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Inside

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‘Mamma Mia!’ At Langley High School

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Spring 2019
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Great Falls
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Wanted: A Few Good Men and Women

FCPD on the hunt for recruits.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Attendees of the March McLean District Station Citizens Advisory Committee meeting got a bit of a surprise when they entered the doors of the McLean Governmental Center on the evening of March 21 and were greeted by a phalanx of uniformed Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) officers. Turns out there was nothing to worry about – and everything to be interested in.

The FCPD was holding a recruiting event on site and it was a “lot of hands on deck” situation, with officers from several specialty units ready to tell it like it really is to potential applicants.

And that’s really important to bringing in the right people, insists recruiter Det. Shawn Carroll.

Carroll addressed the Advisory group at the start of their monthly program.

“We give it to them straight,” said Carroll, noting that applicants often bring unrealistic expectations about the job to the application process.

“It is a great job, with many rewarding moments,” he added, “but they need to know the other side of the work in order to make a good decision about applying.” Carroll had been showing pictures of those cheerier circumstances in a PowerPoint presentation to the audience – community events, police with puppies, officers looking suitably rugged and ready for action. As he spoke, he moved onto the next slide.

“I hope no one here has a weak stomach,” he said, as images of people with injuries and officers working some difficult scenes replaced the kids, dogs, and cheerful smiles. “This is the reality that we need recruits to be aware of.”

In consideration of his audience, Carroll kept it “gruesome-light,” showing only a few, representative photos that the attendees might grimace at, but caused no one to test those potentially weak innards.

CARROLL is one of three full time recruiters who are out on the roads looking to bring the best and the brightest into the FCPD. With a population of about 1.2 million residents in the county, it’s quite a task to find enough men and women to fill these critical roles.

Turn-over can sometimes be high. The fact that FCPD officers are among the best background-checked, best trained, and most respected forces in the country also adds to the need to constantly keep up the recruit-



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION
Det. Shawn Carroll addresses the McLean District Station Citizens Advisory Committee about the recruitment efforts and needs of the Fairfax County Police Department.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPD
The Fairfax County Police Department's Mobile Recruiting Unit is taken to recruiting events far and wide. Set up with a waiting area, private interview spaces and even a place to conduct polygraphs, the Mobile Recruiting Unit helps recruiters go directly into the community, and to start the process more quickly.

ing flow. According to Carroll, FCPD officers are often recruited by other jurisdictions themselves.

And then there is the coming addition of

the South County station and Animal Shelter. To be located on Lorton Road between Warehouse and Hoose Roads, the 34,000 square-foot police station and the 23,000

square-foot animal shelter are slated to open for operation in 2022.

Between the application process and the Police Academy and training required before an officer is ready for real action, “it’s not too soon to start looking for staff for South County,” said Carroll.

A key component in the FCPD’s recruitment arsenal is the Mobile Recruitment Unit. In late 2017, the MRU – a fabulously reconditioned and renovated command bus – was unveiled. The MRU was on-site at the McLean event, but the heavy rain kept Advisory Committee members from an in-person tour. Instead, Carroll showed photos of the unit, which looks more like a comfy RV than a police vehicle.

“It’s set up with a waiting area, private interview spaces, even a polygraph can be done right there,” explained Carroll.

The MRU allows the recruiters to go right into the community rather than passively wait for applicants. It also allows them to start the process much more quickly – determining who might be a good fit and getting the requirements for application and possible acceptance underway.

THE RECRUITERS attend and host hiring events up and down the East coast. They set up shop at universities, colleges, military schools and other places where quality candidates might be found. While they will continue their hunt as far and wide as ever, Carroll says 2019 is the year of the “Fairfax First” campaign, “because we have found that the best recruits are right here at home.”

One of the advisory group questioned Carroll several times on a perceived lack of diversity in the department, both in the top slots and in the rank and file.

Carroll and McLean station Commander Captain Alan Hanson both acknowledged that “the department can and will do better” to achieve a profile that better reflects the diversity of the population they serve.

“That’s another reason we are out here,” said Carroll, and why the FCPD is looking for “Ambassadors,” as well as recruits.

Carroll and Hanson say that members of the community can help by learning more about the requirements of the job and spreading the word, particularly in communities that may be less represented or less likely to think they may qualify.

Carroll advises people to check out the information and see before they disqualify themselves.

Persons interested in exploring a career with FCPD – “remember,” reminds Carroll, “there are all kinds of jobs and units” – should visit the county’s website and search “police department” for all the information. The application process can even be initiated online on the site.

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

A Meeting on Stormwater Issues April 8

The Committee on Environment & Parks of the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) has invited Fairfax County stormwater engineers to address its meeting on Monday April 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Library. The public is invited. GFCA has worked with the engineers on recent zoning cases in Great Falls, including the IntegraCare assisted living facility on lower Walker Road, where stormwater management is part of the site plan. The engineers will provide residents with background on how they evaluate stormwater facility needs, especially in light of the high levels of rainfall in recent years. The committee is also expected to discuss efforts to curb the use of excessive lawn fertilizers, which contribute to the pollution of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

COMMUNITY

Great Falls Farmers Market Continues

Preserving Kathleen Murphy's legacy: Community market reopens Saturday, April 6.

BY MARIKA TSOMBIKOS.

As April begins, so does the warmer weather. I see flowers bloom and trees bud. I see our backyard wildlife come out from hiding and hear the birds singing loudly once again. As the sun shines more, fruit tastes sweeter, smiles seem to beam a little brighter and community members are ready to come out to enjoy the beautiful weather, as well as each other's company. The start of Spring reminds me of all the reasons why my Mother loved the Farmers Market and the town of Great Falls so very much. It is a special place, not only because of its endless beauty, but also because of the people that live here.

It's been three months since my Mother, Kathleen Murphy, the Great Falls Community Farmers Market Manager, passed away, and as the days go by my family and I find ourselves more and more

touched by the town we've been a part of for so long. The number of residents who have reached out to express the hole they feel now within the community and the support they have offered in trying to keep her legacy alive has been so meaningful. It brought my mother such joy to support and watch local businesses flourish and create a space for residents of Great Falls to come and socialize each Saturday. She loved seeing all the local offerings come together every Saturday morning — the vibrant and delicious produce, fresh meats and fish, aromatic spices, oils and sauces, mouthwatering baked goods and beautiful handmade crafts. She wanted her community to be offered the best and witnessing it all come together every weekend filled her soul. Even with her long list of impressive personal and professional ac-

SEE FARMERS MARKET,
PAGE 5



Fresh produce offered year round.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Kathleen Murphy and her husband Konstantine Tsombikos, enjoying their Saturday morning at the Great Falls Farmers Market.



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NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Craig and Karen Hagaman of High View Farms, offering naturally raised meat, free range eggs and handmade jewelry.

Farmers Market

FROM PAGE 4

complishments, the Great Falls Farmers Market was the one that brought her the deepest joy.

Since her passing, many people have wondered whether or not the Great Falls Farmers Market would continue after her 7 year run as Manager. It was my Mom's dream to have the market carry on and flourish for the sake of the local vendors and the residents of this community. It was her belief that when we support our neighbors in their creative endeavors, we all benefit. She passed on to us her belief that fresh, organic produce nourishes our bodies and benefits the land in which it is grown. Being present in our decision mak-

ing ensures our collective longevity.

In honoring her endless efforts and her great love for the market, we are very happy to announce that the Great Falls Farmers Market will start up again this Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in its usual spot in the parking lot across the street from Safeway. We are thrilled to get things going again in her honor and hope that you will come enjoy all the market has to offer! The current market managers are Elaine Shadid and myself, Marika Tsombikos. For Great Falls Farmers Market vendor applications or to sign up for the markets weekly newsletters, drop us a line at our new email address GreatFallsVAFarmersMarket@gmail.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First

and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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OPINION

Back in Richmond

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

The House of Delegates and the State Senate are in session today (April 3) for the annual reconvened session as required by the constitution. Often referred to as the veto session, part of its business is to consider bills vetoed or with amendments proposed by the Governor. During the regular odd-numbered short session that adjourned on Feb. 24 after 46 days, there were 3,128 bills and resolutions considered. Setting aside resolutions that do not have the force of law of bills, there were 883 bills that passed the legislature all of which must have the signature of the Governor in order to become law. The Governor's veto can be overturned by a vote of two-thirds of the members of both houses.

The governor in Virginia has the unique ability among executive officials to propose amendments to bills that previously passed but then must be approved by the General Assem-



COMMENTARY

bly in the reconvened session with the amendments proposed. This ability for the governor to make corrections or to change the provisions of a bill gives the governor important legislative powers and enhances the importance of the reconvened session that typically lasts for a single day but can go up to three days.

Among the bills on the docket for this reconvened session is a bill that had passed both houses of the legislature but died at the last moment of the regular session. The dispute was over legal language to prohibit the use of cell phones that are not hands-free. The bill will be back before the legislature thanks to an amendment by the Governor, and it is likely to finally pass.

I expect to support the Governor in his vetoes of bills. One bill that he vetoed would limit his authority to involve Virginia in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a cap-and-trade program among Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states that mandates emission reduction in

the power sector. Virginia's involvement in this program is among the most important steps the state can take in reducing greenhouse gases and tackling climate change.

Governor Northam has also vetoed a bill that I had opposed during the regular session that would force law enforcement agencies to use precious resources to perform functions of federal immigration law that are part of the current immigration hysteria. He also vetoed a bill that would have limited the ability of local governments in making decisions about their local employment and pay consideration.

Included among the bills that passed are bills that passed in identical form but were only introduced in one house. Some advocates and legislators believe that there is more certainty that a bill will finally pass if it moves through the legislature on two separate tracks. The governor signs both identical bills to keep from choosing among competing bill sponsors. No one that I know has taken the time to count these bills, but I believe that more than half fall into this category. I question that approach—it seems like unnecessary duplication in an already complex system.

Bald Eagle Over Lake Newport

Bald eagle spotted over Lake Newport in Reston at around 5 p.m. on Friday, March 29, 2019.



SUBMITTED BY LOGAN KLEINWAKS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our Founders' Wisdom

To the Editor:

Our Democracy is being tested. Will we be strong enough to stand up to protect it? Our Founders advised us:

At the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 a lady asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well, Doctor, what have we got—a Republic or a Monarchy?" Franklin responded, "A Republic, if you can keep it."

George Washington, in his 1796 farewell address, warned us about the dangers of animosity between political parties, despotism and foreign influence. He

said: "The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction,

more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty. It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration.

It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, [and] foment occasion- ally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which finds a facilitated access to the

government itself through the channels of party passions."

In 1838 Abraham Lincoln counseled us that America will never be destroyed from the outside but if we lose our freedoms it will be because we destroyed ourselves. He said, "If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time or die by suicide."

Barbara Glakas
Herndon

Great Falls CONNECTION

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Senior Living

SPRING 2019

Historic Garden Week in McLean

April 30 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Visitors to the McLean portion of the Virginia Historic Garden Week will explore five picturesque gardens and four private homes spanning four centuries. Tickets online at www.vagardenweek.org Questions? Google Garden Club of Fairfax or email fairfax@vagardenweek.org.

Great Falls
CONNECTION

Senior Living

Career Change After 50

Strategies for job hunting after retirement.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Ever since she was in high school, Yashika Mailey has wanted to be a nurse. She put that dream on hold however, when she started a family at the age of 17. Now that she's 55 and her three children are adults, she's finally working to turn that dream into a

reality.

"I'm a full time student and I'm working full-time in medical billing," she said. "I'm starting by becoming an LPN (licensed practical nurse) first and then we'll see what happens."

Whether changing careers to fulfill a dream, re-entering the workforce out of financial necessity or getting a job to stay socially connected, many Americans of re-

tirement age still want to be employed. In fact, a recent Harris survey of workers in the U.S. between the ages of 54 to 72 showed that almost a quarter said that they plan to work in retirement.

"Obviously a career change or a job search after 50 will require a different approach that it would if you were just out of college," said Hope Navolio, a career coach and former human resources ex-

ecutive in Alexandria. "It's not hopeless in the way that some people might think, but there are factors that you have to consider."

Age bias is a fear that Navolio hears often, but she advises clients to use age to their advantage. "The thought of competing for a job with people who are young enough to be their grandchildren can be intimidating for some older workers," she said. "But I think

people can view their age as an asset and present themselves that way. There's a level of maturity and insight that only comes with age. Many employees are looking for someone who's stable, dependable and who won't get involved in petty office squabbling or office politics."

"One of the first things that I would say is to make sure you're web and tech savvy," said Bethesda headhunter Mara Rappaport. "That might mean that you have to take a few classes, but you need to be able to use social media to your advantage. I would think anyone looking for a job today needs to have a LinkedIn page and cultivate a professional network, even if the jobs you're looking for aren't considered professional in the traditional sense. You could even start a blog and write about things that interest you or that are related to the type of job that interests you. For example, if you want to be a fitness coach, blog about current fitness trends."

Modernizing one's appearance is another suggestion that Rappaport offers to those who are concerned about being too old to get a particular job. "It might sound shallow, but getting a makeover can breathe a breath of youthful air into your appearance and make a world of difference in a potential employers' first impression of you," she said.

Not limiting oneself of traditional options when contemplating a career change can increase the chances of finding meaningful work, says Navolio. "If there's something that you enjoy doing as a hobby, consider making a career out of it. If you've always practiced yoga, train to become a yoga teacher. If you love being around young children, a job at a preschool might interest you."

Ronald Potts, a former attorney with a knack for numbers and one of Navolio's client's, began working as a seasonal tax preparer in January. After becoming bored and isolated in retirement, he decided to look for a job, but he wanted one that required fewer hours and offered more flexibility than he had in his law career. "When I retired, I didn't really have a plan for how I was going to fill my time and I got bored within a few weeks," he said. "I thought about all of the things I could do and I've always been good with math. Now I just do straightforward tax returns, so the work is still somewhat challenging, but don't have the long days and all the pressure that I had when I was at my firm."



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Senior Living

Greenspring Opens New Continuing Care Building

Retirement community expands to meet the growing demand for specialized senior care.

Greenspring, a continuing care retirement community, developed and managed by Erickson Living in Fairfax County, on March 22 opened Dogwood Commons, the new four-story, 77,500 square-foot assisted living and memory care addition to its continuing care neighborhood. The first Dogwood Commons residents moved into the building on Feb. 5, 2019.

"Dogwood Commons is an important and much-anticipated addition to Greenspring's continuum of care," said Executive Director Chandra Kumar. The facility addition helps to meet the growing demand for specialized senior care in our region, she said.

Speakers at the event included Kumar, Donna Epps, Continuing Care Administrator; Del. Vivian Watts; Roy O'Connor, Greenspring Board Member; Jackson Bain, Greenspring Board Chair; Betty Christman, President of the Greenspring Resident Council; Peggy Trotter, Garden Ridge Resident; Jeff McKay, Fairfax County Supervisor; and Alex Robbins, Office of Congressman Gerry Connelly.

More than 200 attended the celebration, including residents, family members, employees, health care providers, elected officials and community partners.



Betty Christman, President of the Greenspring Resident Council; Jeff McKay, Fairfax County Supervisor; Alex Robbins, Office of Congressman Gerry Connelly (back); Donna Epps, Continuing Care Administrator; Peggy Trotter, Garden Ridge Resident; Jackson Bain, Greenspring Board Chair; Vivian Watts, Virginia House of Delegates; Chandra Kumar, Executive Director; and Roy O'Connor, Greenspring Board Member gather to celebrate the opening of Dogwood Commons, Greenspring's new continuing care building, which provides an array of person-centered services to help residents achieve optimal health outcomes.

The new building is part of Greenspring's multi-phase, multi-year plan to expand and renovate its existing assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residences, along with amenity spaces. Dogwood Commons provides 53 assisted living apartment homes and 26 memory care suites. The new apartment homes range in size from studios to one-bedroom floor plans. Living spaces include a full, private bath and a kitchenette. Some apartment homes will feature private, screened porches.

The new memory care residences have been designed to meet the specialized needs of residents by providing a stimulating, nurturing and amenity-rich environment. The Dogwood Commons Suites feature private bedrooms and full baths. Common areas available for use by all Greenspring residents include multi-purpose, activity, meeting and programming spaces, living rooms, a billiards and games lounge, a library and a card game room, as well as a theater.

When the multi-year project is complete, Greenspring's continuing care neighborhood will have a total of 176 assisted living apartment homes, 59 memory care residences and 62 skilled nursing residences.



CAREGIVER CONNECT

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At The Kensington, we understand that caregiving for someone with dementia is a demanding responsibility. We also believe it is one you should not undertake alone. That's why we strive to preserve your well-being by helping you stay positive, manage fatigue and make the most of moments as your loved one's memory changes.

Join us each month to share time connecting with other caregivers and discussing common challenges. Guest facilitators offer information, advice and support in a welcoming, private setting. Dr. Aleksandra (Anyia) Parpura, an expert in aging and dementia, leads our Caregiver Connect program and brings to us vast knowledge, helpful tips and a kind heart.

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



Historic Garden Tour Comes to McLean

History buffs and garden enthusiasts will delight in in the mix of historic, traditional and contemporary.

The Garden Club of Fairfax will host this year's House & Garden Tour, part of the 86th Historic Garden Week in Virginia. McLean is the site for this year's tour hosted by The Garden Club of Fairfax.

Visitors to the McLean Tour will explore five picturesque gardens and four private homes spanning four centuries. History buffs and garden enthusiasts will delight in in the mix of historic, traditional and contemporary properties.

The McLean tour on Tuesday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. showcases exciting gardens, creative flower arrangements, and unusual private homes, each with intriguing stories behind them.

The tour includes a mix of historic, traditional and contemporary homes ranging from a home built in the 1750s with ties to the Revolution and used as a hospital during the Civil War, to a contemporary Japanese-influenced home built on a hillside with terraced gardens, a pool and patio that are perfect for entertaining.

BIENVENUE, CHURCHILL ROAD, McLean. Previously called "Benvenue," the name of this 18th century Colonial home was reportedly changed when General Charles de Gaulle visited and said that the correct spelling was "Bienvenue."

Built in 1754 using sandstone from a nearby quarry. Furnishings and decorative art throughout the home combine historic, contemporary and whimsical pieces collected by the homeowner from travels and local and international sources. Union troops occupied the property during the Civil War when the house served as a field hospital. Bullets and a cannonball were found in the walls, while medicine bottles, surgical instruments and horseshoes were discovered under the carriage house floor during renovation. A massive sycamore tree next to the house is believed to be the oldest and largest in Fairfax County. Dr. Karen L. Kierce, owner.



Bienvenue on Churchill Road in McLean was built in 1754 using sandstone from a nearby quarry. A new wing was added in 1929 to include indoor water.

OLD LANGLEY ORDINARY 1101 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Built shortly before the Civil War, this Federal Farmhouse style building served as headquarters for Union Gen. George McCall. After the war it became an ordinary, a tavern or meeting-house. Located just a few miles from the Potomac River crossing at Chain Bridge, it was an important stopping-place for travelers and for farmers transporting livestock and wagons to merchants across the river in Georgetown. The homeowner's extensive collection of traditional Americana is displayed throughout. Wraparound porch with outdoor living space includes a kitchen and double-sided outdoor fireplace. The original carriage house is now a guest-house with American flags, painted by the homeowner, displayed on an exterior wall. Garden beds surrounding the home feature indigenous Virginia plantings with roses, sedum, hydrangea and 900 tulips.

OLD CHESTERBROOK ROAD, McLean. Built on a hillside, the long, clean horizontal lines of natural stone, wood and glass in this contemporary home reflect Japanese influence. In addition to subtle indirect lighting throughout the home, a paper chandelier by artist Oh Mei Ma is suspended from a soaring ceiling above the dining area and the sitting room has a red Italian Murano glass chandelier. The focal point at the top of the hill is a children's playhouse complete with Dutch doors, kitchen and skylight. Additional points of interest are a Japanese gate (Torii) built by the homeowner's parents, a standing stone Buddha and a stone birdbath in the shape of a bird in flight.

WOODLEY MILL ROAD, McLean. Built in 2000, this Italianate villa with yellow stucco has a traditional orange clay barrel-tile roof. The front features European scul-

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK IN MCLEAN

April 30 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Visitors to the McLean portion of the Virginia Historic Garden Week will explore five picturesque gardens and four private homes spanning four centuries.

❖ Headquarters – Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Boulevard, McLean. Complimentary refreshments served from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

❖ Tickets: Advance tickets - \$40 online at www.vagardenweek.org, or by mail, until April 20, 2019. Tickets Day of Tour - \$50 at Headquarters or Tour Homes

❖ Questions? Google Garden Club of Fairfax or email fairfax@vagardenweek.org. For more information on this tour or to see the Historic Garden Week statewide schedule of tours, go to www.vagardenweek.org.

PHOTOS BY DONNA MOULTON

tured gardens with boxwood parterres, three arched doorways, balconies and veranda. Two fountains greet guests as they enter the front property. The home's gallery-like foyer features marble floors, a 20-foot ceiling and walls displaying large scale paintings, Belgian tapestries and a metallic finish bas-relief. From the pavilion, a wide Tennessee buff flagstone path lined on both sides with carefully maintained topiaries in Tuscan style pots leads to a large bronze fountain. Extensive hardscaping with mature evergreens, roses, hydrangeas, crepe myrtles and other plantings creates multiple garden rooms surrounding the home.

DAVISWOOD DRIVE, McLean. (Garden only) More than 40 mature 'Green Giant' arborvitae provide the background, shading and privacy for this garden oasis. This formal garden features multiple garden rooms showcasing crepe myrtles, hostas, hollies, boxwood, hydrangeas, rhododendrons and ninebarks with water features, statuary, travertine walkways and a hidden putting green. The garden's centerpiece is the saltwater swimming pool.

Historic Garden Week in McLean is Tuesday, April 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with headquarters at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Boulevard, McLean. Advance tickets are \$40 per person online at www.vagardenweek.org, or by mail, until April 20. Tickets on the day of tour are \$50 at headquarters or tour homes.



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High School Corner

Langley High School:
Kaleidoscope Literary Magazine



Maryam Bade



Untitled, by
Maryam Bade

Home

BY CHRISTINA WANG

I was doubtful
Of the return before nightfall
For when I do come back
Everyone will be of slack
Remembering nothing of me
Yet I will go back glee
For my sins will be washed
And my heart known as soft
I will live in peace
In a state of release.

—High School Corner edited by Anja O'Brien, Head
Editor of the Kaleidoscope



Christina Wang

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PHOTOS BY BLAKE TIPPENS

Making of 'Mamma Mia': Langley High students in rehearsal.



Mamma Mia! will play on April 25-27 at 7 p.m., April 28 at 2 p.m. and May 2-4 at 7 p.m. and May 5 at 2 p.m., 2019 at Saxon Stage Theater at Langley High.

'Mamma Mia' at Langley High

Performances from April 25-28 and May 2-5 at Saxon Stage Theater.

Langley High School concludes its 2018-2019 theater season with an international hit sensation, Mamma Mia! It will play on April 25-27 at 7 p.m., April 28 at 2 p.m. and May 2-4 at 7 p.m. and May 5 at 2 p.m., 2019 at Saxon Stage Theater at Langley High School.

Across the globe, generations of audiences have been smitten by the enchanting romantic comedy and ABBA's timeless music. The action unfolds on a Greek island, where Donna, an American hotelier and a former lead singer of the 1970s pop group "Donna and the Dynamos", raised her 20-year old daughter, Sophie, as a single mother. Though being happily engaged to Sky, Sophie realizes that there is still something missing from her life. She has never known her father and dreams of a perfect wedding – one which includes her father giving her away. Just before her wedding, Sophie sneaks a peek in her mother's old



diaries and secretly invites three men from her mother's past. Sophie prays that one of them is her true father and is convinced that

she will know the real one when she meets him. However, when Sam, Bill and Harry turn up, Sophie realizes that this spontane-

ous decision may not be as simple as she imagined...

Langley's Mamma Mia! is about the power of everlasting unconditional love: love of family, love of friends, and love of knowing who you really are. The electrifying energy and unparalleled performances of actors are simply breathtaking. Intricate costumes and stage designs, kindhearted humor, and beautiful dance numbers make this production great. Most notably are ABBA's hit songs which include "Dancing Queen", "Knowing Me, Knowing You," "Take a Chance on Me," "Super Trouper" "Thank you for the Music," "The Winner Takes It All," and many more amazing numbers. Mamma Mia! will give the theater loving community a chance to reconnect, to share a good laugh and to spend a fun night singing favorite tunes together.

For tickets and more information: www.saxon-stage.com

—ANASTASIA KURBANOV,
PUBLICITY DIRECTOR,
SAXON STAGE THEATER

Speaking About 'Mamma Mia!'

"Being the stage manager is a privilege, because I get to work so closely with so many talented people. I enjoy the challenge of helping the actors with their lines and craft while bringing the show to life. I'm driven by my love to theatre and the joy it gives to others."

—ELIZABETH TIPPENS, GRADE 9

"I've been doing the musical productions with Saxon Stage since freshman year. This will be my fourth musical, and I will be playing the role of Rosie in this year's rendition of Mamma Mia! Saxon Stage to me means family: we laugh to-

gether at blocking rehearsals, cry together during "hell week," and then cry again during our closing shows, but all in all we come out of every single performance and experience with new knowledge and compassion for those who share our love of theatre. It's not easy staying after school long hours every day, learning new lines and the dozens of songs in each production, but in the end it is one of the most rewarding things. It has been so rewarding being able to share with people something I love and being able to put a smile on the audiences faces. A big part of high school for me was theatre, and Langley

High School allows students to get the best opportunities and meet some of the coolest and most talented people through the multitude of acting, singing and dancing groups/performances."

—KATARINA JENKINS, GRADE 12

"Mamma Mia! is definitely becoming a favorite out of the musicals I've been in. The best part about being in the musical is that I'm in it with all of my best friends, and every rehearsal we become more of a family. It wasn't even a thought to not audition for this show, as I knew it would be one of the highlights of my junior year. There is so much singing and dancing, however, that I am not embarrassed to admit that that is

really hard to do at the same time all the time! I play Ali (one of Sophie's friends) and I love her! Getting to play that role definitely makes being in this show a little more special. Being so close with everyone makes being on stage, and the whole process, really so much more fun."

—RACHEL LESAN, GRADE 11

"The Mamma Mia! production feels like family. The students make a real effort to welcome and get to know all the volunteers, and they never hesitate to voice their gratitude. Plus, their high level of commitment and professionalism is inspiring."

—BLAKE TIPPENS, PROUD DAD

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 4-6

Oakton Library Sale. Thursday, 1-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Oakton Public Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Friends of Oakton Library Spring Book Sale – purchase gently used books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, and more. The Friends member pre-sale is Wednesday, April 3, 2-5:30 p.m.; join at the door. Free admission. Email FriendsofOaktonLibrary@gmail.com or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-oakton for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Vinson Hall Community Talent Show. 7 p.m. in the Kathy Martin Community Building Ballroom, on the Vinson Hall Retirement Community campus, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean. The Talent Show will feature acts performed by VHRC residents and staff, ranging from piano performances to song and dance numbers to a yodeler. Open to the public. Admission is \$10, which will support Navy Marine Coast Guard Resident Foundation's Innovation and Enhancement Fund. Following the performance there will be a coffee and dessert bar available and a chance to talk with the stars of the show.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 5-7

50th Anniversary Treasury of Art.

Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society showcases hundreds of original artworks from around the nation selected by juror Leigh Culver. Saturday night, April 6, features music by the Difficult Run String Band. The Awards Reception, Saturday, April 7 from 7-9 p.m., is an opportunity to meet the artists while enjoying light refreshments and music by the Fascination Strings. Free and open to the public. Visit viennaartssociety.org for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5-27

Spring Cleaning Local Waterways.

9-11:30 a.m. unless noted. The Fairfax County Park Authority and The Nature Conservancy are looking for 1,000 volunteers to lend a hand at 21 parks to clean up local waterways. Watershed Clean-up events bring the community together to clear the earth's arteries by removing tires, bottles, cans and other debris that has been carelessly dumped in our streams, rivers and lakes. This is a great community service project for individuals, families, service groups and students. To sign-up as a volunteer, use The Nature Conservancy link bit.ly/2PKL5Tu.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Explore Lake Fairfax Park with a Naturalist. 10-11:30 a.m. at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Learn about the flora and fauna that give Lake Fairfax Park its character. Designed for participants 3-adult. \$8 per person. Dress for the weather. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax.

Scrapbook for a Cause. At the Vienna Volunteer Fire Dept, 400 Center St. S., Vienna. All proceeds benefit Colleen McGroder's Kidney transplant fund. Registration fee includes cropping space, lunch on



“Great Falls” watercolor by Jeff Gorrell.

50th Anniversary Treasury of Art

The Vienna Arts Society showcases hundreds of original artworks from around the nation selected by juror Leigh Culver. Saturday night, April 6, features music by the Difficult Run String Band. Friday-Sunday, April 5-7, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. The Awards Reception, Saturday, April 7 from 7-9 p.m., is an opportunity to meet the artists while enjoying light refreshments and music by the Fascination Strings. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Free and open to the public. Visit viennaartssociety.org for more.

Saturday, coffee, tea, lemonade and a raffle ticket. Dinner will be available for purchase for \$8. Registration is \$40; \$45 at the door. Learn more at www.gofundme.com/colleen-mcgroder-kidney-transplant-fund. For information contact Mary Kubisch at mary.kubisch@gmail.com or 703-314-5438.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7

A Turning Point in Women's

History. 1-3 p.m. at Temple B'nai Shalom, 7612 Old Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Come hear Pat Wirth, of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, give an in-depth look at a critical time in the history of women in our country. Organized by the Sisterhoods of Temple B'nai Shalom, Congregation Ner Shalom, and Temple Rodef Shalom, this event is open to all. Free. Suggested contribution of \$10 at the door. Get tickets at www.eventbrite.com/e/a-turning-point-in-womens-history-wrj-mid-atlantic-district-area-day-tickets-57807894970.

Camp Open House. 1-4 at The Madeira School's Chapel Auditorium, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Find out about Traveling Players Ensemble's summer theatre camp for grades 3-12. Get a tour and meet the staff. The whole family is welcome. Rain or shine. Free. Call 703-987-1712 or visit www.travelingplayers.org.

Fairfax Choral Society with Amadeus Orchestra. 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Features “The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace” by composer Karl Jenkins. The work fuses several religious and musical traditions into a one-of-a-kind composition of surpassing beauty. A pre-concert lecture by Music Director A. Scott Wood will begin at 3:15. A reception will follow the concert, at which attendees may meet and chat with the performers and fellow music lovers. Tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at the door or at www.amadeusconcerts.com. Students 17 and under and active military are admitted free of charge.

McLean Symphony Performance. 7 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The McLean Symphony presents its spring concert, “Appealing! Surprising!” featuring Luke Ratcliffe, pianist. The concert will be conducted by Dr. Igor Sarmientos. This is the third concert

of the Symphony's 47th season, “Symphonic Adventures.” Visit www.mclean-symphony.org or call 703-831-7165.

MONDAY/APRIL 8

Northern Virginia Positive Aging and Wellness Fair.

8:45 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. In collaboration with Fairfax County and community partners, the Northern Virginia Positive Aging and Wellness Fair will offer tools, workshops, exhibits and information to educate and inspire adults to achieve a fulfilling and healthy lifestyle as they age. Pat Collins, an award-winning NBC News4 reporter, will be the keynote speaker. Free and open to the public. To register and for more information, visit positiveagingfair.com. For county services for older adults and caregivers, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults.

TUESDAY/APRIL 9

McLean Historical Society

Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The program will feature Clyde Clark who will discuss “The History of the McLean Volunteer Fire Department.” Everyone is welcome. Contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 10

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.

APRIL 11-JUNE 1

Art Exhibit: “Taking Territory.”

Gallery hours at MPA@ChainBridge, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Taking Territory: New Works by Susan Goldman, Barbara Kerne, Eve Stockton and Patricia Underwood, features pieces that mine many of the techniques employed by artists working in printmaking today. An opening reception is set for April 11, 7-9 p.m. Visit mpaart.org for more.

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NEWS

Egg hunts will be hatching at parks throughout Fairfax County in the month of April.



COURTESY PHOTO

Hunting for Eggs in County Parks

Grab a basket and hunt for eggs at parks throughout Fairfax County.

Egg hunts will be hatching at parks throughout Fairfax County in the month of April, and the Easter Bunny will be making some appearances, too. Contact the sites directly or visit Eggcellent Events for a full list of egg hunts and programs.

Things kick off on Sunday, April 7, with the "Easter Eggstravaganza" at the Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center. Children ages one to six can hunt for eggs filled with treats and prizes and visit animals outdoors. Hunts are scheduled by age from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$8 per child.

On that same afternoon Hidden Oaks Nature Center hosts a "Woodland Wildlife Egg Hunt" for children age three to eight. Enjoy an easy walk to meet costumed woodland characters and collect 10 eggs with non-candy treats. See live frog eggs and meet some spring critters. Programs begin at 1 and 1:30 p.m., and the cost is \$9 per child.

On five days in April, go on a "Dinosaur Egg Hunt" at Hidden Oaks. Enjoy a dinosaur-themed program and outdoor egg hunt and make a dino craft. The program for children ages two to eight runs on April 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21 at various times. The cost is \$10 per child.

The "Easter Egg Hunt at Sully" takes place the weekend of April 13 through 14. Children ages one to eight can bring baskets and go on an egg hunt like the Noltings had at Sully in the early 1950s and participate in an egg roll and egg carry. The Easter

Bunny will be there, too. The cost is \$8 per child.

Children age two to nine can join the Easter Egg Hunt at Colvin Run Mill on Saturday, April 13. Hunt for eggs and make crafts to take home. Hunts are scheduled by age from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., and the cost is \$8 per child.

On Sunday, April 14, register for the Easter Egg Hunt at Lake Fairfax Park for children age one to four and hunt for eggs filled with treats and treasures. Hunts are scheduled by age from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the cost is \$8 per child.

Saturday, April 20, is also a big day for egg-citing events.

Burke Lake Park hosts its annual "Baskets & Bunnies" celebration featuring egg hunts, rides, mini-golf, vendors and other activities from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Purchase a pass in advance for \$12 to save money. This event is for family members of all ages.

The Easter Egg Hunt at Clemmyontri Park gives children ages one to nine a chance to enjoy egg hunts, crafts, photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny and more. Egg hunts are split by age and run every 30 minutes from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 per child. Carousel rides are available for \$3 per child.

Bring your own basket and hunt for candy and eggs filled with treats at the Easter Egg Hunt at Nottoway Park for children ages one to nine. Hunts are scheduled by age from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$10 per child (cash only).

For the science-minded, don't miss The Egg Challenge at Riverbend Park. All ages are invited to join a classic STEM design challenge — the Egg Drop. Build a structure that will protect your egg in a 10-foot-plus drop, then participate in a fun egg hunt for children age one to nine by the Potomac River. The program runs from 1 to 3 p.m., and the cost is \$10 per person.



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FROM PAGE 5

Memory Cafe. 2-4 p.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Connect with others living with loved ones with dementia. Helping those with dementia and their caregivers find fun, resources and “family.” Email Carol Blackwell at lovriver@aol.com or call at 571-236-6933.

Paving and Restriping Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center St. S., Vienna. 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. 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 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2019-paving-and-restriping.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Kindergarten Orientation. 9-10:30 a.m. at Franklin Sherman Elementary School, 6633 Brawner St., McLean. Call the school at 703-506-7900 to be added to the sign up list for the orientation and to receive a registration forms packet.

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.

AARP Smart Drivers Classes. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oakton United Methodist Church, 2951 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton. A refresher course for drivers age 50 and older. \$15 AARP members, \$20 for non-members payable on the first day of class. Call instructor David Young at 703-591-1847 to register.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

2019 Special Education Conference. 7:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. FCPS will hold its 14th Annual Special Education Conference with a focus on building inclusive and post-secondary practices to support the development of 21st Century skills and Portrait of a Graduate (POG) attributes. Visit www.fcps.edu/spedconference2019 for details, a list of workshops, exhibitor information and to register.

Spring into Cleaning Season. 9 a.m. at the Vienna Town Green. Resident-volunteers are encouraged to engage in some spring cleaning during the Town of Vienna's next Clean-Up Day, which runs 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 6. All volunteers, including students, Boy and Girl Scouts, and anyone willing to lend a hand, are welcome. Wear clothing to be comfortable getting down in the muck. Contact john.king@viennava.gov to sign up.

Caregiver Bootcamp. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, #100, Fairfax. Join IMCC for a day-long training event covering many essential caregiving topics. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge. Sessions include: Dementia 101 & Clinical Trials; Understanding Veterans Benefits; Practical Tools for Caregivers; and A Person-Centered Approach. Register online at www.insightmcc.org, or contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 703-204-4664 or lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org.

Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group. 2-4 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. The Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group for greater Washington meets the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome. RSVP for available seating. Call 301-263-0616 or visit www.dcpnsupport.org for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic. 9-11 a.m. at Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax. Cost is \$15 per pet, cash and check only. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may be vaccinated at the clinic. Dogs must be on leashes; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. All

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It's Not As If My Life Depends On It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Being totally honest with my oncologist, that is. I mean, it's not as if being diagnosed with non small cell lung cancer, stage IV isn't a “terminal” disease.

Oh wait, it is.

As my oncologist said to me at the initial Team Lourie meeting: “I can treat you, but I can't cure you.”

Huh? Followed fairly soon after by the equally distressing prognosis: “13 months to two years.” Wait. WHAT!? (As Curly Howard of The Three Stooges said years ago while looking into a mirror: “I'm too young to die, too handsome, well, too young anyway.”)

That prognosis – as you regular readers know – is old news, as I recently passed my 10-year anniversary; my oncologist's “third miracle,” as he characterizes me. And as life goes on, so too do the studies and research and clinical trials.

As much progress as has been realized, still there are few guarantees for lung cancer patients. Although there are many more of us living beyond the years our respective oncologists initially gave us (our wildest dreams, I often say).

Living as a cancer patient/survivor, especially one still undergoing treatment, requires regular sit-downs with one's oncologist to discuss and/or assess lab work, results from diagnostic scans and side effects – or as I refer to them: “straight-on effects.” At these sit-downs, the oncologist will sit down behind his computer and review my past and inquire about the present, typing away as I respond.

The questions are all too familiar.

My answers, maybe familiar as well. Because if they're not, they may catch the attention of the doctor. And if they do catch his attention, he likely will probe further into their occurrence; their frequency, their location, their pain, their intensity, etc. And in so doing, he may learn things that could possibly alter/maybe even stop your treatment.

The doctor may become so worried about the symptoms you're describing, he may focus on the symptom, not the cause. And that's my fear in being honest: he may stop the treatment. I realize it might be counter-intuitive, but cancer scares the hell out of me. As a direct consequence, dishonesty sometimes becomes one's best policy.

Granted, being dishonest, or rather not totally forthcoming, with the person entrusted in extending your life, doesn't exactly win one the patient-of-the-year award. But when that same one is diagnosed with a “terminal” disease at age 54 and a half, there's a certain amount of clear thinking that quickly dissipates.

And if that same one is “ambulanced” to the hospital (in August 2013) for a week long stay in SICU (surgical intensive care), the fear of God is officially invoked which further clouds your judgment.

If you live long enough, your judgment improves but so too does your chance of dying. As I find myself saying: “I just can't keep on living with this thing, can I? I mean, I was diagnosed with a ‘terminal’ disease. They don't call it ‘terminal’ for nothing.” But here I am, 10 years, post diagnosis, and living the dream, so to speak.

So how do I answer the doctor's questions when doing so honestly might lead to a gruesome outcome: hospitalization, and then, well, you know.

Let me be clear then about my answers. Maybe I'm not so certain about the “straight-on” effects? Maybe, they're not that bad and continuing the treatment will moderate the effects somehow while continuing to keep the cancer in its current place – without growing or moving?

I don't mean to understate my condition, but neither do I want to overrate it. Perhaps this mental anguish I'm describing makes no sense. But that's what cancer seems to do.

Nevertheless, I realize being honest with one's doctors is kind of important. Still, I may be too afraid of the consequences to be so inclined.

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

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We feel honored and proud to be able to bring this to the families of Great Falls and we hope that through this festival we are able to show our tremendous gratitude and appreciation for your continued support of our family and our business. We would not be here were it not for your loyal patronage.

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President Message

Great Falls Optimist Club Foundation 38th Anniversary And Great Falls Children's Spring Festival 35th Anniversary

What a great time to reflect and be thankful to Jorge Adeler of Adeler Jewelers, the supportive business community, the Great Falls Optimist Club, and the multigeneration families that have continued to come and contribute to what has become an annual tradition at this time of year in our community!

Adeler Jewelers hides 800-1000 gemstones within the 8000 candy stuffed plastic eggs for the exciting hunt as the climax of the Spring Festival starting at 1:30 pm ends at 4:00 pm as the children rush into the Village Green to pick up all the eggs within a matter of minutes to the delight of the children and parents alike!

All profits are contributed to the Great Falls Optimist Children's Fund to give back to the community. The Optimist Club sponsors programs throughout the year to support youth discipline, commitment and community: Great Falls Rugby, Great Falls Little League, South Lakes JROTC for example. GFOC sponsors youth scholarships such as Oratorical and Essay Contests where they can win up to \$25,000 as they progress to the national level. They support

elementary schools (Helping Hands Program) rewarding 6th graders who have acted above and beyond in their schools and are given funds to be used as they please for programs in their school. They support Respect for Law, Bicycle Safety, and child identification programs. They deliver Holiday and week end meals and Holiday gift cards to those families who are struggling to make ends meet. They are proud to once again support HopeCam who provides audio/visual equipment to homebound cancer students so they can remain audio and visually connected to their peers at school.

The club is anxious to expand our footprint on the community by increasing our club membership so that more youth can be supported! Please contact Linda Thompson, Membership Chair, at 703 850 5676.

Please call Wendy Adeler Hall at 703 759-4076 to volunteer to support the festival!

May the Festival begin!

Sheela Rao

President, Great Falls Optimist Club

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Birthstones

January - Garnet

Garnet, the birthstone for January, signifies eternal friendship and trust and is the perfect gift for a friend. Garnet, derived from the word granatum, means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone's resemblance to a pomegranate seed. References to the gemstone dates back to 3100 B.C., when the Egyptians used garnets as inlays jewelry. Garnet is the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of tsavorites.

February - Amethyst

Amethyst, the gemstone believed by ancient Greeks and Romans to ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus, also is said to keep the wearer clear-headed and quick-witted. Throughout history, the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. It has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. Amethyst is purple quartz, a beautiful blend of violet and red that can found in every corner of the earth. Historically, the finest amethyst were found in Russia and were featured in much royal European jewelry.

March - Aquamarine

The two birthstones for March are aquamarine and bloodstone.

The name aquamarine is derived from the Latin word aqua, meaning water, and marina, meaning the sea. This gemstone was believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene color of aquamarine is said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded. Its pale, cool color beautifully complements spring and summer wardrobes. Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones.

The second birthstone for March is bloodstone, a dark-green jasper flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. This ancient stone was used by the Babylonians to make seals and amulets and was believed to have healing powers - especially for blood disorders. It is sometimes called the martyr's stone as legend tells that it was created when drops of Christ's blood stained some jasper at the foot of the cross.

April - Diamond

As the April birthstone, diamonds are the ideal gift for a loved one. And now you have more choices than ever. Get creative and give the ultimate gift of beauty: a fancy-color diamond. Fancy-color diamonds are natural, rare and truly exotic gem of the earth. Diamonds in hues of yellow, red, pink, blue, and green range in intensity from faint to vivid and generally the more saturated the color, the higher the value. In fact, diamonds sparkling with intense color are rare and may be priced higher than a colorless diamond of equal size. Because fancy-color diamonds are very desirable, color is sometimes introduced in a laboratory.

May - Emerald

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word smaragdus, meaning green in Greek, was mined in Egypt as early as 330 B.C. Today, most of the world's emeralds are mined in Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan, and Zambia.

June - Pearl and Alexandrite

June counts three gems as birthstones, pearl, Alexandrite, and moonstone.

Historically, pearls have been used as an adornment for centuries. They were one of the favorite gem materials of the Roman Empire; later in Tudor England, the 1500s were known as the pearl age. Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty.

Alexandrite

A relatively modern gem, Alexandrite, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light.

Moonstone

The third birthstone for June is the Moonstone. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon - a belief that held until well after the sixteenth

SEE BIRTHSTONES. PAGE 10

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**Sunday,
April 14th, 2019
1:30 – 4:30 PM at
the Village Centre
in Great Falls**

Hoping the weather will be fantastic, the Great Falls Optimist Club and Adeler Jewelers are ready for the annual Children's Spring Festival to take over the Village Centre Sunday, April 14th, a sure sign Spring is here in the community.

We'll have rides and games and end with the Easter Egg Hunt, eggs filled with candy and gems.

The Children's Festival is the largest fund raiser for the Great Falls Optimist Club with proceeds benefitting children locally. This is a great inexpensive family outing!

THE GREAT FALLS OPTIMIST CLUB provides Thanksgiving and Holiday Meals and Gifts for those less fortunate; in the past we've provided school supplies, equipment, word processors, LCD projectors, etc for special education classes, as well as children's cancer, private injured parties, and much more.

This year, we are supporting, the Little League, the Great Falls Rugby teams, the local HS ROTC program, and our Junior Optimist Club of Langley High School. They are currently working on blankets for the homeless.

Sometimes we have oratorical and essay contests to compete for scholarships and help them gain leadership skills.

Linda thanks the many volunteers who come out every year to help with the festival, whether it's stuffing eggs or setting up, and cleaning up the day of the festival! These are the ones who make it a success!

"The festival began as a way for

SEE GRAND OPENING, PAGE 11

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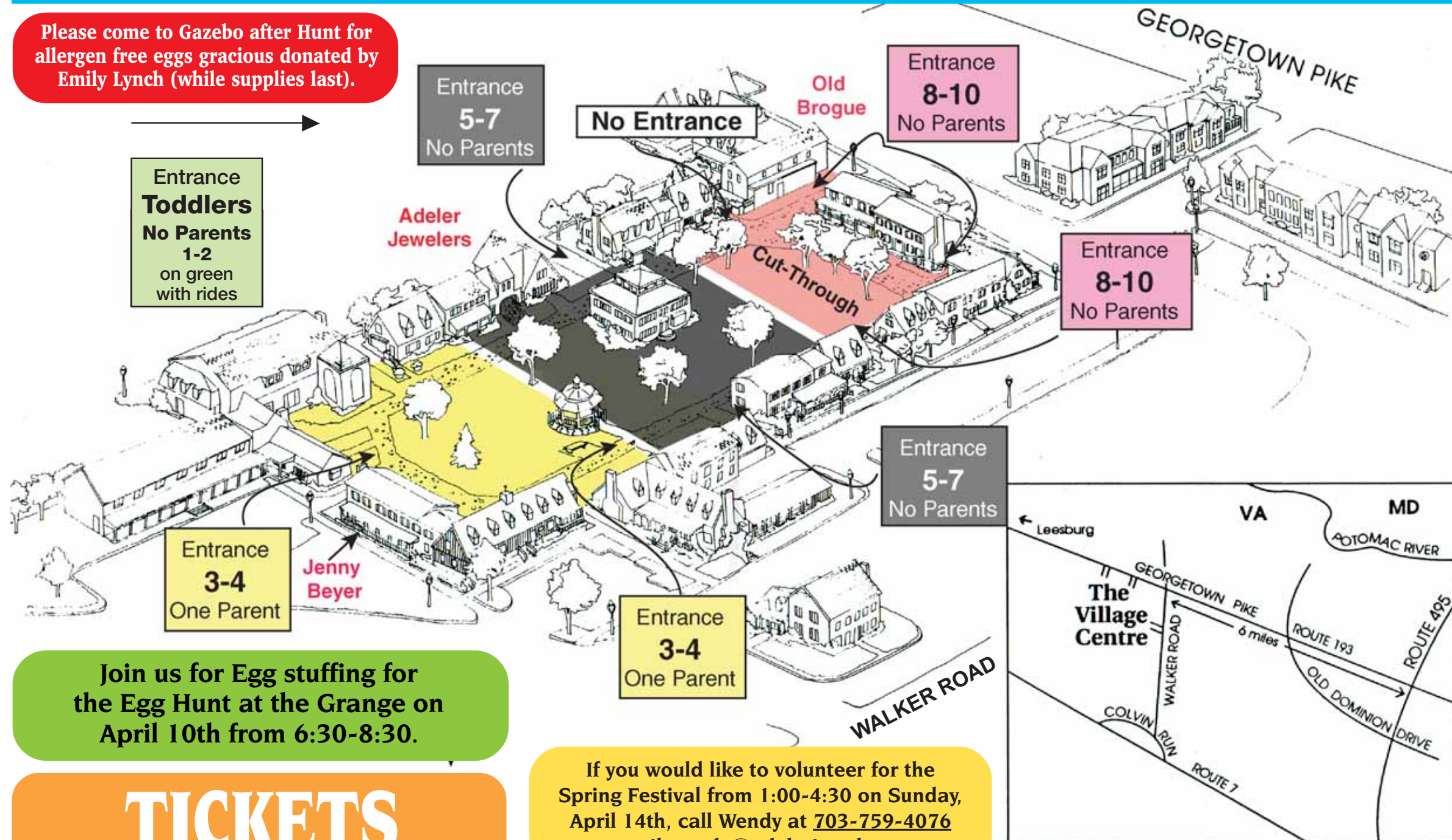
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35th Annual Egg Hunt brought to you by Adeler Jewelers and the Great Falls Optimist Club at the Village Centre

Please come to Gazebo after Hunt for allergen free eggs gracious donated by Emily Lynch (while supplies last).



Join us for Egg stuffing for the Egg Hunt at the Grange on April 10th from 6:30-8:30.

TICKETS
Go on sale at: 12:30
\$10 per child
Ages 1-10 and
Parents are free
Donations welcome...

If you would like to volunteer for the Spring Festival from 1:00-4:30 on Sunday, April 14th, call Wendy at 703-759-4076 or email wendy@adelerjewelers.com

Tickets go on sale at 12:30
Games and rides are from 1:30-4
The egg hunt from 4:00-4:30

The egg hunt includes over \$8000 worth of gemstones donated by Adeler Jewelers, mixed with candy and stuffed into 8,000 plastic eggs that will be scattered around the Village Centre for children ages 1-10 to find. All Rides at own risk.

If you would like to know what your "gem" is, please go to www.AdelerJewelers.com and follow the link under *Learn More.*

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Important Information

*** PLEASE NOTE: Candy in the Egg Hunt may contain nuts! We do our best to avoid this, but we cannot guarantee it because even nut-free candy MAY HAVE BEEN MADE on machines that previously processed candy that did contain nuts.

NO RAIN DATE: Due to the size of this ever-popular event, and to

scheduling requirements for the Village Centre and volunteer staff, we are unable to provide a rain date for the egg hunt. Please call 703-759-4076 after 9:00 am on April 14th to verify the status of the event if you are concerned about cancellation due to inclement weather.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We can always use more volunteers to help with a range of

jobs, including staffing an entrance, helping with set up and clean up the day of the hunt, and other activities. If you are interested in helping with this fun, family-friendly event, please contact us at 703-759-4076 or info@adelerjewelers.com. This is a terrific opportunity for Scout troops and students looking for community service opportunities!



Birthstones

FROM PAGE 5
century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called adularescence) and sometimes show either a multirayed star or a cat's eye. Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called feldspar, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne.

July - Ruby

There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the

imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Ruby is a variety of the gems species corundum. It is harder than any natural gemstone except diamond, which means a ruby is durable enough for everyday wear. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value.

August - Peridot

Two birthstones are available for August birthdays: Peridot and Sardonyx.

Peridot is said to host magical powers and healing properties to protect against nightmares and to bring the wearer power, influence, and a wonderful year. As peridot is a gemstone that forms deep inside the Earth and brought to the surface by volcanoes, in Hawaii, peridot symbolizes the tears of Pele,

the goddess of fire and volcanoes. Today, most of the peridot supply comes from Arizona; other sources are China, Myanmar, and Pakistan.

Sardonyx

Sardonyx is a form of onyx and is recognized by its layers of reddish brown and white banding. It was popular with the ancient Greeks and Romans who carried into battle talismans of sardonyx engraved with images of heroes such as Mars or Hercules, believing that this would bring courage and victory. Because of its attractive banding, sardonyx has long been used to fashion cameos (carved raised figures) and intaglios (the reverse of cameos). This gemstone is found throughout the world.

September - Sapphire

Sapphire, the September birthstone, has

been popular since the Middle Ages and, according to folklore, will protect your loved ones from envy and harm. Medieval clergy wore sapphires to symbolize heaven, while commoners thought the gem attracted heavenly blessings. Blue sapphires range from very light to very dark greenish or violetish blue, as well as various shades of pure blue. The most prized colors are a medium to medium dark blue or slightly violetish blue.

October - Tourmaline and Opal

October is another month with two birthstone choices - Tourmaline and Opal.

Tourmaline has become a favorite gemstone among jewelry designer, and gem collectors the world over. Since it is available in a wide variety of colors, it is ideally suited to almost anyone's taste.

Tourmaline also is known for displaying several colors in the same gemstone. These bi-color or tri-color gems are formed in many combinations; gemstones with clear color distinctions are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as watermelon tourmaline, and features green, pink, and white colors bands; to resemble its namesake, the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge.

The name opal derives from the Greek Opallos, meaning "to see a change (of color)." Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. An opal's beauty is the product of contrast between its color play and its background. Opal is a formation of non-crystalline silica gel that seeped into crevices in the sedimentary strata. Through time and nature's heating and molding processes, the gel hardened into the form of opals.

November - Topaz and Citrine

Two gems are appropriate for November birthdays - Topaz and Citrine.

Topaz is a gemstone available in a rich rainbow of colors. Prized for several thousand years in antiquity, all yellow gems in antiquity were called topaz. Often confused with citrine quartz (yellow) and smoky quartz (brown), quartz and topaz are separate and unrelated mineral species. The most prized color of topaz is called Imperial topaz after the Russian Czars of the 1800s and features a magnificent orange body color with pinkish undertones.

Citrine, the other birthstone for November is known as the "healing quartz". This golden gemstone is said to support vitality and health while encouraging and guiding hope, energy and warmth within the wearer. Citrine can be found in a variety of shades ranging from pastel yellow to dark brownish orange. It is one of the most affordable of gemstones and plentiful in nature.

December - Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise

The three birthstones associated with December are Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise.

Discovered in the late 1960s in Tanzania, and found exclusively in this tiny area of the world, tanzanite exhibits a rich violet-blue color for which the gemstone is treasured; often it is heat-treated to achieve this color. Colors range from blue to purple, and tanzanites that are medium dark in tone, vivid in saturation, and slightly violet blue command premium prices.

Derived from the Arabic words zar and gun, meaning gold and color, zircon is found in a wide range of colors such as: blue, yellow, orange, brown, green, colorless, and red (the most prized color). For many years colorless zircon was used to imitate diamonds. Folk wisdom grants zircon the power to relieve pain, whet the appetite, protect travelers from disease and injury, to ensure a warm welcome, and to prevent nightmares guaranteeing a deep, tranquil sleep.

The name turquoise, from the French expression Pierre tourques or Turkish stone, originated in the thirteenth century and describes one of the oldest known gemstones. Turquoise varies in color from greenish blue, through robin's egg-blue, to sky blue shades and its transparency ranges from translucent to opaque.



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Through The Years

The Grand Opening of Spring with the 35th Annual Children's Festival, April 14th.

FROM PAG 7

Adeler Jewelers to thank the community for its support", said Wendy Adeler Hall, whose father began the celebration over 30 years ago. "He's very community minded" she said.

There are four age groups for the egg hunt at 4 PM: 8-10 Years to the north of the green, 5-7 years in the middle, 3-4 years to the south of the green. The Toddlers and younger are free to pick up eggs near the Festival rides and games during the festival 1:30-4:30. The children 4 and younger

can have one parent with them, the older ones will be only allowed on the green by themselves. Parents can watch behind the ribbons.

The eggs contain candy, but some of the 8,000 eggs will contain gems donated by Adeler Jewelers. "We usually hide about \$8000 of gems mixed in", Adeler said. "Typically the gems include amethyst, garnet, peridot, blue topaz, citrine, some rubies and emeralds, all the typical birthstones", she said. In addition local vendors have sponsored rides, like a moon bounce, a maze and a gi-

ant slide for the children to enjoy. The \$10 per child admission gives each child a bracelet that's good for unlimited rides and the egg hunt. "We don't charge the parents admission, but they're free to make donations", she grinned!

The event will take place weather permitting, and parents can call 703-759-4076 starting at 9 AM on that Sunday if the weather is poor to find out details. Tickets will become available to purchase at 12:30 behind the village center where the rides will be set up.



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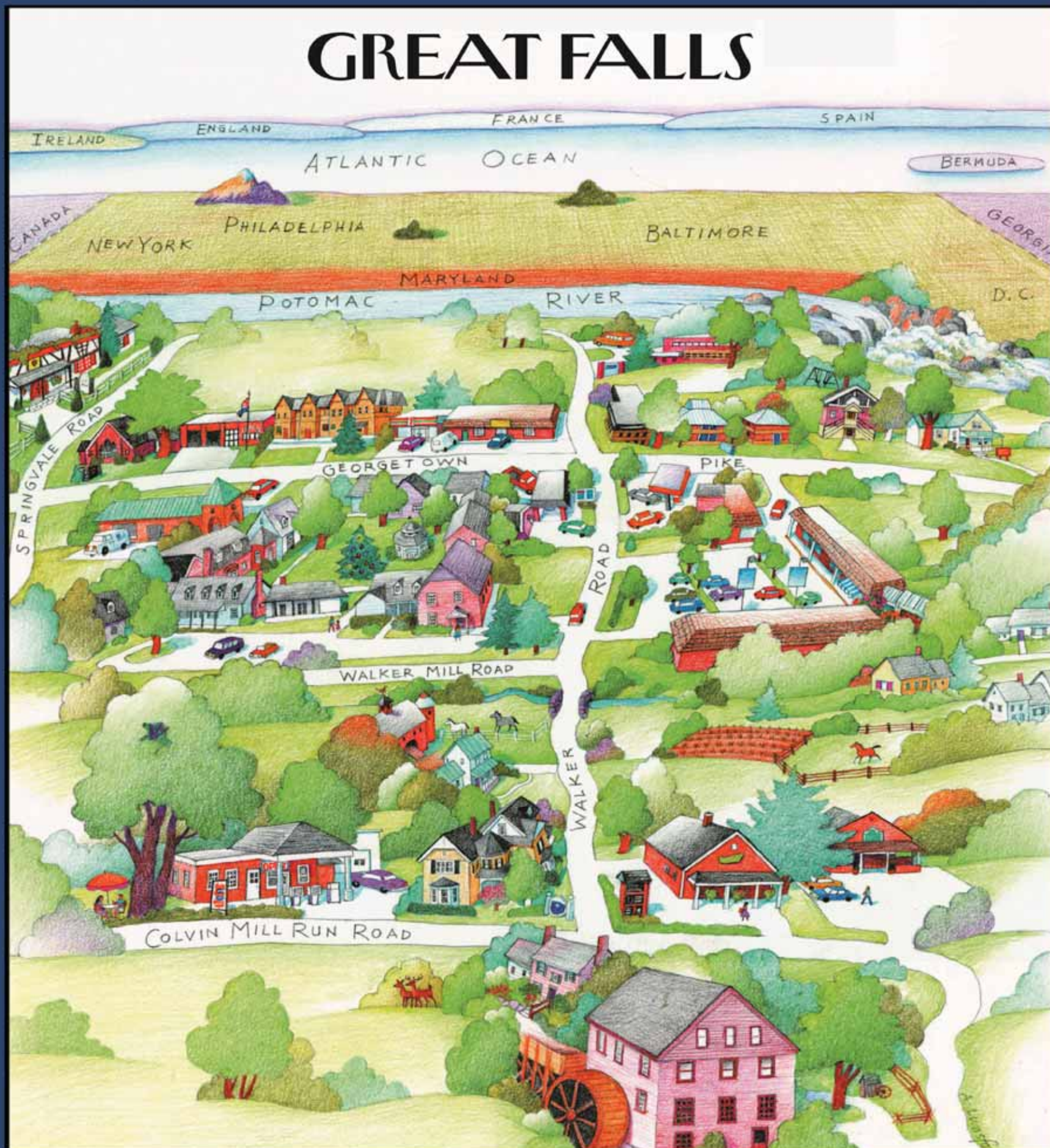




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