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McLean

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Finding Sprite, The Rat

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Supervisors: “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.”

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PEOPLE

Kevin Cyron Honored As an Outstanding Teacher of American History

During a school assembly at Saint Luke School on Feb. 19, 2019, members of the McLean-based Freedom Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented Kevin Cyron with an Outstanding Teacher of American History Award. Mr. Cyron was elected the winner of this award based on his exceptional work and achievement as a teacher. The chapter also endorsed Mr. Cyron in the State contest of the Virginia DAR.

The mission of the DAR is to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. As part of its emphasis on education, the Outstanding Teacher of American History contest honors notable full-time teachers who demonstrate excellence in readily sharing an insightful knowledge of American history, being committed to their students, fostering a spirit of patriotism and loyal support of our country, relating history to modern life and events, and requiring high academic standards from their students.

Mr. Cyron is a social studies teacher at Saint Luke School in McLean since 2011 and also serves as the middle school coordinator

between the academic team, administration and parents. Mr. Cyron is a skillful and knowledgeable teacher who challenges his students to think critically about the world and the relevance of historical perspective. He has a wealth of knowledge about American history and shares his enthusiasm on a daily basis with his students. He graduated from Gonzaga College High School and earned both a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and a Master of Arts, Secondary Education – Social Studies from Marymount University in Arlington. He also holds a Master of Arts in European Studies and Sociology, as well as a Master of Arts in Statecraft and National Security, National Security Defense, Public Diplomacy, and Political Warfare Concentration.

During the assembly, school principal Mr. Louis Silvano introduced Chapter Regent Beth VanDoren Boswell, Chapter Historian Maureen Jenkins, and Chapter Registrar Wendy Stark. Mrs. Jenkins spoke about Mr. Cyron's dedication to education and the quality of the learning demonstrated by his students. Mrs. Stark



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

DAR Chapter Members presenting Kevin Cyron with the Outstanding Teacher of American History Award. Pictured, from left, are Chapter Registrar Wendy Stark, Outstanding Teacher Mr. Cyron, Chapter Regent Beth Boswell, and Chapter Historian Maureen Jenkins.

noted the way in which Mr. Cyron supports his students and how he guides them to appreciate the significance of events in American history. Mrs. Boswell thanked Mr.

Cyron for fostering a love of American history in those he teaches and presented him with the Outstanding Teacher of American History Award.

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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.

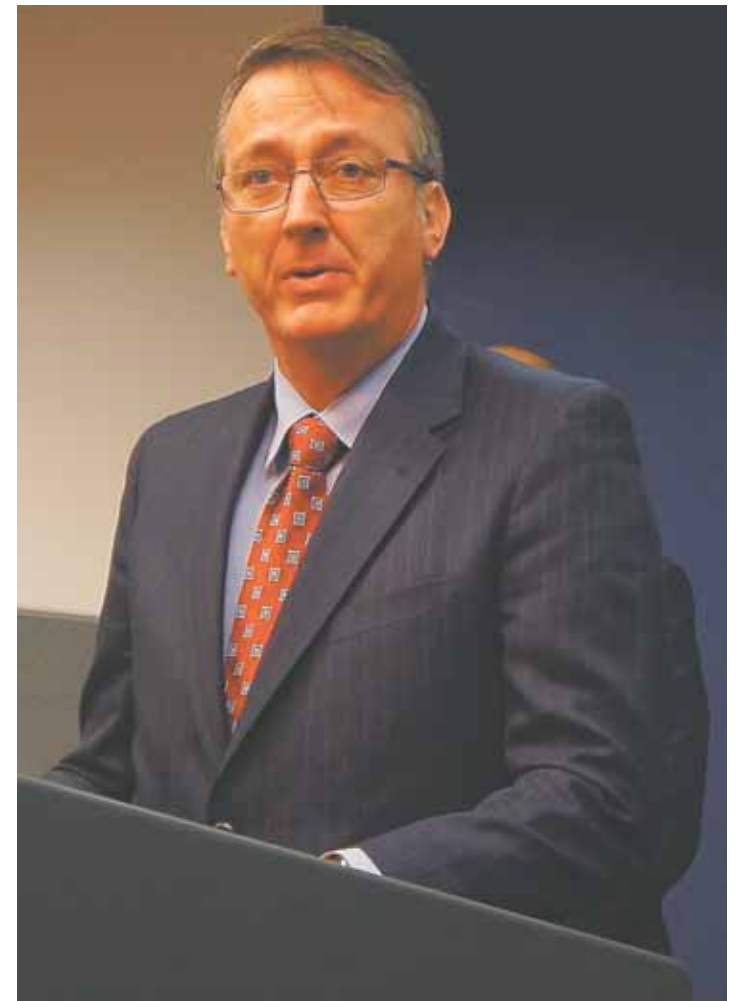
After the Budget presentation, Hill, CFO Mondoro, and Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools Scott Brabrand held a joint Q&A with media representatives.

“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>.

NRA Receives two Valentine's Day Visits from Protesters

U.S. Congress addresses gun violence epidemic in House committee for the first time in six years.

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

The nation's largest gun rights lobby received two visits Feb. 14 at its headquarters in Fairfax from protesters on the anniversary of the Valentine's Day massacre at a south Florida high school — where 14 students and three faculty members were fatally shot and 17 people injured before classes ended for the day last year at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

The morning protest drew more than a hundred area residents who stood along the sidewalk at 11250 Waples Mill Road and another one across the street. Most belong to various concerned citizens groups in the area, who meet every month on the 14th to hold protest signs for passing motorists.

Others simply are tired of doing nothing about stopping gun violence and simply want to do something — even if it's just holding a protest sign for an hour and casting a ballot on Election Day.

Thursday was their 74th consecutive stand at the National Rifle Association for victims permanently silenced by gun violence.

Vienna resident Bob Hatfield counts himself among the grassroots activists who have gathered each month in a peaceful and non-violent manner at the NRA since Dec. 14, 2012 — when a 20-year-old gunman killed 20 school children and six adults at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

The 80-year-old retired consultant, who attends a church in Oakton, volunteers for the gun violence prevention committee at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax and helps organize a bus trip each January on Martin Luther King Day to the statehouse in Richmond for the annual anti-gun violence rally, where fellow activists honor the slain civil rights leader by calling on Virginia lawmakers to pass "sensible" gun legislation.

Hatfield is pleased the number of supporters are growing. When asked about his long-term journey to prevent future deaths from gun violence, Hatfield says the large print on the back of his bright yellow T-shirt he wears on Valentine's Day tells the whole story: "It's a marathon, not a sprint."

PROTESTERS MARKED a milestone Thursday in their six-year push to stem the tide of gun violence across the country. For the first time since the Sandy Hook massacre, proposed legislation was discussed at the federal level Feb. 6 at a U.S. House Ju-



While many folks hand out little boxes of candy sweethearts scribed with brief love notes in capital letters on Feb. 14, community activists of the Herndon-Reston Indivisible spell out "gun control" in large orange letters and all caps on Valentine's Day for the National Rifle Association at 11250 Waples Mill Road and the motorists who drive past.

PHOTOS COURTESY KAREN HIGA



Community activists of the Herndon-Reston Indivisible spell out "Parkland" in all caps Feb. 14 at a candlelight vigil in Fairfax that marks a year since a school shooting in south Florida claimed the lives of 14 students and three educators on Valentine's Day 2018.

diary Committee hearing called "Preventing Gun Violence: A Call to Action."

In his opening remarks, Committee Chairman U.S. Rep. Jerrold L. Nadler of New York (D-10) noticed how citizens of all ages and occupations have been organizing and demanding action nationwide. As a result, several states have strengthened their gun laws. He added: "For too long, Congress has ignored the epidemic of gun violence that plagues this country. After a particularly heinous mass shooting, we sometimes pause to offer a moment of silence to honor the victims. But we do not need another moment of silence. We need a moment of action. Today's hearing is the first step toward that goal."

More than a week later, Nadler's committee approved H.R. 8 — the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, which helps close the gun show loophole by requiring background checks on all firearms sales. Buyers can visit licensed firearms dealers to run the necessary background checks before the weapons transfer is finalized legally. Exemptions include gifts to family members and transfers for hunting, target

shooting and self-defense, according to a committee press release.

Northern Virginia activist Karen Higa of Falls Church said: "The Sandy Hook shooter got his guns from his mother." She points out the bill offers another loophole that needs to be closed. Higa joined the monthly protests at the NRA about four years ago and volunteers for various anti-gun violence coalitions.

Another bill — H.R. 1112 — also was approved Feb. 13 by the House Judiciary Committee. The Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019 addresses a flaw in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

According to Nadler, "In most cases, a licensed gun dealer receives notification within a few minutes if that a prospective buyer has passed or failed a background check. In a small percentage of instances, NICS examiners may require additional time to complete the background check if information is missing or unclear in a prospective buyer's record."

However, under current law, a buyer can be sold a firearm through a "default pro-

ceed" transaction that allows the sale if NICS fails to issue a report after three business days, Nadler explains.

The congressman backed his case with an example from a 2015 hate-crime in which a gunman killed nine people at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.

The shooter, Nadler said "was not legally allowed to possess a firearm as a result of drug charges, but he still was able to purchase his gun from a licensed dealer, who made the decision to transfer after three business days had elapsed, despite not having received a definitive response from the background check system."

NRA protesters expect both congressional bills will be approved by the House of Representatives but shot down by the U.S. Senate, which is under Republican control.

ALTHOUGH FEWER PROTESTERS attended the candlelight vigil Thursday evening, many of the morning activists returned — including a grassroots group called the Herndon-Reston Indivisible. It was formed to "resist bad policies of the Trump administration," said Reston retiree Joanne Collins, 64.

Thursday morning, HRI members stood in line holding enormous bright orange letters in all-caps that spelled out "Gun Control." Thursday evening they remembered last year's Valentine's Day massacre and spelled "Parkland" in the dark with light bulbs attached to their giant cardboard letters.

Laura Kirk, 18, a senior at West Springfield High School held a candle for her Florida peers at MSD. Last year, she joined Students Demand Action For Gun Sense in America. Her group is part of the Everytown for Gun Safety coalition, to which Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and Mayors Against Illegal Guns also belong.

Kirk says she leads her school's anti-gun violence initiative and is co-president of the Northern Virginia chapter, which started with 10 students and has grown to 500 members at other chapters throughout the District, Maryland and Virginia. Her goal this year is to slowly chip away at the laws that don't make sense — "one bill at a time," she said.

Before introducing guest speakers Feb. 14, Martina Leinz, president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Brady Campaign To Prevent Gun Violence, was asked if she felt the recent scandals of Gov. Ralph S. Northam and Lt. Gov. Justin E. Fairfax have set back their cause.

She answered: "Not at all."

Leinz balked at the Republican-led General Assembly committees that "summarily dismissed a package of very sensible modest measures that would have protected the public and made Virginia safer," she pointed out.

Several times in the past year, activists have chanted a slogan they have heard Northam say in his call to action speeches:

SEE PROTESTERS, PAGE 10

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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.

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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



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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."

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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

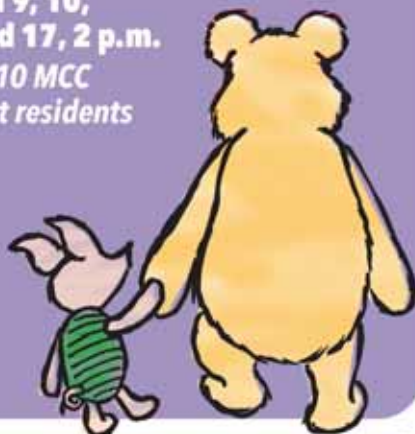


Captain Marvel Night
Friday, March 8, 4-11 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$45/\$35 OFC Members

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

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, hors 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

Tyson's 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.



Metropolitan Opera Soprano Comes Home to McLean

The Glory of France. The City Choir of Washington's Sunday, March 10 concert, 4:30 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Celebrating the Great Tradition of French Choral Music, With guest artist, Metropolitan Opera Soprano Danielle Talamantes, A graduate of McLean High School. For more information or to purchase tickets go to: *The Glory of France*



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.

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

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 SCOVoffice@scov.org – 703-281-0538.

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.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 14-16

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.

SATURDAY/MARCH 16

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE, Northern



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.

Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

THROUGH SATURDAY/MARCH 16

Jim Trusilo Solo Art Show. At The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna. Hours are daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For a slide show, visit www.theframefactory1.com.

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)



THE GLORY OF FRANCE

The City Choir of Washington
 Under the direction of Maestro Robert Shafer
 Invites you to celebrate and enjoy
 the great tradition of French choral music!

Sunday, March 10, 2019 | 4:30 PM

Saint Luke Catholic Church
 7001 Georgetown Pike | McLean, Virginia 22101
 (Free Parking)

Featuring

Danielle Talamantes, Metropolitan Opera Soprano
 and McLean High School alumna

Peter Uhler, piano | Paul Skevington, organ

TICKETS: \$15-\$30. Group discounts available.
Order your tickets today at citychoir.org

For additional information, please call the Box Office: 571-206-8525.



This concert is part of the Music in McLean series.

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
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www.mcleancenter.org

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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
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NEWS

1st Stage Receives 22 Helen Hayes Awards Nominations

Brave Spirits Theatre, NextStop Theater Company and The Hub Theatre each receives two nominations.

The 2019 Helen Hayes Awards, celebrating theater excellence in the Washington, D.C. area, nominated four Fairfax County theaters with a total of 26 nominations. Leading the nominations in Fairfax is 1st Stage, who received 22 nominations, second only to Arena Stage for most nominations awarded. Brave Spirits Theatre, NextStop Theater Company and The Hub Theatre each received two nominations. Winners are to be announced on Monday, May 13 at The Anthem – District Wharf.

❖ 1st Stage, led by Artistic and Managing Director Alex Levy, received the following nominations:

Outstanding Musical Direction:
Walter “Bobby” McCoy, *Fly by Night*
Markus Williams, *A Civil War Christmas*
Outstanding Costume Design: Debra Kim Sevigny, *Swimming With Whales*
Outstanding Sound Design: Sarah O’Halloran, *Swimming With Whales*
Outstanding Direction in a Musical: Kathryn Chase Bryer, *Fly By Night*
Outstanding Direction in a Play:
Alex Levy, *The Farnsworth Invention*
Alex Levy, *Swimming With Whales*
Outstanding Ensemble in a Musical: *Fly by Night*
Outstanding Ensemble in a Play:
The Farnsworth Invention
Swimming With Whales
Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical: Ryan Manning, *Fly by Night*
Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical:
Farrell Parker, *Fly by Night*
Caroline Wolfson, *Fly by Night*
Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Play: Amanda Forstrom, *The Farnsworth Invention*
Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical:
Aaron Bliden, *Fly by Night*

Jamie Smithson, *Fly by Night*
Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play:
Sam Ludwig, *The Farnsworth Invention*
Jonathan Lee Taylor, *The Farnsworth Invention*
Matthew R. Wilson, *Swimming With Whales*
Outstanding Production in a Musical: *Fly by Night*
Outstanding Production in a Play:
The Farnsworth Invention
Swimming With Whales
❖ Brave Spirits Theatre led by producing artistic director Charlene V. Smith received the following nominations:

Outstanding Ensemble in a Play: *The Trojan Women Project*
Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Play: Nicole Ruthmarie, *The Trojan Women Project*
❖ NextStop Theatre Company led by producing artistic director Evan Hoffmann received the following nominations:
Outstanding Supporting Actor in Play: Jacob Yeh, *East of Eden*
Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Play: Mary Myers, *45 Plays for 45 Presidents*
❖ The Hub Theater led by artistic director Matt Bassett received the following nominations:
Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play: Sasha Olinick, *The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)*
Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play: Lolita Marie, *The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)*
“Theatre in Fairfax County is not as widely-known as it should be, so the recent Helen Hayes Awards recognition of the excellence and vitality of our local theaters is critical to helping change that perception locally and regionally. It’s an extraordinary testament to the artists and organizations ARTSFAIRFAX has invested in over the years and we applaud their success,” says Linda S. Sullivan, President & CEO of ARTSFAIRFAX.

Protesters

FROM PAGE 4

“If you can’t change their hearts, change their seats.” In November, Northern Virginia voters put a Democrat in a Republican stronghold from which U.S. Rep. Jennifer L. Wexton (D-10) is serving her first term in the 116th Congress.

The political “blue wave” had a ripple effect Jan. 8 at a special election to fill Wexton’s vacant seat in the Virginia Senate. Jennifer B. Boysko (D-33) won that race.

Herndon dentist Ibraheem S. Samirah is the unofficial winner of the Feb. 19 special election to fill Boysko’s unexpired term in the House of Delegates District 86 — which includes parts of Fairfax and Loudoun counties — according to unofficial results posted Tuesday night by the Virginia Department of Elections.

At least 5,727 people voted in 14 precincts in Fairfax County and 556 in three Loudoun County precincts. Samirah, a Democrat, won by a large margin in Fairfax with 3,454 votes and 60.31 percent but earned 284 votes and 51.08 percent in Loudoun.

His Republican challenger — Gregg Garrett Nelson — received 1,910 votes and 33.35 percent in Fairfax and 252 votes and 45.32 percent from Loudoun residents. Independent runner, Connie Haines Hutchinson counts 350 ballots in her favor and 6.11 percent in Fairfax plus 20 votes in Loudoun and 3.6 percent. Thirteen write-in ballots were cast in Fairfax and none were counted in Loudoun.

At age 27, Samirah is the youngest of the three candidates. The dentist wants tougher laws against gun violence.

“We need implementation so that legislators across the aisle can understand human lives are impacted by the prevalence of guns,” he said at a candlelight vigil Thursday night at the NRA.

It’s a busy campaign year in 2019 for the both Virginia House of Delegates and Senate — which has a primary election June 11 and a general election Nov. 5. In 2017, the balance of power shifted toward the Democrats. Virginia Republicans have a slim majority overall in the state legislature.

“We are on the precipice in November of taking control of the house and senate,” Leinz said Feb. 14.

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.

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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.

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