

McLean CONNECTION



Summer Concert Season Opens at Central Park

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Election
Heralds Big Changes

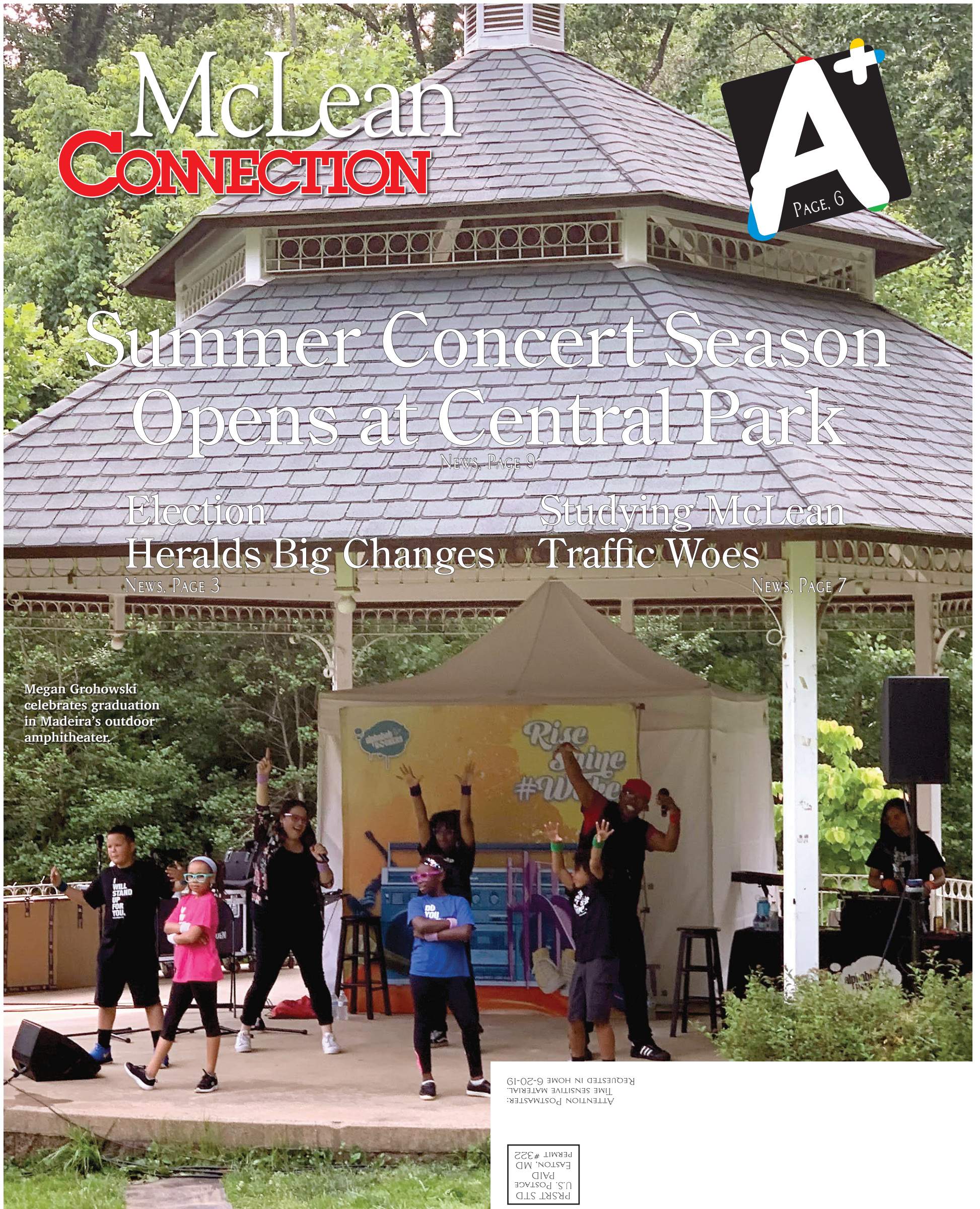
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Studying McLean
Traffic Woes

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Megan Grohowski
celebrates graduation
in Madeira's outdoor
amphitheater.

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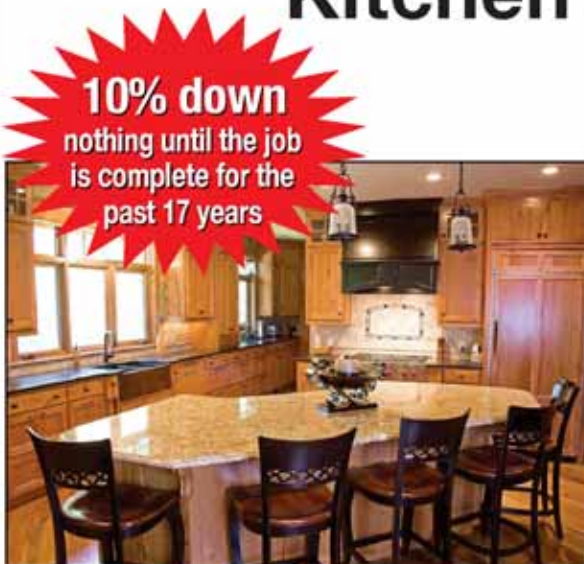
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Celebrating the victory, from left: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay. Connolly was chairman before he was elected to Congress.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Round 1 is over. The Democratic primaries for the Board of Supervisors, Commonwealth's Attorney, and other elected positions came to an end on June 11. Just after 7 p.m., all that is left outside Government Center are the candidates' signs.

Small Voter Turnout Heralds Big Changes

McKay's 'Experience Counts' tagline resonates, as does the call for criminal justice reform in the Commonwealth's Attorney race.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

In an election night that will deliver major change to Fairfax County, voter turnout was just 10.2 percent of the county's more than 700,000 active registered voters.

It was not a general election, nor was it an election during a Presidential election year — events that generally bring the largest number of voters to the polling booths — but a higher turnout was expected given the unprecedented number of seats up for grabs on the Board of Supervisors, including the chairman's position. Some of these races hadn't experienced a primary in decades.

IN THE UNOFFICIAL RESULTS posted by the Virginia Department of Elections, Jeff McKay, the current Lee District representative on the Board of Supervisors, beat out his three opponents — Ryan McElveen, At-Large Fairfax County Public Schools Board member, Georgetown law professor Alicia Plerhoples, and developer Timothy Chapman, for the chairman's spot, taking 42.48 percent of the vote. Plerhoples was his closest rival with 31.34 percent and was the obvious favorite in several precincts, particularly in the Reston, Herndon and Vienna areas, with Chapman a distant fourth at 9.80 percent, despite outspending the McKay by more than \$350,000. Both Plerhoples nor McElveen campaigned with far less money. The Virginia Public Access Project (vpap.org) reports \$87,327 spent by



McKay



Descano



Alcorn



Lusk



Palchick



Walkinshaw



Saslaw

McElveen; \$147,791 spent by Plerhoples; \$503,169 by McKay; and \$853,399 by Chapman.

McKay promoted his 11 years of experience on the board — and the relationships he has built over those years — during his primary campaign. Previous experience did not win the day for all of the candidates, but seemed to weigh in his favor with the Fairfax County electorate.

McKay will face Republican Joseph Galdo in the general election on Nov. 5, but supporters at his election Watch Party at Kilroy's Sports Bar and Restaurant in Springfield — including U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and current Chair Sharon Bulova — were more than ready to declare McKay the chair-elect.

"Things aren't perfect," acknowledged McKay supporter Henry Dent of Springfield at the McKay Watch Party, but the retired federal contractor said McKay won his vote because he has seen "progress in the right direction on the real issues — like affordable housing and pay raises for teachers and first responders and working on the traffic problems." Like McKay, Dent doesn't think

that now is the time to "take a chance on people without any experience."

McKay's progression toward the chairmanship of the board leaves his current Lee District seat vacant. Four Democratic hopefuls contended: Planning Commissioner James Migliaccio; attorney Kelly Hebron; lawyer and nonprofit Melwood chief of staff Larysa Kautz all fell to Rodney Lusk, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority national marketing director. Lusk won with 46.21 percent of the votes. With no Republican or Independent candidates having filed for the seat, the primary win will send Lusk directly to the board in the new year.

James Walkinshaw, the former chief of staff to Connolly, won his race for the Braddock District Supervisor to replace Supervisor John Cook, who announced that he would not be seeking re-election. Walkinshaw defeated Irma Corado 67.22 percent to 32.78 percent, but unlike Lusk, Walkinshaw will be back on the campaign trail in just a few weeks as he will face two opponents in November — Republican Jason Remer and Independent Carey

Campbell who is running for the position for the fifth time.

"I will take a few minutes to catch my breath and say 'hello' to my wife again, then it's back at it," said Walkinshaw at the Kilroy's event where he celebrated his victory along with McKay. "I can't take anything for granted. I have to get out there and keep listening and offering my message."

The impending retirement of long-time Supervisor Catherine Hudgins brought out five candidates seeking to replace her in representing the residents of the Hunter Mill District, a contest which featured some unusual elements.

Walter Alcorn, who has served on the Fairfax County Planning Commission for 16 years, took first place in that race, with 47.17 percent of the votes. Reston resident, long-time activist and child advocate attorney Laurie Dodd was the runner up with 24.94 percent. Shyamali Hauth, Maggie Parker and Parker Messick ran third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

SEE LOW TURNOUT, PAGE 9

New Majority on Board of Supervisors

Eight things to study, get up to speed.

One thing we know for sure, Fairfax County is about to lose a lot of institutional knowledge on the Board of Supervisors. Here are a few suggestions for areas where those who might find themselves on a fully re-constituted Board of Supervisors should bone up.

Affordable Housing: The market is not going to produce the affordable housing we need on its own. Mixed income apartments and condos that serve workforce housing all the way down through vouchers and supported housing managed local by nonprofits, all in the same building, must be leveraged by subsidizing infrastructure, providing partnerships, land and bonus densities. Move outside the box. Let large employers build housing, next to, on top of, in the parking areas, of their buildings. Let churches make room for housing. Put mixed income housing on top of every government building including libraries, community centers, government centers. Make room for housing in vast county parking lots. Try everything.

Homelessness: While in many ways,

Fairfax County has succeeded in reducing homelessness as much as possible, preventing a continuing cycle of homelessness will require more attention. Fairfax County Public Schools counted 2,600 students experiencing homelessness at the end of the school year, most of them Latino. The county's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness counted somewhat fewer, most of them African American. The definition is different, and the differences reveal places for improvement. The board is losing two major advocates for affordable housing and ending homelessness in Chairman Sharon Bulova and Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins.

Roads: We are on the cusp of unprecedented innovation in transportation. Overdesigning roads now will continue to divide communities, suburban and urban, in the future even with a decline in vehicles on the road and car ownership. Think ahead. Self-driving cars. Ride sharing. Service for people with disabilities and older residents.

One Fairfax: Data and other efforts related to equity and One Fairfax are already revealing expected and unexpected issues.

Police Reform: While Fairfax County now has two forms of independent oversight of police, consider that the police have chosen to remain silent on recommendations and reports by both the Independent Police Auditor

and the Civilian Review Panel. Members of the current Board of Supervisors acknowledge that they assumed the Fairfax County Police Department would make a public response to such oversight, but apparently it will need to be an explicit requirement. Transparency remains a concern.

Criminal Justice Reform: Don't forget what voters told you on June 11 about the importance of a progressive approach to criminal justice reform. Figure out and heed what leads to racial injustice in the criminal justice system.

Demographics: Residents of Fairfax County are getting older. Schools are getting more diverse. Data will offer many clues about what the county will look like in 10 years.

Change: We are on the cusp of unprecedented innovation. Don't double down and lock in solutions for yesterday's problems in a way that precludes more elegant technological solutions later.

Transportation is the most obvious of these. But anything that reduces barriers to entry will change the landscape.

Better meetings via camera, including medical appointments, therapy, drug treatment, business meetings. You can be face to face with anyone anywhere. Soon it will be seamless and generally available. There are many other examples.

Answering the Call

BY LOLITA YOUMANS
PRS CRISISLINK VOLUNTEER

I was treated like royalty this past month by PRS, a local nonprofit that helps people facing life crises and mental health challenges, as part of a variety of volunteer appreciation events. Although I appreciated being recognized, my work with PRS has become more than a volunteer job...it is a calling.

My journey to become a PRS volunteer started a few years ago when I lost three people in my life to suicide within 18 months. The first was a coworker who had just survived a heart attack in the summer, and came back to work full of energy. He died by suicide over Labor Day weekend. The next was a young friend of my daughter. They were all in their first semester of college. Her death by suicide was devastating. She had been a cheerleader, active in youth groups and just a sweet free spirit. The third death by suicide was a dear friend of mine, a few days before her 50th birthday.

Each of these heightened my awareness of suicide, and ignited a feeling that I should do something. I don't have a background

in social work or counseling, so I was lost as to what I could do. One day a song came on the radio about the suicide hotline, "1-800-273-TALK" by Logic, and that's when I knew.

I called PRS and signed up to volunteer for their CrisisLink program, which runs Northern Virginia's 24/7 suicide prevention and crisis intervention hotline.

From the first day of training, I felt like I was in the right place. It is so gratifying. Crisis workers serve as the containers into which callers pour their deepest hurts and disappointments about life. We don't try to fix things; we offer a safe haven for people to share their feelings without fear of judgement.

As I got involved, the biggest surprise for me was the vast range of circumstances that lead someone to consider suicide. We get calls from older adults who feel isolated; young children buckling from the pressures of school and their families; and successful people who feel they have achieved great professional success and come home to an empty house.

Last year during the holidays, I took a call from an older gentle-



The CrisisLink runs Northern Virginia's 24/7 suicide prevention and crisis intervention hotline.

man. He was in a nursing home and didn't have family to check on him.

He talked about feeling lonely and didn't see any reason to keep living. He told me about his love of music. We started talking about all his musical interests, and I could sense his mood lifting. As we were wrapping up, he sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth." It was beautiful and peaceful...and reinforced for me that I was in the right place.

I answered the call, but it's so

much more. Now other crisis workers have become friends, bonded by our shared desire to serve. After having been here for a year, I know that I have found my "tribe!" Of course, the need is great, and we always need more to join our tribe.

PRS CrisisLink is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - 1-800-273-TALK, 703-527-4077 or text 'CONNECT' to 855-11. To learn more about becoming a crisis worker, visit www.prsinc.org/crisislink.





PHOTO BY ZACHARY SCHONFELD/THE CONNECTION

Bella Ruscio hands a sheet of paper with suggested donation items to Matt Williams, who was shopping at the McLean Giant on Saturday.

McLean Shoppers “Stuff the Bus”

Food drive at Giant nets 1,468 pounds of food, \$1,097 of cash and \$175 worth of gift cards for SHARE, Inc.

BY ZACHARY SCHONFELD
THE CONNECTION

Shoppers at a local grocery store donated nearly 1,500 pounds of food during a “Stuff the Bus” event at the McLean Giant Food Store Saturday.

SHARE, Inc. – a nonprofit that provides emergency assistance to local families – joined with the Fairfax County Office of Public-Private Partnerships to hold the collection event, which will support local families in need. The event collected 1,468 pounds of food, \$1,097 of cash and \$175 worth of gift cards.

Volunteers provided shoppers with a list of suggested items for donation, like canned fruit, applesauce, flour and canned protein as they entered the store. Shoppers could drop off their donations after they checked out.

Betsy Rice, who helps run the food drives at Giant, said the shoppers and store management have been very supportive of the drive and provide critical items for the 348 people SHARE currently serves in the McLean area.

“Every time we meet different people who are willing to come out and donate,” Rice said. “One woman took the form, she said, ‘I’m not sure I have time to do this.’ She came out with two bags full of stuff for us, and one item that she had gone into the store for. And that generosity is the kind of

stuff that really just smacks you in the face.”

Rice said volunteers organize food drives about every six weeks, but that’s just a small part of SHARE’s impact. The organization runs free haircut events annually as well as collection drives for school supplies and clothes, she said.

She said SHARE also collects technology items, like computers and scientific calculators, which are reconditioned by retired government technology workers, Rice said.

Rice added that many of the volunteers are high school students who just finished the school year and are looking to fulfill their service hour requirements.

James Durney, a high school student and volunteer who helped weigh and move the donated food throughout the day, said while he volunteered because of his school’s service requirement, he knows his work will have a local and immediate impact.

“This is local,” Durney said. I live nearby, right near Langley High School. A friend told me that this is a good place. It’s right here – we both live in McLean – to get some good hours in.”

As the volunteers worked to sort and weigh the food, shoppers kept piling on more donations as they exited the store.

“We hope that we can reach out and help some folks that need it, and it’s a fine thing to share,” Dave Rosner, a shopper who made a cash donation, said. “You’re just trying to make an impact wherever it could be best made.”




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6/12/19.....Father's Day Dining & Gifts
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6/19/19.....A+ Graduations & Summer Education
6/26/19.....Senior Living:
Connection Families: Summer Life

July

7/3/19.....Wellbeing
7/10/19.....HomeLifeStyle
7/17/19.....A+ Camps & Schools

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A+ Education • Learning • Fun

Cooking, Counting, Drama

And other fun ways to
preserve skills during
the summer.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

During the summer, Glenda Hernández Baca and her children can be found in the kitchen measuring and mixing, stirring and sautéing. They cook together as a family, but what the children don't realize however, is that their mother is helping them maintain their math and reading skills.

"You can do math no matter what you are doing, and cooking is also a great way to do math," said Hernández Baca, Ph.D. of the School of Education at Montgomery College. "My kids love to cook with me and they help me with the recipes. We engage in reading, organizing and sorting, and discussing and analyzing fractions and conversions. They are doing so much learning but they don't know it."

The key to preventing that reversal, say educators, is finding creative ways to make learning fun while maintaining the light-hearted and carefree nature of vacations, camps and trips to the pool.

"The more students practice their academic skills in the summer, the more prepared they will be for the next school year and the less review and relearning they will need to do," said Hernández Baca.

For students who don't enjoy reading, infuse reading with drama, suggests Ana Lado, Ph.D., Professor of Education at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. "Pick ... books with lots of dialogue and either lots of active verbs or actionable scenes," she said. "You and the child read the parts as dramatically as you can together ... totally exaggerating the spoken parts as well as the actions as much as possible."

"Have them make a video with their favorite scenes in a book," continued Lado. "It forces them to read for scenes that have drama and to reread as they rehearse. It gives them a goal and making a film is a concrete goal. As they read through the book looking for drama and action let them put a sticky note on each good page they find."

In fact, infusing reading with drama can change the mindset of a child who doesn't enjoy reading. "Some students will benefit if they watch a movie version of a classic text like something by Jane Austen, for example, while they are reading it," M.A. Mahoney, Dean of Academics and Faculty at the Madeira School in McLean, Va. "This approach is sometimes the gateway to a lifetime of reading pleasure of an author."

For children who have challenges or difficulties reading, Hernández Baca suggests choosing short passages that allow them to explore a subject that piques their curiosity. "Consider cutting out an article or something shorter about an interest they have such as a band, music [or] sports," she said.

Everyday conversations can lead to math, science and language learning opportunities. "Often, children will make comments about something they are curious about such as how something grows or why the sky is changing colors, Hernández Baca said. "Maximize that opportunity and tell them what great questions they have and look up information. You could even make it a library trip to learn together. This is a wonderful way to show and model that we as parents, are always learning, too."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADEIRA SCHOOL

M.A. Mahoney of Madeira School believes that during the summer, students can develop a lifetime of reading pleasure.

Even a short car ride or setting money goals can help support math skills, says Hernández Baca. "Talk about how much money a certain toy costs and how much they would need to purchase it. Have them come up with different equations that would help them reach that goal and talk about it. ...

"You can do math no matter what you are doing," she continued. "For example, in the car you can count how many trucks you see or how many blue cars."

Another way to practice math is to engage children in predictions and estimates, says Hernández Baca. "Asking 'How long do you think it will take us to get there?' or 'How many steps does it take to walk to the car or to the house?' You can then break it down and ask questions such as, 'Why do you think mommy had to take fewer steps?' or 'How many miles an hour would we have to go if we needed to reduce the trip time to get here?'"

A family vacation can provide an opportunity to practice language and writing. "Keep a vacation journal by printing out your child's favorite photos and have them write about them," said Carly Flanigan, Lower School Learning Specialist at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School in Alexandria, Va.

When parents model a positive attitude toward reading, a child might find it more pleasurable "Have a family book club [and] meet once a month at everyone's favorite restaurant," said Flanigan "Make connections about books you and your child read or listen to. Ask questions about characters, setting and action in the plot ... Have your child read one of your favorite books that you love."

"Read aloud no matter the age of the child," said Elizabeth McConnel, Lower School Learning Specialist, also at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School. "Make this a fun family event. Utilize different genres of text including magazines for your child's reading. Use audio books, Audible, or podcasts."

Current events can provide fodder for mental stimulation. "I always encourage students and families to read an editorial daily from a news source, and then to discuss it at a family meal," said Mahoney. "This builds reading comprehension skills, civil discourse skills, and increases familiarity with essay construction, not to mention making meal time more lively."

No matter the method, parents should be intentional about prioritizing and setting summer learning goals for their children, advises Hernández Baca. "Your kids do not need to know your structure or plan, but it will help you stay consistent with activities that specifically target learning in reading, writing, math, science or anything else."

Studying McLean Traffic Woes

How to respond to growing traffic issues in Dolley Madison Corridor.

BY ANNA KARL
THE CONNECTION

Around eighty concerned citizens gathered at the McLean Community Center on Thursday, June 13 to hear about the short and long term plans the Fairfax County Department of Transportation is developing to combat troubling traffic patterns in the Dolley Madison corridor in McLean.

The community meeting was held by Supervisor John Foust and Fairfax County Department of Transportation, with a presentation led by Gregg Steverson, the Division Chief for oversight analysis and transportation planning for FCDOT.

The Dolley Madison Corridor Study is analyzing the area of Dolley Madison Boulevard specifically between the Dulles Toll Road and Old Dominion Drive, and provide solutions to improve existing traffic conditions and anticipated future problems.

Steverson stressed community opinion and response as a main concern of the study, hoping to gain insight into how community members at large will respond to changes set in place within the next ten years or so.

The study stems from an existing Tysons neighborhood study that evaluated thirty intersections surrounding Tysons to “provide potential future mitigations.” The information gathered through this analysis showed a need for significant improvements at these locations.

THE DOLLEY MADISON CORRIDOR STUDY looks at six main intersections in the area: Dolley Madison Boulevard and Great Falls Street and Lewinsville Road, Dolley Madison Boulevard and Old Dominion Drive, Dolley Madison Boulevard and Ingleside Avenue, Balls Hill Road and Lewinsville Road, Chain Bridge Road and Great Falls Street, and Old Dominion Drive and Ingleside Avenue.

Before discussing any potential plans, Steverson addressed existing conditions in these areas. Using the qualitative measure of Level of Service (LOS) to show the average delay at a given intersection, FCDOT has described conditions in these intersec-



Concept 1 implements three continuous lanes on Dolley Madison Boulevard Eastbound. Benefits include gaining an additional eastbound through lane on Dolley Madison and avoiding a lane merge east of EB Toll Road off ramp. Drawbacks include removal of trees within the median, potential for bottleneck around Great Falls/Lewinsville intersection, and free flow merge conditions from WB toll road off-ramp to NB Dolley Madison becoming a yield condition.

tions using the common “school grade” designation (A through F).

“Along the corridor, in the AM conditions weren’t terrible,” Steverson noted. “For the most part, conditions were at a ‘D’ or better.” The same could not be said for PM conditions, however, with many intersections in the “heavy ‘F’ territory.”

Six short-term corridor improvement concepts along with their benefits and drawbacks were presented to address existing conditions and help ten or so years into the future. These concepts are specifically focused on traffic signals, turn lanes, and markings based on 2027 traffic forecasts.

The presentation briefly touched on interchange improvement concepts for discussion into long-term solutions, as the short-term changes will provide improvements but not permanent solutions.

Using 2027 traffic forecasts, FCDOT ex-

plores three scenarios regarding interchanges: No-Build; Alternative 1, an interchange at Lewinsville/Great Falls; and Alternative 2, interchanges at both Lewinsville/Great Falls and Old Dominion. The analysis results showed shorter queuing times at the intersections, thus improving traffic patterns.

A community member expressed concern about the implementation of these interchanges, wondering how speeding up through traffic on Dolley Madison would impact traffic further down in the Tysons area.

“This particular project stops basically around the toll road,” Steverson clarified.

“There’s another project that also works on the Tysons area on 123, from Anderson over to International.”

STEVerson also assured the community



PHOTO BY ANNA KARL/THE CONNECTION

Gregg Steverson of FCDOT gives Dolley Madison Corridor Study presentation to community members and answers questions of concerned citizens.

that his team is in close contact with the other project, assuring that they are “on the same page” when analyses are conducted and changes implemented.

A few community members questioned how they might judge these plans without any indication of their costs.

“The thought process is, if the desire is to move forward with something, we would get to the feasibility stage,” Steverson responded. “Right now we’re truly in the early-stage, analytical phase to get an idea of what helps and what doesn’t help.”

Community members showed concern for certain aspects of the presentation, but there was a shared sense of necessity for change.

FCDOT strongly encourages feedback from the community, and will post a survey to their website. They hope to receive significant feedback by July 15. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/study/dolley-madison-corridor

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the McLean District Police Station:

JUNE 14
LARCENIES:
1600 block of Anderson Road, seafood from business
1400 block of Balls Hill Road, cash from business
1400 block of Balls Hill Road, check from vehicle
8200 block of Boone Boulevard, cell phone from location
1900 block of Chain Bridge Road, cell phone from location
8000 block of Chanute Place, license plates from vehicle

3000 block of Nutley Street, ring from location
STOLEN VEHICLES:
1300 block of Macbeth Street, 2016 Honda CRV
JUNE 13
LARCENIES:
1900 block of Chain Bridge Road, property from residence
2900 block of District Avenue, gun from residence
2900 block of Gallows Road, cash from business
8200 block of Lee Highway, cell

phone from location
3000 block of Nutley Street, groceries from business
8100 block of Strawberry Lane, headphones and keys from location
JUNE 12
LARCENIES:
Raglan Road/Paisley Court, tires from vehicle
7900 block of Jones Branch Drive, wallet from location
1500 block of Spring Hill Road, rims and tires from vehicle
1700 block of Tysons Boulevard,

watch from vehicle
7900 block of Tysons Corner Center, sunglasses from location
JUNE 11
LARCENIES:
8000 block of Georgetown Pike, purse and laptop from vehicle
8000 block of Tysons Corner Center, merchandise from business
JUNE 10
LARCENIES:
8100 block of Arlington Boulevard, merchandise from business
8100 block of Arlington Boulevard,

property from residence
7900 block of Jones Branch Drive, stamp from location
8400 block of Lee Highway, tires from vehicle
2800 block of Merrilee Drive, merchandise from business
6400 block of Overbrook Street, cash from vehicle
1600 block of Sereno Court, license plate from vehicle
7200 block of Timber Lane, license plate from vehicle

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Oak Marr Farmers' Market. 8 a.m.-noon at Oak Marr RECenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Every Wednesday through Nov. 13, rain or shine. Vendors include produce, meats, eggs, cheeses, pies, cured and smoked meats, popsicles, sorbet, bread, croissants, falafel sandwiches, humus, and pesto. Call 703-281-6501 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/oak-marr for more.

McLean Farmers Market. Fridays, through Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Sixteen local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; jams; dairy products and eggs; herbs; flowers, coffee, and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean.

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

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

THURSDAY/JUNE 20

Nottoway Nights: Moonshine Society. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, June 20-Aug. 22 (except July 4). Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

Live Music: Maggie Rose. 7:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap, Vienna. Opening for Trampled By Turtles and Deer Tick. \$30. Visit www.maggirosemusic.com or www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 21

White Elephant Bingo & Ice Cream Social. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 129 Cherry St SE, Vienna. Adults 50+ meet up for an afternoon of White Elephant Bingo and an Ice Cream Social. Enjoy a traditional bingo game in a friendly atmosphere and win white elephant prizes. Bingo cards are \$2 for 2. Pay at door. Please bring a white elephant item in good condition to donate to the prize table. Call the Shepherd's Center at 703-281-0538 to register or with questions.

Chillin' on Church. 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Church Street between Dominion and Mill roads. The Town of Vienna's summer block parties bring live music, food trucks, and beer and wine sales. The food truck lineup includes: Ben & Jerry's; Blue City Food; Chix 'n' Stix; Crepe Love Truck; DC Korean BBQ Taco Box; DC Slices; Kona Ice of North Fairfax County; NC Ribs on Wheels; Stay Cheesy Food Truck; Tapas Truck DC; and Urban Bumpkin BBQ. Food trucks are subject to change. Admission is free. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

Summer on the Green: The Deja Gruv Band (R&B, funk, and soul). 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. The Summer on the Green concert series returns to Vienna's Town Green Friday nights through Aug. 23. Please see the text below or the attached release for details. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

SATURDAY/JUNE 22

AAUW McLean Branch Used Book Collection. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. SunTrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Used books, CDs, DVDs, software, children's books, records, and recent textbooks. No encyclopedias, VHS or audiotapes. The Book Sale will be held on Sept. 13-15 at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Proceeds benefit scholarships for women. Questions, contact



PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY QUINTANGO

From left: Quintango, Phil Hosford (piano), Joan Singer (violin), Susanna Mendlow (cello), Ali Cook (bass), Emmanuel Trifilio (bandoneon).

Midsummer Night with the Heat of Tango

Quintango performs In Tysons at 1st Stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Ready for some Tango? The Virginia Chamber Orchestra will bring the passionate, sensual beat and heat of the Tango without a long distance flight and jet lag when Quintango brings award-winning tango music to the Classical Cabaret series at 1st Stage in Tysons. Quintango is composed of violins, cello, bass, bandoneon and piano. The group showcases tango's seductive music in a chamber music format and spices it up with gritty backstories.

Highlights of the evening will include traditional favorites "La Cumparsita," "Por una Cabeza," used in the memorable Al Pacino tango scene in "Scent of a

Where and When

Virginia Chamber Orchestra presents Quintango at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Rd, Tysons. Performance, Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 8 p.m. Advance tickets are \$30, box office tickets are \$35. For tickets call 703-829-7440 visit www.vco.events

Woman," and the Piazzolla classic "Balada para un Loco."

Recognized as an Intangible Cultural Heritage genre by UNESCO in 2009, Tango captures life's dramas — lost loves, secret passions, breathless encounters — and Quintango delivers them with humor, tears, and unforgettable sizzle. Adding to the evening's festive nature, the audience is invited to join the artists on stage for a post-show glass of champagne and light refreshments.

Quintango has performed at the White House, in Buenos Aires for the U.S. Ambassador, and has appeared in concert at the Kennedy Center and throughout the United States and Latin America.

chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

FRIDAY/JUNE 28

Ants Ants Ants. 10:30 a.m. at Wolf Trap Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. With their optimistic lyrics and innovative instrumentation, Ants Ants Ants offers an invitation into that golden childhood we always dreamed of having and creating for the ones we love. Ages 2 and older. \$10. Visit www.wolftrap.org.

Summer on the Green: Sarah Bennet Swanner. 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. The Summer on the Green concert series returns to Vienna's Town Green Friday nights through Aug. 23. Please see the text below or the attached release for details. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

July 4th in June. All day at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Get the nation's birthday party started early. The park opens at dawn and the fun continues until the last fireworks disappear from the sky after dark. The water park is open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. There will be live music with Modern Vintage and the U.S. Navy Band Commodores from 3:30-9 p.m. Food vendors will be on hand throughout the

day. Fireworks begin at 9:15 p.m.. The park generally closes to new arrivals around 8:45 p.m. Walk or bike to the park and admission is free. There is a parking fee of \$10 per vehicle. The rain date Sunday, June 30. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax.

Intro Canoeing Tour. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills S., Great Falls. Come and experience the upper Potomac's beautiful scenery and wildlife from the water. Start with an introduction to canoeing basics and then head out onto the river with an instructor. This is not a whitewater tour and is good for canoeing beginners. There will be three people per canoe and paddling and safety gear is provided. \$41 per person. For participants age 16 to adult and will be canceled in the event of inclement weather or hazardous river conditions. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

SUNDAY/JUNE 30

Get Prepped for Paddling. 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Pick up the skills needed to paddle the Potomac and other waterways this summer by enrolling in "Intro to River Kayaking" at Riverbend Park. The hour-long session will cover river hazards, water safety and paddling basics. \$32 per person. The fee includes equipment and a half-day kayak rental on the day of class for more practice. For participants age 14 to adult. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Summer Concerts: Sonia de Los Santos. 5 p.m. in the gazebo of McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. The Alden at the McLean Community Center is again sponsoring free summer concerts in the gazebo of McLean Central Park featuring a mix of musical genres. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Concerts on the Green: The Alan Scott Band. 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Bring picnic baskets, chairs and blankets for an evening of live music. Free. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 4

4th Of July Hometown Celebration and Parade. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Great Falls Village Centre. 6 p.m. at Turner Farm Park. Free admission. Visit celebrategreatfalls.org/event/4th-of-july-hometown-celebration/ for more.

- ❖ 8 a.m. — **5K Walk/Run** at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial. Visit runsignup.com/Race/VA/GreatFalls/July45K to register.
- ❖ 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. — **INOVA Blood Drive** with the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department. Photo ID required. Allow 1 hour for donor visit. See you there!
- ❖ 9 a.m. — **Little Patriot Parade** on the Village Centre Green (at the Gazebo). Babies and Toddlers up to age 5 are welcome to parade their finest patriotic display around the Green.
- ❖ 10 a.m. — **Main Parade** around the Great Falls Village Centre. See the floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade.
- ❖ 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — **Festivities, Food & Fun.** After the parade, enjoy burgers, dogs and snow-cones along with music, field games and festivities on the Village Centre Green.
- ❖ 6 p.m. — **Fireworks & Fun** at Turner Farm Park. Gates open at 6. Pack up the family and come tailgate with neighbors. Live music, games, contests and food trucks will entertain until the Big Show gets underway just after dusk.

Sprinklers and Sparklers. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Features three water slides and a bevy of other water activities for children as well as five food trucks and snow cones. Kids (and adults who may encounter collateral water damage) should be prepared to get really wet and to have a really good time. Visit viennava.gov or call 703-255-6361.

McLean 4th Of July Fireworks Celebration. 6:30 p.m. at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Enjoy a DJ, food trucks, and fireworks. Free onsite parking (limited). Free satellite parking and shuttle buses (handicapped equipped) from McLean Community Center and St. John's Episcopal Church. The following are prohibited on school grounds: smoking, alcohol, vaping, glass containers, personal fireworks, weapons and pets. Free admission. Visit www.mcleancenter.org or call 703-790-0123.



PHOTOS BY ANNA KARL/THE CONNECTION

Community leader and namesake of McLean's Alden Theater, Robert Alden and his wife Diane enjoy the first of the Sunday concerts this Summer.

Summer Concerts Season Opens at Central Park

Families gather in McLean Central Park for first Sunday Concert of the summer.

BY ANNA KARL
THE CONNECTION

Families from all over the area joined at McLean Central Park this Sunday, June 16 to see the Alphabet Rockers perform the first Summer Sunday Concert in the Park.

The Alphabet Rockers are a GRAMMY nominated band, "inspiring American kids to stand up to hate and be their brave and beautiful selves."

Leaders Kaitlin McGaw and Tommy Shepherd took the stage with four child performers to entertain community members with their music and encourage everyone to "bridge the gap between great ally and great friend." They performed a range of numbers, including songs from their new album, "Rise Shine #Woke."

Fans of all ages filled the park with an eagerness to participate in song and dance with the Alphabet Rockers and the rest of their community.

Among those in attendance was the McLean community leader Robert Alden, the planner of the green, central park, library, outdoor stage, and community center in McLean. Alden proposed the naming of the town's main street as "Dolley Madison Boulevard" and McLean's Robert Ames Alden Theater carries his name.

"We just love these outdoor concerts," Diane Alden said. "We'll be coming to all of them."

The Sampson-Walawender family traveled from Upper Marlboro, Md. just to see the Alphabet Rockers perform.

"It's just great black positive music," Becca Walawender said. "We are really glad that they're here."

There will be concerts in McLean Central Park at 5 p.m. every Sunday through the end of July, sponsored by The Alden at the McLean Community Center. The concerts will range in genre, inspiring an "international flair, with New Orleans jazz, classic rock and Latin American melodies."



Ellie Pelaez and her children, Andrew (left) and Riley (middle), residents of McLean, enjoy a picnic in anticipation of the evening concert.

Low Turnout, Big Changes

FROM PAGE 3

THE HUNTER MILL RACE made election headlines on a number of occasions. For starters, there was the wide disparity in campaign dollars spent. Winner Alcorn shows a total of \$75,926 in campaign dollars expended, while fourth place Maggie Parker spent \$246,368, according to the Virginia Public Access Project.

Bulova and others raised First Amendment concerns when Parker displayed large signs at the Wiehle-Reston Metro station while her opponents were barred from campaigning there. Parker works for Comstock Companies developers, the company that built the station with Fairfax County in a public-private partnership. The question of access remains to be resolved.

The Hunter Mill contest also included the youngest candidate in any of the Board of Supervisors races in Parker Messick who is just a few years beyond his college graduation.

PROVIDENCE was another district that saw five Democrats on the Primary ballot to replace Supervisor Linda Smyth who, like Hudgins and Bulova, announced that she will retire at the end of the year. In the unofficial results, FCPS School Board member Dalia Palchik's 39.79 percent of the votes tops Planning Commissioner Phil Niedzielski-Eichner's 23.40 percent; court officer Erika Yalowitz's 13.97 percent; former Vienna Town Council member Edythe Kelleher's 12.73 percent; and consultant Linh Hoang's 10.12 percent for the seat.

Next up, Palchik will face Republican Paul Bolon in November.

Dranesville Supervisor John Foust and Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck appear to be unopposed in November. In the Springfield District, Republican Pat Herrity will face Democrat Linda Sperling; in the Sully District, current Supervisor Kathy Smith will see Republican Srilekha Palle on the ballot; and Democrat Penny Gross will be challenged by Republican Gary Aiken.

PERHAPS THE BIGGEST SURPRISE to some was the defeat of longtime Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh. Challenger Steve Descano, a former federal prosecutor pressed a progressive agenda for criminal justice reform, winning with 51.04 percent of the vote.

Morrogh has served for 35 years and has held the top prosecutorial spot in Fairfax County and Fairfax City since 2007, prosecuting a number of high-profile cases.

Descano is a West Point graduate who spent 6 years as a federal prosecutor in the Obama Administration, first as a Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia and then as a trial attorney in the Criminal Tax Division and the Consumer Protection Branch. He served on the inaugural Fairfax County civilian panel providing oversight to the Fairfax County Police.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Getting a selfie with the winner. A supporter gets a photo with James Walkinshaw, the winner of the Democratic primary election for the Braddock District Supervisor. Walkinshaw will face Republican Jason Remer and Independent Carey Campbell in November, so he will "be back on the campaign trail almost immediately."

The two men met at public forums several times during the campaign. Morrogh often described his opponent as "unqualified."

Descano said Morrogh lacked a vision of where reforms — particularly to combat systemic racism and bias — need to occur.

Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe endorsed Descano, as well as the reform minded challenger in Arlington, Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, who defeated incumbent Theo Stamos there because the two incumbents signed on to a Republican effort to block restoration of voting rights of former felons who had completed their sentences. Both Descano and Dehghani-Tafti received large donations from the same Political Action Committee, giving them a financial advantage.

With no other declared candidates to be faced in November, Descano will be the new Commonwealth's Attorney.

The number of races and candidates and the contentious nature of some of the campaigning for Board of Supervisor positions and for Commonwealth's Attorney may have stolen the election limelight there were also primaries for several members of the General Assembly. Incumbent Barbara Favola handily defeated Nicole Merline to retain her position as the nominee for Virginia State Senator for the 31st District.

Jennifer Boysko did the same with her challenger M. Sharafat Hussain for Senate District 33.

Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35), the Senate minority leader, had a tougher time of it. In the first challenge he has faced in decades, Saslaw held off human rights lawyer Yasmine Taeb by only 362 votes. Taeb is the first Muslim woman to be elected to the Democratic National Committee. A third candidate, Karen Elena Torrent, received 697 votes.

At the victory party, Saslaw admitted that things got a "little closer than I thought it was going to be."

In the Democratic primary races for the Virginia House of Delegates, the incumbents Kaye Kory (D-38) and Alfonso Lopez (D-49) triumphed over their opponents.

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PHOTO BY MARY KIMM

Traffic backs up on the George Washington Parkway northbound to merge around a sinkhole on May 21. When the NPS initially stabilized the sinkhole in mid-May, it was 10-foot deep, 30-foot long and 20-foot wide. Construction will continue through most of the summer.

Long-term Fix Planned for George Washington Memorial Parkway

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing to begin construction on a long-term repair of the sinkhole near Dead Run on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Following extensive assessments of the area and of drainage infrastructure that is deep underground, engineers have determined that the NPS needs to replace a 60-year-old brick drainage structure and rehabilitate the pipes leading to that structure.

"We are working with the Federal Highway Administration to fully address the sinkhole and reopen both northbound lanes of the George Washington Memorial Parkway," Superintendent Charles Cuvelier said. "At this point we are finalizing construction plans for a long-term fix. Once construction on the long-term fix begins, it is anticipated to take approximately 10 weeks."

Since the sinkhole opened in mid-May, engineers and work crews have:

- ❖ Excavated the sinkhole area and backfilled it using flowable fill (a specialized type of concrete).
- ❖ Stabilized the road bed with polyurethane grout injection.
- ❖ Repaved the left northbound lane following sta-

bilization to reopen it to traffic.

- ❖ Performed extensive assessments to understand the extent of the issue, which included inspecting deep drainage pipes' with a robotic camera.

- ❖ Reinforced a brick drainage structure that was failing.

- ❖ Monitored the area daily for changes in road conditions (none have been observed).

- ❖ Worked with multiple NPS & Federal Highway Administration engineers to design a long-term fix.

- ❖ Consulted with a variety of construction contractors to ensure work crews will be able to successfully fix the issue at appropriate cost.

When the NPS initially stabilized the sinkhole in mid-May, it was 10-foot deep, 30-foot long and 20-foot wide. The temporary stabilization is allowing vehicles to safely travel in the left lane. Drivers in the area should expect to see active construction and workers near the road.

In order to protect workers and allow drivers time to react to the changed lane configuration in the area, the NPS has lowered the speed limit to 40 miles per hour. Drivers need to slow down for their safety and for the safety of construction personnel.

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.

SOBER-RIDE FOR JULY 4

Free Sober Rides. Thursday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Friday, July 5, 2 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's Independence Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 6 p.m. on July 4 on www.SoberRide.com.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

STEM Professionals Needed.

Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's

STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 20

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Training. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Pennino Government Building (Rooms 200 + 206), 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Join SCAN for a Stewards of Children Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training. As a Partner in Prevention with Darkness to Light, SCAN offers

this evidence-informed training to empower adults to take action to protect the children in their lives. Free; space is limited. Register at scanD2Lfairfax.eventbrite.com.

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 11

Man Found Dead in McLean Pool

Detectives from our Major Crimes Bureau are investigating after the body of 31-year-old Justin Hollman, of Chesapeake, was found in a residential pool. Officers responded Saturday, June 15, around 3 p.m. to the 1100 block of Pine Hill Road for the report of a drowning. Hollman was pulled from the pool and pronounced deceased by Fire and Rescue Department staff at the scene. It is unknown how long he had been in the pool and the circumstances surrounding his drowning are still under investigation. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine exact cause and manner of death.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

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.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/JUNE 24-28

Hogwarts Vacation Bible School. Monday-Friday, June 24-28 at Holy Comforter. All children 5-11 years old are invited to participate in a summer camp experience which explores the Christian themes and lessons in the Harry Potter stories. Holy Comforter is magically converted into Hogwarts School where children attend “classes” taught by favorite professors including Prof. McGonagall, Snape, Hooch, and Binns. Teenage prefects lead age level groups to their activities and all students share a closing snack in the Great Hall. Morning Session: 9 a.m.-noon; afternoon session: 1:30-4:30 p.m. Download registration forms at www.holycomforter.com.

TUESDAY/JUNE 25

FCPS Career Fair. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will host a Career Fair for individuals interested in learning more about instructional and operational positions with the school district. There will also be four breakout sessions offered: benefits, the application process, and resume writing and interviewing. Particular needs include teachers, instructional assistants, special education teachers, substitute teachers, HVAC mechanics, school bus drivers, maintenance technicians, and professionals in information technology, human resources, procurement and finance, and safety and security. Visit www.fcps.edu/news/fcps-host-career-fair-instructional-and-operational-personnel-to-rsvp-or-learn-more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 28-30

Women’s Summit. Tysons McLean Hilton, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Speakers and workshops cover women in politics, education, equality, diversity, environment, healthcare, racial and social justice, reproductive freedom, public safety, rural economy, voting rights, and family friendly economy. \$139. Visit networknova.org for more.

MONDAY/JULY 1

Application Deadline. Each year, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia provides a grant opportunity to help public schools encourage healthy lifestyles through increased exercise and better nutrition. Grants up to \$2,000 are awarded in a competitive grant process. Public elementary, middle and high schools located in Northern Virginia are all eligible to apply. Visit www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/healthy-kids-grants for more.

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A Few Weeks Off, Finally



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After a second successful week of navigating government and private sector websites, I have reached the promised, albeit familiar land: only worrying about the fact that I have non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. Oh well. What else is new?

Nothing much thankfully so I can continue to try and live the Vulcan philosophy: “Live long and prosper.” (Although, I could never manipulate my fingers to support the greeting. My wife, Dina, can however, with ease but she’s not a logical person.)

I have to be a logical person.

If I am to endure the ups and downs and all-around of a “terminal” cancer diagnosis, I have to think as unemotionally as possible about any news or assessments I may receive.

Cancer is too insidious to give it any help from the “diagnossee.” Moreover, from what anecdotal evidence exists, providing cancer as inhospitable an environment as possible is said to help.

And aside from maintaining a positive attitude and a good sense of humor, keeping cancer things – good or bad, in some kind of perspective/context, is a trek worth taking. One should be reminded of the never-say-die mantra of the 1978 NBA World Champion Washington Bullets: “It ain’t over ‘til the fat lady sings.”

In addition, all us cancer survivors should remember the famous words of Bluto (John Belushi) from 1980’s “Animal House” when he implored his fellow Delta Fraternity brothers: “What? Over? Did you say over? Nothing is over until we decide it is. Was it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor? Hell no! ...”

And not that cancer survivors can control our disease any more than the Germans can control this mistaken narrative, funny and famous though it is, but we have to try and laugh – and joke, because it sure beats the alternative. Control? ‘Hell no!’

And now that I’ve completed the arduous and tedious – for me – tasks of the last two weeks, I feel as if I’ve taken back some control.

Cancer, schmancer.

I’ve survived the multi-step process required of the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Health Connection, Social Security/Medicare, and the future provider of my Supplemental Medical insurance all within two weeks. Besides me, and anybody who knows me: Who says I can’t step my way through this morass of websites, user names, passwords, mouse clicks and keystrokes? But I did. Somehow. An amazing miracle if there ever was one.

Now life can return to abnormal. But it’s an ‘abnormal’ with which I’m totally familiar.

After 10-plus years of it, as Col. Sherman Potter of M*A*S*H said to Major Margaret Houlihan upon her early return to the 4077th from her honeymoon hearing her awkwardly describe a mishap in the shower: “There’s nothing new under the sun, Major.”

For a long-time cancer survivor, there’s nothing new, really. One’s life is likely to be more of the same, only different. And I can live with same – or the different – because after a decade, I’ve been there and pretty much done that.

Now I can add: succeeded in navigating websites “heretofore” (quoting Ben Affleck from 1997’s “Good Will Hunting”) thought impossible to do. No more do I have to worry about what I need to do, but rather I can bask in the glow of what I’ve done.

As I finish this column, I realize this is what us cancer patients need to do: reinforce our positives (successes) and minimize our negatives (failures). As many of us attempt to take all this cancer stuff in stride, the truth of it is we’re often teetering and tottering on a very fine line. A ‘line’ to quote the late Ken Beatrice, on which “you wouldn’t want to live.”

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



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