
ORIENTAL RUG CLEANING
AND IN-HOME SERVICES

OUR BEST OFFER EVER!

In Plant Express or Signature Rug Cleaning

FOR EVERY 2 RUGS CLEANED GET THE 3RD RUGS CLEANED **FREE!**

SAVE up to 35%

ANY TYPE OF RUG, ANY PRICE LEVEL, WE HAVE A SOLUTION FOR YOU!

703-836-1111 | JoeHadeed.com | FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY!† *Hurry! Offer Expires 3/3/19. Get the third rug of equal or smaller size for free. Not valid w/any other offers.

Great Falls

CONNECTION

Inside

PET CONNECTION

Senior Living

PAGE 7

Michelle Zadeh, Great Falls resident, Real Estate Agent with Gigi, Shih Tzu: “She just brings a lot of joy and happiness into our life.”



Best Friends of Great Falls

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 4

No Property Tax Rate Increase
And Fully Funded Public Schools

NEWS, PAGE 3

Great Falls
Safeway Renovated

NEWS, PAGE 2

PRSR

STD

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

EASTON, MD

PERMIT #322

POSTAL CUSTOMER

ECR WSS

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

REQUESTED IN HOME 2-28-19

PHOTO BY MAGGIE GIORDANO/THE CONNECTION

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

NEWS

Great Falls Safeway Renovated

Company execs and local dignitaries celebrate Safeway remodel with ribbon-cutting, food and fun.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Store Director Mike Stuckwisch was pleased to welcome customers to the official reopening of the Great Falls Safeway at 9881 Georgetown Pike on Feb. 16 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, live music by the New Line Brass Band, plenty of snacks and even some free gifts to thank the community for their patience during the significant remodel.

A number of senior members of the Safeway company were on hand to mark the occasion and highlight the numerous enhancements to the grocery store that has been a staple in the Great Falls village for years. Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust and Great Falls Citizens Association President Bill Canis also stopped by, each offering remarks welcoming the improved offerings to area shoppers. "We are pleased to share renovations that enhance our customers' shopping experience," said Tom Lofland, President of Safeway's Eastern Division, in a statement. "Our Great Falls customers are sure to enjoy the newly renovated store."



The Shepherd Center of Great Falls accepts a donation to their nonprofit organization from Safeway, during the store's remodelling celebration. Safeway also made a donation to Best Buddies Langley, a group from Langley High School that raises funds while raising awareness to support persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

More space and more selection have been added to a number of

departments.

The meat and seafood department now offers a "service meat case" where shoppers can purchase custom-cut meats from the Safeway butchers and find an increased selection of natural and organic meats. The same goes for the seafood offerings, with an ex-



Great Falls Safeway Store Director Mike Stuckwisch offers the welcome to the store's grand re-opening ceremony on Feb. 16.



Great Falls Citizens Association president Bill Canis says a few words at the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Great Falls Safeway renovations.

panded selection of wild, natural and organic seafood choices.

The deli has added Italian specialty meats and expanded their cheese selection and now offers more prepared foods, including hot items, salads and sandwiches. Also on offer are Dietz and Watson Original antibiotic-free meats and cheeses.

The enhancements continue into the produce, bakery, and floral departments with new fixtures, refrigerated units and displays and more in-store made items.

Produce increases fresh-cut, in-store fruits and vegetables, refrigerated juices and kombucha. The bakery adds a new display case featuring gourmet single cupcakes and there is a grab-and-go dessert case with signature cakes. There's even a new cream island case with

a large assortment of single serve desserts, gourmet cream goods and fresh fruit desserts. The bakers also now offer a wide assortment of artisan dinner breads in another new case.

More home decor and home goods enhance the floral department.

In the renovation, more space has been dedicated to the beer and wine department where shoppers will find more premium wines and a larger selection of local craft beers.

Stuckwisch and team are excited to welcome their neighbors to the enhanced Safeway from 5 a.m. until 11 p.m. seven days a week with additional self-checkouts and services for time-saving and convenience.

State Farm Insurance G. STEPHEN DULANEY

IN GREAT FALLS

State Farm
AUTO • HOME • LIFE
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Like A Good Neighbor, State Farm Is There.®

Open Saturdays

Complementary Insurance and Financial Review

Visit www.gstephendulaney.com



703-759-4155

731-C WALKER RD. • GREAT FALLS, VA

State Farm Insurance Companies
Home Office Bloomington, Illinois

Proud Supporter of Military Appreciation Mondays



JOHNS HOPKINS IN DC

LEARN MORE
ADVANCED.JHU.EDU/OPENHOUSE

1717 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. NW, SUITE 101 | WASHINGTON, DC
20036 1.800.847.3330 | 202.452.1940

No Property Tax Rate Increase and Fully Funded Public Schools

County executive presents proposed FY 2020 budget.

ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

After several years of contentious budget wrangling, an increase in the tax rate, and negotiations forced to “kick-the-can” on many funding requests due to fiscal obstacles in a sluggish local economy, the proposed Fairfax County FY 2020 Budget still presents its challenges, but the county supervisors see progress and reason for optimism.

“There’s more good news than bad,” was Supervisor Jeff McKay’s (Lee District) reaction to County Executive Bryan Hill’s presentation to the Board on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

McKay is the chair of the Board of Supervisors’ budget committee, and while he and other supervisors still expressed some concerns, particularly over the additional monies required of the county to fund Metro, and the lack of funds to support much needed transportation and infrastructure improvements, the initial draft was generally met with a sense of “having something we can work with.”

McKay, board chair Sharon Bulova and others thanked Hill and county CFO Joe Mondoro for a proposed budget of \$4.4 billion that fully funds Fairfax County Public Schools, allows for raises that help align teachers’ salaries with neighboring jurisdictions and modest Market Rate Adjustments and longevity increases for county employees. The proposal also supports board priorities such as the Diversion First Program, Gang and Opioid Prevention efforts, Early Childhood and Environmental initiatives, and staffing and training for the South County Police Center and Animal Shelter that the county hopes to see operational by 2022.

Thanks to an increase in property values last year, more commercial properties added to the tax rolls, and economies and efficiencies instituted by Hill and the county, the proposed budget achieves these funding objectives without suggesting an increase to the residential real estate rate — the main source of the county’s revenue.

“This Advertised Budget assumes no change in the tax rate of \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed property value,” said Hill.

Helping things along financially was Virginia’s economic recovery from the recession and from sequestration.

“Our growth has finally picked up,” said Hill, noting a decline in office space vacancy rates, an increase in government contract spending, and employment gains in the Washington Metro region that rose above



County Executive Bryan Hill presents the proposed FY 2020 to the Board of Supervisors on Feb. 19. A series of public hearings and district town halls are slated before the budget’s markup and adoption, with Hill urging citizens to learn all the facts on the county’s website and get involved. “Your voice matters.”

historical averages in 2018. The county is also expecting a positive impact from the selection of Northern Virginia as a second headquarters for Amazon.

On the other side of the scale, Hill reminded that “no one yet really knows the true effect of the recent partial government shutdown.” In addition, the failure of the current General Assembly session to restore transportation funds to the region has pushed a number of projects further from their anticipated start or completion dates.

Without those funds, work to improve safety and traffic flow on roads like the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways will no doubt be negatively affected, according to Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, who added that “citizens need to know the facts, that even with 3 percent growth in the county, it’s still a struggle to meet our needs. We need their help.”

Several of the supervisors posed budget questions for Hill and Mondoro. The answers to their questions will be forthcoming at one of the Budget Committee meetings, and Hill also noted that the responses would be made available to the public on the county’s Management and Budget website.

While there is no assumption of a tax rate increase, other “non-general fund tax rate” service fees will see slight increases. Sewer Base Charges will rise from “\$30.38 per quarter, to \$32.91, the Sewer Availability

Charge (residential) will increase from \$8,100 to \$8,340 and the Sewer Service Charge will rise from \$7.00 to \$7.28 per 1,000 gallons.

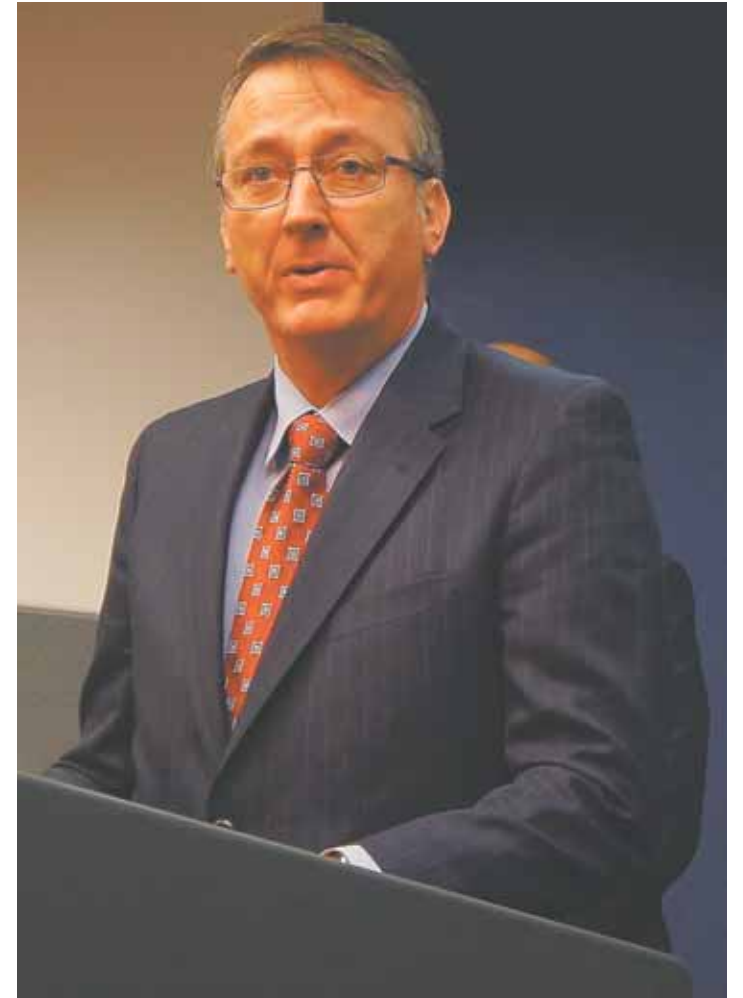
After the Budget presentation, Hill, CFO Mondoro, and Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools Scott Brabrand held a joint Q&A with media representatives.

“This is a superintendent’s dream,” said Brabrand in his remarks, “to be able to work with a county executive and to have the kind of relationship we are creating between the School Board and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. This is the right way to do business.”

To Brabrand, this budget “puts the needs of students first, the needs of the school system first.” He expressed “delight” that the budget is “finishing the work to make our teachers market competitive. We want the best and brightest teachers and support staff” so that the system can continue to provide an outstanding educational experience for the benefit of the entire community.

Brabrand vowed to continue the FCPS’s focus on One Fairfax to strive for equity in all aspects of its operation, and to continue collaborating with the Fairfax County government.

Hill ended on a positive note, saying that while he was disappointed that not all funding requests could be met as “we manage within our means to meet our 5 percent



Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools Scott Brabrand said he was “delighted” about the level of collaboration being created between the School Board and the county Board of Supervisors, and pleased that the FY 2020 proposed budget “puts the needs of students first, the needs of the school system first.”

needs on 3 percent growth,” many unfunded priorities from past years were finally being addressed. He also urged citizens to “get involved. All of the information is readily available. Your voice matters.”

Each district will host at least one budget town hall — with either Hill or Mondoro or both in attendance — before the Board of Supervisors holds public hearings and before the budget goes to “mark-up” on April 30, with adoption slated for the board meeting on May 7.

Public hearings before the board will be held on April 9 at 4 p.m. and on April 10 and 11 at 1 p.m. All meetings will take place at the Fairfax County Government Center in the Board Auditorium. Persons who wish to speak at a public hearing need to sign up with the Clerk by calling 703-324-3151, or by form at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form. Written testimony for the record can also be emailed to the Clerk’s Office at clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov.

A 37-page Summary of the Budget, a reader-friendly two-page highlights document, as well as complete information on the budget process, timeline, meetings and more are all available on the county’s website, search “budget.” Information on the town hall meetings can be found at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2020-budget-town-hall-meetings>.

Best Friends of Great Falls

PHOTOS BY MAGGIE GIORDANO/THE CONNECTION

It's no secret that the Great Falls community is full of animal lovers. Pets of all kinds can be found in the homes. However, dogs seem to be a popular choice for many. There is not just one favored type of dog breed found here. In fact, many different breeds of all shapes and sizes can be spotted, and each has its own special qualities that make it into the hearts of its owners. Here are some things that a few people had to say about their beloved dogs and what makes them so special.

—MAGGIE GIORDANO



Sonya Bingham, Leesburg resident, Junior Groomer at Great Dogs of Great Falls, with Nut, Miniature Poodle: “He is kind of a pain, but he is a little bit of a clown at the same time. He’s a very sweet little dog; he makes me laugh. He gets on my nerves and it’s hard to get mad at him because he’s so cute. He’s still a puppy so it’s easy to forgive him.”



Katie Fultz, Great Falls resident, with Mick, Black lab and Pit Bull mix: “He’s my best friend. He’s been my best friend for 8 years. He’s like my shadow; he’s always close by. When I’m happy he’s happy, when I’m sad he won’t leave my side. He’s crazy smart. He also knows how to use a zipper, so you can’t have any food inside a purse or backpack because he will find it.”

Phil Fairclough, Great Falls resident, Television Producer, with Bella, Goldendoodle: “I like her speed. She’s pretty quiet. She’s pretty fast; she’s deceptively quick. And you know, she’s amusing. She’s quite nice to look at. She’s not obnoxious. She’s a very good guard dog because she’s loud.”



Michelle Zadeh, Great Falls resident, Real Estate Agent with Gigi, Shih Tzu: “Gigi brought so much positive energy into our household. We never owned any pets before, and this was our first pet ever and I regretted not having more pets a long time ago. She just brings a lot of joy and happiness into our life. They give you unconditional love. Any mood that you are in, they can feel it and just them being there changes your mood.”

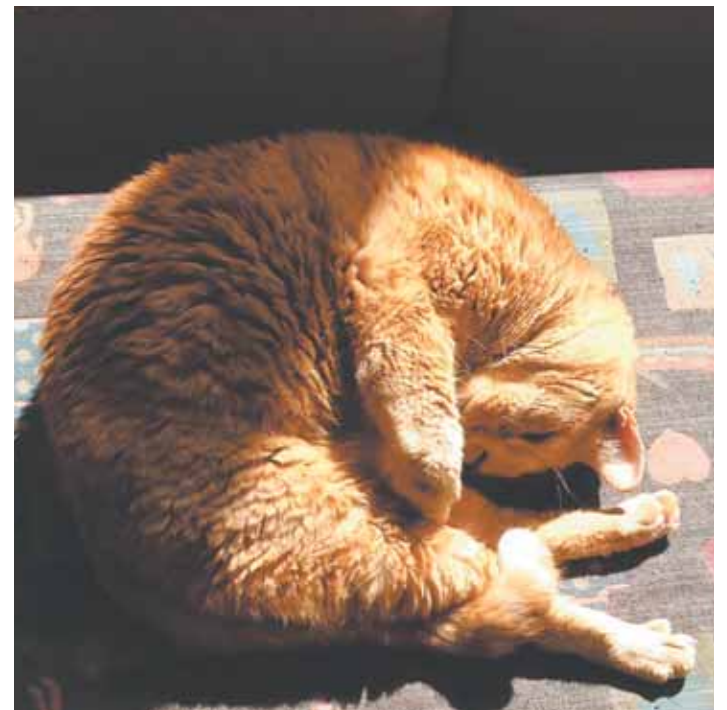


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mr. Giant

Meet Mr. Giant

Mr. Giant is a fourteen year old orange tabby adopted from the county animal shelter when he was 18 months old. He had almost identical two brothers with him at the shelter and thankfully they found homes also. Although he does not have the spring in his step as he once did - like to jump on the kitchen counter - he still manages to climb and jump up to the high places to overlook and supervise the household. Mr. Giant loves to be on my lap, is in constant need to head rubs, sleeps by the warm radiator in winter, counts cars out of the window and will find and curl up in any available sun patch as the picture shows. He loves to meow, coo and purr and to be in the room with his humans. He is a precious, gentle and soft companion and I am lucky to have him here — writes Jack O. Nutter of Great Falls.

PET CONNECTION

Finding Sprite, the Rat

I recently visited the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to drop off some pet food donations. In addition to seeing bunnies and the most adorable bonded pair of kittens, I also met a little white rat named Sprite. I had no idea that rats could be so affectionate, curious and sweet. Turns out rats make great pets and you can even teach them tricks. If you are looking for a new pet but don't have a lot of room, consider stopping by the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to see if Sprite still needs a home.

— SHARON BULOVA,
CHAIRMAN OF THE FAIRFAX
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Sharon Bulova and Sprite



Jessie Brings Fun and Love

This is our beautiful Jessie playing with her toys. She was my first foster for Operation Paws for Homes three years ago and we knew within days that we were adopting her. We will never know how she ended up at a South Carolina shelter. She was house trained and knew some commands. She brings so much fun and love to our home. And she loves playing with other foster dogs. OPHrescue.org always needs fosters and volunteers to help shelter dogs find new homes — writes Karen Alden, Volunteer - Operation Paws for Homes in Great Falls.

THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online

Our audience of thousands will spend millions on homes during the 2019 spring buying spree. Begin your repetitive advertising campaign through our digital, social media and print platforms in this special publication!



HomeLifeStyle

REAL ESTATE & REMODELING FOCUS

Your ads in Connection Newspapers' 15 demographically segmented markets appear in print and digital editions on our Web sites, reaching affluent viewers and readers.

Publishes:
March 13, 2019
Advertising Closes:
March 7, 2019

Call 703.778.9431

Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com
Visit connectionnewspapers.com/advertising

Perfect Marketing Opportunity for:

New Homes | Resale Homes | Home Financing | Home Improvement | Landscaping Pools | Hot Tubs | Home Decorating | Interior Design | Home Furnishings

Past issues of

THE CONNECTION

NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

Robert Beatson II

Attorney/Accountant,
Former IRS Attorney
Admitted to DC, MD, VA & NY Bars

**All Types of Federal, State,
Local & Foreign Taxes**

Individual • Business
Trusts • Estates • Wills
Amended & Late Returns
Back Taxes • IRS Audits
• Civil Litigation
Business Law • Contracts

**703-798-3590 or
301-340-2951**
www.beatsonlaw.com

**Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!**

10% down
nothing until the job
is complete for the
past 17 years

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



**Free Estimates
703-214-8384**



Select your
products from
our Mobile
Showroom
and Design
Center

Fully Insured &
Class A Licensed
Since 1999



Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

OPINION

Consider a Greyhound

BY JENNY HARROP

What would you say to having a greyhound as a pet? It needs too much space. I could never give it enough exercise. That's not the dog for me. That is what I thought too. Please reconsider. This past November, Florida voters voted to close all of the state's greyhound racing tracks by the year 2020. There are 11 tracks in Florida, each with hundreds of dogs, many of whom will need homes. So, if you are thinking of adding a dog to your family in the next year, please consider a greyhound.

Many of the commonly held assumptions about the breed are just not true, in fact, quite the opposite. The greyhounds have a nickname of the "40 MPH couch potato." While they can go 40 MPH on the track, once they retire they are very content to lounge around the house. My greyhound gets a short walk in the morning, a 30-minute mid-day walk, and a short walk in the evening.

People think greyhounds need a lot of space and fenced in yards. Would you believe they are on the American Kennel Club's list of best apartment dogs? We live in a townhouse and our greyhound does just fine. They do need to be kept on a lead when they are outside. They are sighthounds and can bolt after squirrels or birds.

There are two other aspects of the breed I'd like to highlight. First, they are incredibly sweet and docile. People think otherwise because



Dutch Julie: Retired racing greyhound.

they are often pictured in their muzzles at the track. They wear these because they have very fragile skin and the muzzles protect them from injuries. Second, in terms of grooming they are very low maintenance. A bath a couple times a year and some brushing does the trick. They do have fast growing nails that need regular trimming, and as mouth breathers, they require regular dental care. Because they are bred and raised at the tracks they are used to being handled by humans so vet visits are not an issue.

It is surprisingly easy to meet and adopt a greyhound. The local adoptions groups – listed below – frequently have "meet and greets" where you can ask questions and see some greyhounds. Once you adopt your greyhound, the groups are very supportive. My early owner questions were answered within 24 hours,



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Jenny and Ken Harrop with Julie on her "gotcha day."

sometimes by multiple volunteers.

So please, if you might be getting a dog soon – be sure to meet a greyhound and research the breed a bit. They make wonderful pets and there are many who will need homes in the not too distant future.

Local Greyhound Adoption Groups:

Blue Ridge Greyhound Adoption – www.brga.org

Virginia greyhound Adoption – www.viriniagreyhounds.org

James River Greyhounds – www.jamesrivergreyhounds.org

Greyhound Pets of America – Northern Virginia www.gpa-nova.org



Luka needs a home.

Finding Home for Luka

Karen Alden, Volunteer with Operation Paws for Homes in Great Falls, trying to find a home for Luka who has been with the rescue for awhile. "Luka is one of the special dogs. Luka has been described as Handsome, 2 years young, 42 pounds; Shepherd mix with an awesome curling tail; Smart, knows lots of commands; Loves people and a good treat; Fit, athletic, energetic; Protective of his handler; Big fenced yard ideal. Needs a confident experienced handler. Text or call Drew 410-707-4966. Ophrescue.org



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Great Falls
CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

**1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Salome Howard-Gaibler
Display Advertising
703-415-5394
salome@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

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

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

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

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



Giving Up the Car Keys?

Recognizing warning signs that it might be time to stop driving.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Tracy Palmer didn't see the accident, but she received a frantic call that every parent dreads: her 11-year-old son had been hit by a car.

"We were on vacation visiting my brother and I'd gone to get coffee and my phone rang," she said. "My brother told that an 82-year old woman hit my son while he and a few of his cousins were sitting just off the driveway drawing with chalk. She never saw the kids and when she hit my son she thought she'd hit a ball, so she kept going. Thank God one of the neighbors saw it and stopped her."

After eight days in the intensive care unit, Palmer's son is on the mend, but Palmer who works as an attorney in Arlington, however, is furious that the elderly driver was allowed behind the wheel of a car in the first place.

Monitoring one's driving abilities is an essential part of our overall healthcare, especially as one ages. "There's no cutoff age for when a person should stop driving. But as we age, our joints can become stiff, our reflexes slow down and our ability to make split-second judgement calls or stop on a dime can become impaired," said Dana Kilgore, MSPT. "Our bodies also become

more frail as we age, so the impact of a car accident would probably do more harm to a 85-year old than a 25-year old."

It is important for seniors and their families to pay close to attention to the warning signs that it's time to reduce one's driving or stop it all together, says psychologist Donna Goldstein, Psy.D. "If you notice an increased number scratches or dents on

that mom or dad's car, especially if they've always been a good driver, that could be an indicator," she said. "Getting traffic tickets, getting lost frequently, running stop signs

or traffic lights, those are all signs that it might be time to leave the driving to someone else."

Accepting the fact that it's time to stop driving can be difficult. "A driver's license isn't just a plastic card with a bad picture that you keep in your wallet," said Lisa Dombo, LPC, Ed.D, a marriage and family therapist in McLean. "It means freedom and independence. It's hard for anyone to want to give that up. That's one of the reasons why it can be so hard for people to convince someone that they need to stop driving."

That is a lesson that Naomi O'Conner learned one weekend this winter when she made plans with friends to take in a designer sample sale that was happening about two-miles from her house. Her 86-year old mother had agreed to babysit her 7 and 9-year old children. But the weather took a frosty turn and threw her plans into a tailspin.

"My mom lives a mile away from me and has always been my most dependable backup babysitter for weeknights, but when the snow started falling, I knew that I could not let her get on the road in that weather," said O'Conner who lives in Bethesda. "It was for her safety and everybody else who'd be on road. Unfortunately, she kept insisting that

she would be fine and even became a little peeved that I was suggesting that she was too old. Too keep her off the road, I had to concoct a story about one of my friends getting sick and canceling the plans."

The thought of suggesting to a loved one that it's time to give up their car keys can be daunting. Dombo says that there are steps that one can take to make such a conversation less intimidating. "This is a very sensitive issue for many people because it means dramatic change in lifestyle and having less control over ourselves," she said. "It's important to be respectful and not talk to them like they are a child. Give specific examples instead of making general statements and try not to have the conversation alone. It's usually more effective to have the conversation with a group of family members."

Demonstrating an understand of the what reduced driving means is also important, suggests Goldstein. "You must show empathy," she said. "This type of transition can lead to depression for some seniors. Offering alternatives like gift certificates for cab rides or Uber or Lyft can be good. Coming up with a plan to remain socially active and to run errands and get to doctor's appointments. But this type of life transition is not easy, but it is possible to live a rich, full life without a car."

garai
ORTHODONTIC
SPECIALISTS
BracesVIP.com



Dr. Allen S. Garai

- Specialist in Orthodontics
- Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics (Board Certified)
- VIP Top 1% Invisalign Provider
- Attending Faculty - Orthodontic Department Children's Washington Hospital
- Over 15 years teaching orthodontics and private practice

"BEST ORTHODONTIST"
Washingtonian Magazine
Family Living Magazine

"TOP ORTHODONTISTS"
Northern Virginia Magazine
Virginia Living
Health & Beauty Magazine



- Orthodontic specialist for the entire family
- The American Association of Orthodontics recommends seeing an orthodontist at age 7

*Schedule your Complimentary
Consultation Today!*

Vienna
427 Maple Ave West
Vienna, VA 22180
BracesVIP.com
(703) 281-4868



Great Falls
9912D Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, VA 22066
BracesVIP.com
(703) 281-4868

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

**McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER
2019 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION**



Want to be a community leader?

Run for a seat on our governing board!

We're looking for residents of Small District 1A, Dranesville, who wish to serve their community by playing a lead role in helping to carry out MCC's mission.

Candidate Petition Packets may be picked up at the Center starting January 22.

Visit the Center at: 1234 INGLESIDE AVE., MCLEAN, VA 22101

Call: 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 Email: ELECTIONS@MCLEANCENTER.ORG

Visit: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/MCLEAN-CENTER-ELECTION](https://tinyurl.com/mclean-center-election)



PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2021 Programs

Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

The governing board and staff of the McLean Community Center seek **input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at a Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2021 (which runs July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021).

This is an opportunity for residents to suggest class offerings, community events, theater programs, art exhibits, tours, youth events and teen activities that are meaningful to the community.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You may also submit comments in writing to holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov.



The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 27

Foreign-Language Film. 1 p.m. At The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free admission. Come enjoy foreign films selected by The Alden staff, then stay after for a discussion backstage in The Alden's green room. All movies are shown in the original language with English subtitles. Foreign-language films will be shown at 1 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of the month through May. These movies are chosen for adult audiences and may contain mature content, language and themes. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Holy Happy Hour Recital Series. 6:15 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Featuring Nicholas Quardokus, Organ Scholar at St. Paul's Parish in Washington, D.C., the 30-minute musical offering will be followed by wine, hor d'oeuvres and fellowship. Free and open to the public; a good will offering to support the music department will be taken. Visit www.Lewinsville.org or call 703-356-7200.

THURSDAY/FEB. 28

Movie Screening: "Angst." 7-8:30 p.m. at Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Join the Safe Community Coalition and Langley High School PTSA for a showing of "Angst: Raising Awareness Around Anxiety." Free. Recommended for 6th grade and up. Email gina@stationwagon.com for more.

Burke Historical Society Speaker. 7:30 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Mary Lipsey will share stories from her latest book, *Aviation: From Curiosity to Reality*. Learn about the early years of flight and some of the less-remembered pioneers. Visit burkehistoricalsociety.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 1-3

Tysons Library Book Sale. 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 and \$10 per bag sale on Sunday. Volunteers needed. Email tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com or call 703-790-4031 or 703-338-3307 for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 3

Maple Syrup Fresh from the Trees. Noon-2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. See sap dripping into collection pails on the trees, and discover the surprising amount of sap it takes to make just a little syrup. Taste the combination of maple syrup over cornbread made from the mill's cornmeal, while supplies last. \$5 per person for visitors age 3-adult. No reservations are required. This is an outdoor program, dress for the weather. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

Winter Concerts: Al Petteway & Amy White. 4 and 6 p.m. seatings at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. The Old Brogue Irish Pub of Great Falls and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 30th season of family friendly, Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts performed in a listening room by the fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance at oldbrogue.com: \$18 general admission; \$12 children.



Live Music: Rebecca Loebe

Before signing her first record deal last year, Loebe had made her national television debut on the first season of *The Voice*. Catch Loebe in concert with her full band as she celebrates the release of her fifth studio album *Give Up Your Ghosts*. Sunday, March 3, 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. \$15-\$20. Call 703-255-1566 or visit www.jamminjava.com for more.



House of Hamill: Brian Buchanan and Rose Baldino

Live Music: House of Hamill

Maggiano's Concert Series will present an early St. Patrick's Day performance with national touring artists, House of Hamill. Area audiences may recognize Brian Buchanan, a front man with the Toronto-based Celtic folk-rockers, Enter the Haggis. Buchanan's musical partner for this duo project is Rose Baldino, a fiddler, vocalist, and former bandleader of the Celtic folk band, Burning Bridget Cleary. Baldino and Buchanan launched House of Hamill in 2015. The couple was married in 2017 and they began touring nationally. Thursday, March 7 at Maggiano's Little Italy – Tysons Corner, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Showtime is 7 p.m. with the option of a pre-concert early admission experience at 6. 18 and older. \$25-\$45. Call 703-893-5810 or reserve tickets at www.eventbrite.com (search House of Hamill).

Live Music: Rebecca Loebe. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Catch Loebe in concert with her full band as she celebrates the release of her fifth studio album *Give Up Your Ghosts*. \$15-\$20. Call 703-255-1566 or visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 7

Mah Jongg Lessons. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Three-session Mah Jongg class for beginners taught by Iva Gresko. Plan to attend all three sessions (March 7, 14, 21). Enrollment is limited. \$85, includes nine hours of lessons and

includes the 2018 National Mah Jongg League Playing Card. To register, send a check made out to WoTRS to Iva Gresko, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church, VA 22043. Include your email address, home address, and home and cell phone numbers. Your check is your registration. Contact Iva Gresko 703-532-2217.

Live Music: House of Hamill. 7 p.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy – Tysons Corner, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Maggiano's Concert Series will present an early St. Patrick's Day performance with national touring artists, House of Hamill. Showtime is

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

7 p.m. with the option of a pre-concert early admission experience at 6. 18 and older. \$25-\$45. Call 703-893-5810 or reserve tickets at www.eventbrite.com (search House of Hamill).

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 7-9

Oleanna. 8-10 p.m. At the Italian Cafe. 7161 Lee Highway, Falls Church. "Oleanna" – The Providence Players, in partnership with the Italian Caf restaurant in Falls Church, perform a special theater engagement of David Mamet's Oleanna. Originally staged during the aftermath of the Anita Hill hearings, David Mamet's 1992 Oleanna electrified and enraged audiences and was described as "a buzz saw of gender, sex, and power". Oleanna takes on new life in the #metoo movement and the power of this production will be enhanced by the intimate setting of the Italian Caf restaurant itself. Cost is \$10. Visit the website: www.providenceplayers.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 8

Be My Neighbor? 7:30-10:30 p.m. At Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Movie Night: Won't You Be My Neighbor? Join Unity of Fairfax on the second Friday of the month for mindful movies. "Won't You Be My Neighbor" is a documentary about the lasting legacy of Mister Fred Rogers. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mystical-movie-night-wont-you-be-my-neighbor-tickets-57048925873>

SUNDAY/MARCH 10

Washington Saxophone Quartet. 4 p.m. At Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at the door or online at <http://www.amadeusconcerts.com>. Students 17 and under and active military are admitted free of charge. A pre-concert lecture by Music Director A. Scott Wood will begin at 3:15 p.m. A reception will follow the concert, at which attendees may meet and chat with the performers and fellow music lovers.

Winter Concerts: Beth Patterson. 4 and 6 p.m. seatings at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. The Old Brogue Irish Pub of Great Falls and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 30th season of family friendly, Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts performed in a listening room by the fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance at oldbrogue.com: \$18 general admission; \$12 children. Visit www.oldbrogue.com or call the Old Brogue at 703-759-3309.

MONDAY/MARCH 11

Internet and Net Neutrality. 7-8:30 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Free. In 2017, the FCC decided to eliminate open Internet access, firing widespread speculation about whether this would result in an Internet lacking in rules and consumer protections. Hear about the debate, how the FCC's action will affect Internet users, and what happens next. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4708859>

SCOV Lunch n Life. At Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Cost: \$15/person payment due by March 4, 2019. RSVP to SCOV office@scov.org – 703-281-0538.



Gazebo on the Green, by Robert Gilbert

'Near and Far' Exhibit to Open at TD Bank

Robert Gilbert, a local artist, will have a small solo exhibit of his watercolors at the TD Bank in Great Falls (9901 Georgetown Pike). The title of the exhibit is "Near and Far." The paintings are hanging in

the quiet, professional looking lobby out of the traffic flow from the front entry. The paintings are watercolors of two local scenes and two of New York. They are framed and priced at \$350 each. The exhibit runs from March 6 to April 5.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

Movie Series: New Disney Classics. 12:30 p.m. at The Alden Community Hall, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden is kicking off a new film

series with "new Disney Classics" – those that were loved during the 1990s. The films will be shown at 12:30 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month through June. Free admission. Visit mcleancenter.org/performing-arts for more.

ANY TYPE OF RUG, ANY PRICE LEVEL, WE HAVE A SOLUTION FOR YOU!

Hadeed, The People You've Trusted for Over 82 Years, Now Bring the Same Quality Cleaning to Everyone!

Now Servicing Every Type of Rug from Machine Made Synthetic to the Finest Handmade Silk. We Bring the Same Quality to Everyone with Our Multi-Pricing Level Menu that will Match Your Rug.

OUR BEST OFFER EVER! In Plant Rug Cleaning **SAVE up to 35%**

FOR EVERY 2ND RUGS CLEANED GET THE 3RD FREE!

3 Rugs = 1 Cleaned FREE! • 6 Rugs = 2 Cleaned FREE! • 9 Rugs = 3 Cleaned FREE! On & On

*Hurry! Offer Expires 3/3/19. Valid on Express or Signature Rug Cleaning Services. Get the third rug of equal or smaller size for free. Not valid w/any other offers.

IN-PLANT RUG RESTORATION Expires 3/3/19. Not valid w/any other offers.	10% off*
WALL-TO-WALL CARPET STEAM CLEANING OR HARDWOOD FLOOR CLEANING & POLISHING Expires 3/3/19. Not valid w/any other offers.	20% off*

HADEED SINCE 1929 **FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY!**

Oriental Rug Cleaning & In-Home Services

535 W. Maple Avenue Vienna, VA	4918 Wisconsin Ave. DC/MD	3206 Duke Street Alexandria, VA	6628 Electronic Dr. Springfield VA	3116 W. Moore Street Richmond VA
-----------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Grand Opening! » 330 North Stonestreet Ave., Suite A, Rockville, MD

703-836-1111 | JoeHadeed.com

†Available in MD, DC, & VA. Min. order required, some restrictions apply. Doesn't include breakables. Call for details.

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

The McLean Traveler



2019 Philadelphia Flower Show
Thursday, March 7, 6:45 a.m. - 8 p.m.
\$138/\$133 MCC district residents

The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trip

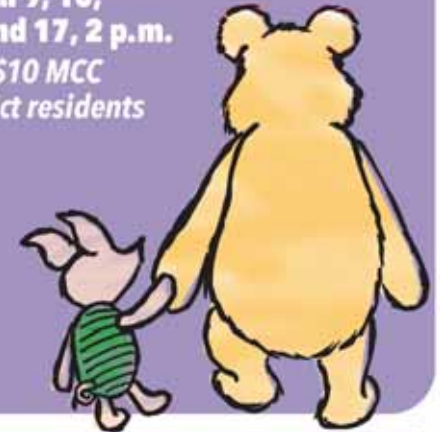


Captain Marvel Night
Friday, March 8, 4-11 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$45/\$35 OFC Members

Alden Spring Production



"Winnie the Pooh"
Saturdays and Sundays
March 9, 10, 16 and 17, 2 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents



Presented by The Alden



"Brush Up Your Shakespeare"
Wednesday, March 13, 7 p.m.
\$7/\$5 MCC district residents



GLOW PARTY

The Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Party
Friday, March 15, 7-9 p.m.
\$35/\$25 MCC district residents
Preregistration is highly recommended.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org
703-790-0123, TTY: 711

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101

Announcements

We pay top \$ for STERLING,
MEN'S WATCHES,
JEWELRY, COSTUME JEWELRY,
FURNITURE, PAINTINGS AND CLOCKS.
Schefer Antiques
703-241-0790
theschefer@cox.net

Employment

Hiring for Veterinary Assistant
and Receptionist in Great
Falls. Will train. Please view
ourvets.com and contact us
at 703.757.7570.

Announcements

Employment

**Forget Daily
Commuting**

**Print and digital media
sales consultant for area's
most popular and trusted
local news source**

Manage your own hours from home
Enjoy flexible schedule
plus no daily commute
Help local businesses grow
Unique opportunity to be a
voice in your community
Competitive compensation

Call Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
Connection Newspapers & Digital Media
Trusted Connection to Local Communities

Announcements

OUTER BANKS, NC - VACATION RENTALS

Over 500 vacation
homes from
S. Nags Head
to Corolla's 4x4!

**Brindley
Beach**
VACATIONS & SALES

877-642-3224
www.brindleybeach.com

Announcements

Announcements

FREDERICKSBURG RV SHOW

**GREAT
DEALS**



**BEST TIME
TO BUY**

RV SHOW FREDERICKSBURG VA

MARCH 1-2-3, 2019

Fredericksburg Expo Center



Friday, March 1
1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 2
10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 3
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Adults: \$10, Seniors: \$9
Kids under 12 Free
Seniors: \$5 (Friday Only)

Manufacturer Rebates
On Site Financing
MOST RVs EVER
Campgrounds, Supplies
Accessories & More

AREA'S BEST DEALERS ALL UNDER 1 ROOF!

WWW.FREDERICKSBURGRVSHOW.COM

NEWS

New Girls on the Block

Scouts BSA opens up new opportunity to girls.

By JOHN FOONG,
TROOP 159, POWHATAN DISTRICT,
BSA

This was anything but your typical Scout meeting. A group gathered around a table, and an unmistakable excitement in the air. Chatter filled the room about uniforms, supplies, upcoming outings and more, with an optimism and energy that seemed hard to find today. This is Troop 7, a Scouts BSA all-girls troop and one of the first in the Powhatan district. The official program with Scouts BSA girls' troops started on Feb. 1, although the troop's members were moving long before that. The BSA has been a boys-only Troops and Packs option for the longest time—although Venture Crews and Explorer Posts have allowed girls for decades. That begs the question; what's the difference between a Scouts BSA boys' troop and Scouts BSA girls' troop? And what does this accomplish?

Troop 7 Scoutmaster Steve Conner has served in BSA Scouting for 14 years. He believes that the move to allow girls to participate in Scouts BSA Troops was nothing but positive. "I wanted to be a part of forging this path forward and give... the same opportunities that were afforded to my son and the millions of boys who have had the privilege of being part of BSA," Conner said. He initially thought a Scouts BSA girls' troop would struggle to gain acceptance in the community, but Troop 7 has had a positive response from other Scouts and the community at large.

These newfound opportunities for girls are making waves in the area, and Troop 7 is already 16 Scouts strong. According to Sarah E.—a student from Navy Elementary School and one of these new recruits—observing what her brother had learned in Scouts "intrigued her... it was an opportunity to learn wilderness and life skills." Another Scout, Melissa, was already a Venturer but was attracted to what the previously boys-only program could offer her, and the chance to interact with Scouts of different ages as peers. Despite being a South Lakes HS senior, she is aiming for the challenge of Eagle Scout. The requirements are the same for boys and girls, but there is a temporary transition rule available to newly joined youth over 16 years old that gives them a time extension to earn their Eagle.

Even with the overwhelming response, Scouts BSA Troop 7 is still open for new Scouts to join. For those interested, there is an opportunity to find out for yourself. The troop has a 30-minute welcoming event on Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m. in Floris United Methodist Church, where you can meet the girls who make up Troop 7 and practice basic Scouting skills.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Assistant Scoutmaster Karen Downs helps Scouts sort through the troop's cooking supplies.



The results of BSA Troop 7's cooking outing.

In the time it took you to read this article, the troop's girls had unpacked several crates' worth of cooking supplies. Gaby, a student at Franklin Middle School and the troop's Quartermaster, took the lead directing the others in sorting the piles of pots and utensils—a sign of what was in store for the Scouts, and the excitement fueling them. The journey they would undergo on the trail to Eagle would be long and arduous, but it was clear that they were going to make the most of their chance.

More information about Scouts BSA Troop 7 can be found at www.Troop7va.org. To join or find a troop in your neighborhood, please visit <https://BeAScout.org>.

BULLETIN

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

WINTER SHELTERS

Find homeless and cold weather drop-in centers and shelters that serve Northern Virginia at www.novaregion.org/174/Homeless-Shelter-Lists.

INPUT SOUGHT

Shaping the Future Together. Fairfax County Government is beginning a strategic planning process with the community to shape the future together. The goal is to hear all voices and reach all segments of the community. This effort will span most of 2019, but in this first phase, the community is being asked to visit fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan and:

- ❖ Take a short five-question online survey
- ❖ Join a community conversation in person: March 6 – Falls Church.
- ❖ Share the survey and conversation invitation with neighbors, co-workers and county family and friends.

FRIDAY/MARCH 1

Technology Fridays in March. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. Join the Parent Resource Center for this series of technology workshops presented by FCPS Assistive Technology Services. Register for one or all of the workshops. Explore a variety of technology tools to support student success and independence with reading and writing in the digital classroom and at home. Register at www.fcps.edu/index.php/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center. Call 703-204-3941 or email prc@fcps.edu for more.

- ❖ March 1 - Technology to Support Reading and Writing: Encouraging Independence and Student Success
- ❖ March 8 - Exploring Early Childhood AT Home: Assistive Technology for Preschool
- ❖ March 15 - Technology Tools to Support Executive Functioning
- ❖ March 22 - Assistive Technology to Support Communication

SATURDAY/MARCH 2

Sibshops. 9 a.m.-noon at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. The Sibshop workshops are for children in grades 2-5 who have siblings with special needs enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools. Meet other siblings in a fun, recreational setting; celebrate siblings; share sibling experiences and receive peer support; play games and more. A snack will be provided. Registration is free, donations will be accepted to support the cost of materials and food. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center or call the FCPS Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 to register.

MONDAY/MARCH 4

Paving and Restriping Meeting. 6:30 p.m. At Westgate Elementary School, 7500 Magarity Road, Falls Church. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is planning to host community meetings in every district of the county this spring with the Virginia Department of Transportation to discuss proposed 2019 paving and restriping projects. Overall, the program improves hundreds of roads in Fairfax County each year through maintenance and repaving. At the same time, the state and county agencies coordinate restriping efforts to address safety issues for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians through the creation of bike lanes, parking lanes, crosswalks and more. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2019-paving-and-restriping>.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 6

Lent Services. 12 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Worshipers will have the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes. At the evening service, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated. This event is free and open to the public.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004 FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

LANDSCAPING A&S CONSTRUCTION SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. 703-863-7465		Good is not good, where better is expected. -Thomas Fuller		TILE / MARBLE Quality Tree Service & Landscaping Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured. Fall Cleanup... Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc. 25 years of experience – Free estimates 703-868-5358 24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	
ELECTRICAL K & D ELECTRIC COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc... Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com		ELECTRICAL			
GUTTER GUTTER CLEANING Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned Small Repairs • Gutter Guards PINNACLE SERVICES Lic/Ins 703-802-0483 free est. email jamie@lawnsandgutters.com web: lawnsandgutters.com Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!		GUTTER			
A&S Landscaping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Concrete work • Retaining Walls • Patios • Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions • French Drains • Sump Pumps • Driveway Asphalt Sealing 703-863-7465 LICENSED Serving All of N. Virginia					
RN. CONTRACTORS, INC. Remodeling Homes, Flooring, Kitchen & Bath, Windows, Siding, Roofing, Additions & Patios, Custom Deck, Painting We Accept All Major Credit Cards Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic Phone: 703-887-3827 E-mail: rncontractorsinc@gmail.com www.rncontractors.com					
LANDSCAPING Patios & Drainage Your neighborhood company since 1987 703-772-0500 J.E.S. Services Free Estimates • Fully Licensed & Insured <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting & Landscaping Design • Drainage & Water Problems • Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New • Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid • Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose • Retaining walls of all types All work Guaranteed					
ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: expand your audience beyond our weekly print edition with THE CONNECTION DIGITAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Email Marketing ► Social Media ► Sponsored Content FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 703.778.9431 OR VISIT CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING					
Find us on Facebook and become a fan! www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online The Connection to Your Community www.connectionnewspapers.com					

The Following is a Test



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Although you can adjust your television set, it's probably wise to have juiced the battery in your cellular phone. Better still, use your landline – if you have one – thereby preventing a dropped call right in the middle of your interminable hold. Because the call you're about to make – to a government office – is likely not going to be made to the correct number or the correct person or at the correct time or even to the correct department.

And should you be lucky enough to reach an actual person with your call, the explanation for your call/the problem you're attempting to resolve, will no doubt result in a transfer which most likely will not be to the correct number, the correct person, at the correct time or even to the correct department.

Unfortunately, after perusing the government's website, you're just not smart enough to figure out exactly what number you're supposed to call. (Is anyone that smart?) And therefore you are likely going to experience this loop-de-loop – without the upset stomach.

And what makes your attempt even worse? Hanging up, since your call might be “answered in the order in which it was received.”

Now presuming/assuming that a less-than-immediate solution will not be at hand, there are a few steps one should take in preparation to not make a bad situation worse:

- * Allow for plenty of time. Do not make this call when you're in a hurry, on break/at lunch or have a limited window of opportunity to complete your task. You will need to be in for the long haul, so to speak.

- * Try to make this call when you're able to sit/stand comfortably – for long periods of time. Moreover, make sure you have the privacy you need so that anything you say will not be heard (or held against you in a court of law) and any movements your body makes will likewise not be seen.

There's something about being stuck on the phone for long periods of time waiting, waiting, waiting; talking, talking, talking; hoping (you'll note I didn't say expecting) to reach the right person and/or resolve the problem/get the answer which prompted the call in the first place, which rarely brings out the best in the person on hold. Quite frankly, it's been my personal experience that it brings out the worst.

In addition to having the time and the place, one must also have the patience. That patience comes from proper preparation. And by “proper preparation” I mean the creature comforts: food, water and access to a bathroom.

The order really should be reversed with bathroom access first and foremost. Being uncomfortable, shall we say, after finding the time and place, and then making the effort to navigate the government's website looking for the proper person, phone number, department and then in the midst of any success you might have accomplishing this Herculean feat, to have that very personal need interrupt the proceedings is the definition of poor planning.

Common sense has to prevail or the consequences may be dire; you might have to start your calling process all over again. I wouldn't wish that on any one.

There is no greater satisfaction than surviving making one of these calls, and having done so because you put all of your adult Boy Scout skills to work. There really should be badge of honor one can earn after completing this dreaded and arduous task.

In fact, there should be some kind of reward. Although I imagine reaching nirvana (not listening to Nirvana) is its own reward.

Nevertheless, having survived the ordeal and endured the suffering for as many minutes as I care not to remember, I can say with absolute certainty, it's a hell of a feeling. I wish you all well in your next pursuit of truth and justice despite the American Way.

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

If you're buying or selling a home, think of this as a defining moment.



Great Falls \$1,399,000



Great Falls \$1,465,000



Great Falls \$3,200,000



Great Falls \$1,750,000



Herndon \$885,000



Great Falls \$2,999,000



Great Falls \$1,499,000



Great Falls \$1,299,000



Great Falls \$1,150,000



Great Falls \$2,799,000



Great Falls \$1,849,500

Dianne Van Volkenburg
and her team of real estate agents and marketing specialists are unsurpassed in providing first-class service to buyers and sellers. In fact, Dianne and her team have one of the highest rates of repeat clients in all of Northern Virginia as former clients, families and friends trust them for their real estate needs.



DIANNE JAN & DAN

LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE | CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066
703-759-9190 • GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

703-757-3222

For more information on these and our other available listings visit greatfallsgreathomes.com