

# Great Falls CONNECTION

Bob Nelson, organizer of the Military Appreciation Mondays, with Donna Long, left, president of the Blue Star Mothers, and Liz Foley, one of the regulars of this event, Monday evening, Aug. 12, at the Old Brogue.

## Blue Star Moms Honored in Great Falls

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# The Great Falls Team



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**VALO390492 | \$830,000 - Lansdowne**  
**43937 Riverpoint Dr.: 4BR, 4FB, 1HB**

Brazilian cherry hardwood floors greet you throughout the main level of this move-in ready home. Lower level includes a fully loaded bar, media room and game room.



**VAFX1081822 | \$1,300,000 - Vienna**  
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Luxury abounds in this updated/Renovated Home. Master suite offers a sitting room w/ Fireplace, Spa Bathroom, & Walk-in Closet. Minutes to Tyson's, Reston & the Metro



**Coming Soon | \$600,000 - Herndon**  
**13015 Farthingale Dr: 4BR, 2FB, 1HB**

Meticulously maintained and updated home in the Fox Mill Estates neighborhood of Herndon. Climate controlled sunroom overlooks a private backyard oasis.



**VALO383222 | \$830,000 - Ashburn**  
**20977 Ashburn Heights Dr.: 4BR, 4FB, 1HB**  
Highly desirable Goose Creek Preserve community. Hardwood floors throughout the main level, a large light-filled family room that leads to rear deck built.



**VAFX923544 | \$371,500 - Reston**  
**1851 Stratford Park Pl #114: 2BR, 2FB**  
Stunning high-style renovation in the desirable Stratford neighborhood. Professionally managed community with on-site clubhouse space, pool, and full fitness center.



**VAFX1055358 | \$275,000 - Reston**  
**11400 Washington Plz W #1101: 1BR, 2FB**  
Spectacular views greet you as you open the door to this rarely available unit. Wall to wall sliding glass doors open onto the ~37ft balcony, overlooking Lake Anne.



**VALO354834 | \$825,000 - Belmont CC**  
**43638 Cypress Village Dr.: 5BR, 4FB, 1HB**  
Elegant brick front home in the gated community of Belmont Country Club in Ashburn. 2 story family room with floor to ceiling stone facade to the gas fireplace.

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**VAFX1078970 | \$342,500 - Reston**  
**1354 Northgates Sq.: 1BR, 1FB, 1HB**

Renovations throughout. Updated kitchen and breakfast area opens to a walk-out front patio. Updated living room with a sliding glass door to a fenced backyard and deck.



**VAFX943862 | \$1,060,000 - Oak Hill**  
**43230 Navy Dr.: 5BR, 4FB, 1HB**

Wonderfully updated home on a cul-de-sac. Backs to parkland and provides a WOW factor at every turn. Boasts a main floor master Bedroom and an updated kitchen.



**VAFX1079994 | \$275,000 - Great Falls**  
**Beach Mill Rd.: .5 Acres**

Wooded half acre lot with a 2 acre zoning. If combined with neighboring 9.7 acre property the combined land could potential provide five lots.

Join us on Monday, September 9th at our:

***Military Appreciation Monday (MAM)***

Event at the Old Brogue in Great Falls.

We will be raising funds for the group:

***Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.***

For details visit [Facebook.com/BobNelsonTeam](https://Facebook.com/BobNelsonTeam) or [www.BobNelsonTeam.com](http://www.BobNelsonTeam.com)



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PHOTOS BY NADEZHDA SHULGA/THE CONNECTION

**Veteran of World War II Bob Shawn with his wife, right, and Robert Jones, former sergeant in Marine Corps, with his wife Pamela.**



**Gary and Shelly Kaihara became the cosponsors of the event more than 10 years ago.**

## Saying Thank-you to Blue Star Moms in Great Falls

**Bob Nelson hosts another Military Appreciation Monday at the Old Brogue.**

BY NADEZHDA SHULGA  
THE CONNECTION

**T**his Monday a monthly fundraising dinner at The Old Brogue in Great Falls was held in support of the Blue Star Mothers organization.

This monthly event brings people with open hearts together to do good for those who serve for peace and their families.

For more than a decade, Bob Nelson, former CIA officer and now a Realtor, has been hosting a variety of fundraising events for the service members. These meetups have brought more than \$2 million to those who are in need of such support.

Nelson's good friend, Nathan Ross Chapman, was the very first service member to be killed in an ambush in eastern Afghanistan on Jan. 4, 2002. Nelson decided to launch the monthly Military Appreciation Monday initiative in memory of Chapman.

"He left behind two young children," Nelson said. "People like him never got much recognition. I thought about him all the time. One day I heard a commercial on the radio for a group called Our Military Kids. At that moment I've decided to do fundraisers for different military support organizations".

**ON MONDAY, AUG. 12,** the event was co-hosted by Blue Star Mothers, a non-profit that provides support for mothers who have sons or daughters in active service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"We support each other, we do a lot of work with our veterans," said Donna Long, president of Chapter 5 of the Blue Star Mothers. "We send 'We care' packages to U.S. military units across the



**Donna Long, president of the Blue Star Mothers, demonstrates 'We care' package.**

**"We send 'We care' packages to U.S. military units across the world to let them know how much we appreciate their work."**

**— Donna Long,  
president of Chapter 5 of the  
Blue Star Mothers**



**Robert Jones, former sergeant in Marine Corps, with his wife Pamela.**

world to let them know how much we appreciate their work. This is a way of saying thank you."

Both of her sons are Marines. One is serving in Japan and another is in North Carolina. She understands what it means to be a mom of those who are deployed. Even when the children are not at war, the mothers often deal with stress. Deployment to war creates new issues for them to handle.

"You can receive bad news at any time. Any moment somebody could be knocking on the door saying that your child has died in combat," Long continued. "A lot of people

just don't understand that stress. We do understand."

Gary and Shelly Kaihara have been cosponsors of the Military Appreciation Monday from the very beginning.

"I never served in the military," Gary Kaihara said, "but there has always been something that I supported. If I'm in a better position to support the military and although I can't do anything as far as serving, this seems like a good way to support them."

Two guests at the dinner have fascinating stories.

Bob Shawn, at the age of 99, is one of the country's oldest surviving World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War veterans. Sharing the dinner — and his story — with him made many participants feel honored.

Robert Jones, a retired Marine Corps sergeant, joined the dinner with his wife, Pamela Relph. He lost the bottom of both of his legs in 2010 while serving in Afghanistan as a combat engineer. He is not letting the loss stop him from

living an active life. Jones rode a bike across America to raise money for veterans' charities; ran 31 Marathons in 31 days; got a bronze medal in the London Paralympics in 2012.

**MILITARY APPRECIATION DINNERS** are held on the second Monday of every month at the Old Brogue in Great Falls.

If you would like to join next time for the Military Appreciation Monday, just call the Old Brogue at 703- 759-3309, make a reservation for either the 5:30 or 7:30 seating, and order from the Old Brogue menu.



# OPINION

## Support Local News

### What do you love about where you live?

**A**dapted from a previous editorial ... Has your organization been featured in the Connection Newspapers, or the Alexandria Gazette Packet or the Mount Vernon Gazette or the Centre View or the Potomac Almanac?

Have our papers taken note of your business when you pitch in to help the community? Or when you opened your doors or celebrated a milestone?

**EDITORIAL** Are you an elected official whose messages are enhanced by coverage of issues in the Connection?

Do you work for a part of local government that has asked for help getting the word out about a need or a new initiative or accomplishments?

I have a special favor to ask:

Buy an ad in our 2019 Newcomers and Community Guide. Please.

Show your support for our organization which continues to be here to support the forces of good in our communities.

Our annual Newcomers and Community Guide is a thematic paper publishing Aug. 28, 2019 for all 15 Connection Newspapers. Deadline is Aug. 22.

If you have a marketing budget, and you value coverage of local newspapers (not just ours), why wouldn't you spend a portion of that budget (any portion) in newspapers? Heed the cautionary tale in the accelerating closures of newspapers recently. Support local news.

For the same reasons that organizations, businesses and campaigns know they want local newspaper coverage, newspaper advertising is an effective way to reach voters, residents, clients. The Connection has an audience of more than 150,000 in print and online, including remarkable demographics. Our readers include local and national decision makers in the public and private sectors.

The deadline for the Newcomers and Community Guide is Aug. 22. Digital enhancements and support are available. More information at email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

### Share Tips about Community

We also need help from our readers for content of our annual Guide.

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. What should someone new to your neighborhood know about? What is it that you love most about where you live?

We will publish a selection of local viewpoints along with information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com) or send as a letter to the editor via the website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/> by Aug. 23.

— MARY KIMM

For information on advertising, email [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431. See [www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising).

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Wexton Too Extreme for the 10th

To the Editor:

Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (D) claims to represent the 10th congressional district as a moderate seeking broad-based appeal to win in this swing district. Yet, following repeated unanswered inquiries to her office over a period of six months, I finally received this response regarding her position on the impeachment of the President of the United States: "I am very concerned by... [his] disdain for the law" and claims, with unwavering confidence, "ten separate attempts...to obstruct justice" and "links between the Trump campaign and the Russian government" despite facts to the contrary. She states that "firing FBI Director James Comey" represents "the president's flagrant disregard [for the law]" and as evidence of "normalizing of authoritarian tactics" despite the President's constitutional authority to appoint and remove members of the Executive Branch. Members of Congress have a moral obligation to help educate constituents using facts. Yet, nothing she writes in her response is objective nor factual. Rather, the position she takes is full of immature, emotional dribble and a series of extreme talking points fed to her by the Democratic party. Jennifer

Wexton is not the moderate she pretends to be when elections roll around. The 10th Congressional District deserves strong, independent-minded leadership and Jennifer Wexton has none of what we need. This is one of many positions that she has taken that are too extreme for the 10th.

Please, check for yourself and do your homework. We can do better.

**Ethel Pascal**  
Great Falls

## 'Summer Break' that Wasn't

To the Editor:

The final school bell rings and rushing to get out of school I can sense a feeling of relief on everyone's face that summer break is finally here.

I am a rising senior in high school and to this day I still do not understand the reason behind summer assignments. The argument many teachers may use is to keep our minds fresh over the summer or to make sure students have a background on the subject before coming into the class on the first day. The reality of it is that high school students' summer breaks are never real breaks. Coming into sophomore and junior year the dreadful SAT and ACT are two tests you cannot move out of the way. The summer is a very popular time to study for these two tests since during the school year,

time is of the essence. In addition, students will use endless amounts of time applying to and trying to find the best institution or university where students will spend their next four years. Not to mention a number of high school students, including me, have fallen victim to taking summer courses which you must work on for months.

As you can see, being a high school student means the summers have little "break" to offer, which means that summer assignments have little priority. Walking into class on the first day you can often see over half the class starting with a zero because of these summer assignments. The fact is that the content in summer assignments are often repeated in class anyway so the easiest fix for students and teachers is to get rid of them.

**Ethan Pham**  
McLean

## Senators Urged to Restore Fairness

To the Editor:

I heard, hundreds of children came back from school one day to an empty house, their parents having been taken into custody without warning for being undocumented immigrants. The president has claimed that undocumented immigrants are a threat to the

country, but the thought that the parents of schoolchildren constitute any measure of threat that would make the trauma inflicted on these kids justified is preposterous.

I urge Sen. Kaine and Sen. Warner to keep working hard to bring justice and fairness into this country, because we need good people like them in positions of power at this critical moment of our country's history. Any energy they could direct towards trying to abate these terrible policies and bring some relief to these families is both necessary and well appreciated. I urge the Senators to please keep fighting for the best interest of all the American people.

**Anthony Murphy-Neilson**  
Herndon

## What Do You Think?

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

Letters to the Editor  
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The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Online:  
[www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter)

## Great Falls CONNECTION

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Andrea Worker**  
Contributing Writer  
[aworker@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:aworker@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jean Card**  
Production Editor  
[jcard@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jcard@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

**Salome Howard-Gaibler**  
Display Advertising  
703-415-5394  
[salome@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:salome@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Classified & Employment Advertising**  
703-778-9431

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

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

**CIRCULATION**  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)





Fall in Great Falls, by Cindy Dibbs

## Cindy Dibbs' Photography on Exhibit at Katie's Coffee

Cindy Dibbs' nature photography is on exhibit at Katie's Coffee for the month of August. Her collection showcases many creative ways to display her artwork. Her desire is that her photos will inspire viewers to protect and treasure the valuable gift of nature.

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## Home LifeStyle



PHOTOS BY JOHN COLE

This kitchen and dining area by Anthony Wilder Design/Build includes a workstation concealed behind doors (shown open and closed) to keep the family organized.

# Home Organization For a New School Year

Accessories and design elements to create a smooth start.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

As a new school year looms large over the horizon, the hectic reality of packing lunches, buying school supplies and making space for new backpacks comes into focus. Making time for home organization can decrease stress before the school bus arrives.

The kitchen is often the of nucleus or command center of a family's home, especially during the school year. To help quell the chaos, Shannon Kadwell of Anthony Wilder Design/Build suggests centralization. "A snack station and breakfast center can be great for letting the kids get food on their own while you get together meals and lunches," she said. "The snack station [can be] a drawer in the kitchen that kids can go into at anytime to get healthy snacks. Granola bars, nuts, crackers, dried fruit, can be pre-measured for individual servings for easy grab and go."

Getting dressed in the morning can become a source of tension, but Sallie Finney Kjos of Grey Hunt Interiors says that she incorporates an elegant design solution

into the bedrooms of her clients homes that helps ease the day-break anxiety.

"Get a basket for each kid and roll their outfits for the day, tie them together and place them upright in the basket," she said. "Give your kid independence and let them pick out their own clothes. Not only will their outfits match, but you'll know that they didn't create a mess finding the perfect shirt."

In fact, baskets can offer a versatile and chic method of organization throughout one's home says, Courtney Thomas of home accessories store, The Picket

**"Baskets are an easy and often inexpensive way to contain clutter."**

— Courtney Thomas, The Picket Fence

Fence. "They are available in endless sizes and styles," she said. "Baskets are an easy and often inexpensive way to contain clutter. Larger ones are perfect for blankets and pillows, smaller ones keep toys corralled, and there are even baskets with file hangers to keep ... papers organized. If baskets aren't your style, we also love using vintage boxes and crates to serve the same function."

Getting creative with clear containers can help maintain order without sacrificing a home's aesthetic, says Thomas. "You can find

options that are much more stylish than the traditional plastic tub," she said. "Since they are see-through it's easy to see what's inside and find what you need. Use mason jars for pencils and crayons." A coffee table can serve double duty as both a home accessory and a clandestine storage space, says Kjos. "They can be a catch all for busy families," she said. "Consider topping them with a few decorative boxes to hold needed items." Over the course of a school year, a home's mud room can become a black hole of backpacks, soccer cleats and lacrosse sticks. "Having a locker with a door for each child gives the mudroom a clean, organized feel," said Kadwell. "The kids don't need to be neat and tidy inside their own spaces."

Back-to-school organization can extend to the laundry rooms, continues Kadwell. "Set up drop stations to have kids drop off clothes that are in need of washing," she said. "Have bins in an easy to get to space for the kids that are labeled whites, darks and towels. Kids can place their clothing in them according to the labels. This helps cut down the laundry time by having them already sorted."

A family calendar to keep track of deadlines, appointments, and events is a must-have, continued Kadwell. "[Place it] at a level kids can see," she said. "This can be a whole wall that you can paint with a magnetic chalk paint and create a paneled wall effect."

**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online

**SPECIAL PULLOUT TAB**  
**Newcomers & Community Guide**  
**August 28, 2019**

The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 15 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

Including the history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made, a calendar of events and other vital community information.

Due to the popularity and long shelf life of this issue, an overrun of the publication is made to meet demand. Extra copies are delivered to select Chambers of Commerce, Realtors, Citizens' Associations and local government.

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## NEWS

### Keller Williams McLean/Great Falls Donates \$5000 to McLean Little League

The Keller Williams McLean/Great Falls Market Center recently donated \$5000 to help McLean's Little League Complex (1836 Westmoreland St) recently damaged by the flood.

"We believe in supporting the community where we live and work," said Amina Basic, CEO of Keller Williams. "It's our way of saying thanks to our friends, neighbors, and clients."

The money will help repair the damage including rebuilding two dugouts, fencing on three of the four fields and cleaning up at the complex.

"We are so thankful for this help, the aim is to get the work done ASAP," said Wayne Loving, McLean LL administrator.

The KW McLean/Great Falls market center, located at 6820 Elm St, was established in 2008 and has 330 associates. It's the largest real estate office in McLean and the surrounding area, that sells close to a billion dollars in volume every year.

To learn more about Keller Williams, call Amina Basic at 703/672-0687 or email her at [atbasic.amina@gmail.com](mailto:atbasic.amina@gmail.com)



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left — Wayne Loving, Amina Basic and Patrick Page

#### BACK TO SCHOOL



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Principal Arlene Randall (right) with Assistant Principals Mike Rath and Cherith Pierson.

### Cooper Readies for Renovation

**A**rlene Randall, Principal, Cooper Middle School: Cooper Middle School's theme for the 2019-2020 academic year is 'The Power of Connections.'

This year we will focus on creating positive relationships, building self-advocacy, and connecting classroom experiences to our students' communities. The Cooper community supports the growth of all students to think critically and function as empathetic, respectful, and responsible global citizens.

Cooper Middle School renovation will begin sometime during the 2019-2020 school year. Due to this renovation, there will be a new traffic pattern for Kiss and Ride.



Arlene Randall

Back to School Nights are Sept. 5 (grade 7), and Sept. 11 (grade 8) from 6:30-8 p.m.

Please visit the Cooper Website for the most up to date information.  
[www.cooperms.fcps.edu](http://www.cooperms.fcps.edu)

## JOIN THE FIGHT FOR ALZHEIMER'S FIRST SURVIVOR.

At the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®, people carry flowers representing their connection to Alzheimer's — a disease that currently has no cure. But what if one day there was a flower for Alzheimer's first survivor? What if there were millions of them? Help make that beautiful day happen by joining us for the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease. Register today at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk).

**Walk to End Alzheimer's**  
**Sept. 29 • Reston Town Center**  
**Oct. 12 • National Mall**

Additional Walks available.  
 Find one near you at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk)  
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# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Self Portraits.** Business hours through mid August at Starbucks, Great Falls Center, 9863 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. See self portraits by Forestville Elementary School, third grade artists in the meeting room at Starbucks. The show curated by FES Art Teacher, Renee Riddell, is presented by Great Falls Studios in cooperation with Great Falls Starbucks. Visit [www.greatfallsstudios.com](http://www.greatfallsstudios.com) for more.

**Registration Open: NVSO.** The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics features more than 60 events that challenge the mind as well as the body. New games this year: jigsaw puzzle and line-dancing. The games run Sept. 14-28. There will be no on-site registration. Paper registrations, available at most local recreation and senior centers, must be postmarked by Aug. 24. Online registrations must be completed by Aug. 31 at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us).

**Junior Golf Fairfax Camps, Clinics and Competition.** Burke Lake Golf Center is located at 6915 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Pinecrest Golf Course is located at 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Oak Marr Golf Complex is located at 3136 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/junior](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/junior).

❖ In one-session introductory Junior Golf clinics, kids and teens learn basic golf rules, etiquette of the game, get familiarized with different types of clubs and acquire skills for putting and chipping in a social and relaxed environment. Clubs and practice balls provided. Clinics are offered at Burke Lake, Oak Marr and Pinecrest golf courses for \$15 each in August.

❖ Golf camp week-long sessions are still open – campers learn putting, chipping, iron and woods play from certified instructors in a friendly, group atmosphere. Course etiquette and best safety practices will teach kids and teens fundamentals while they socialize and have fun. Clubs are not required but suggested. All campers will receive a certificate and golf fun pack upon camp completion. Burke Lake Golf Center and Twin Lakes Golf Course offer half day summer camp, Pinecrest Golf Course offers both half and full day summer camp options. Oak Marr Golf Complex offers half day spring and summer camp through Everybody Golf School.

❖ Course-ready juniors will enjoy the Junior Club Championship, Aug. 16, 8 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Golf Center. Golfers participate in an 18-hole individual stroke competition. Competitors will be separated into three divisions with first, second, and third place prizes available in all divisions. Lunch provided. Call 703-323-1641 to register.

**Art Exhibit: Vienna Arts Society Reception.** Through Aug. 31, 3-5 p.m. at Vienna Art Center, Windover Building, 243 Church St. NW, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society invites the public to a reception celebrating two exhibitions. The “Healing Wall” is created by troops on the mend at Fort Belvoir Hospital. “The Open Door” features a judged photography exhibition. Free and open to the public. Visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org) or call 703-319-3971.

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org) for more.

**Oakton Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1



## Chillin’ on Church

Live music, food trucks, and beer and wine sales. Blankets and lawn chairs are encouraged, but pets are not. You must be 21 years or older with a valid photo ID to purchase alcoholic beverages. Chillin’ on Church is presented courtesy of Ben and Jerry’s. Admission is free. Friday, Aug. 16, 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Church Street between Dominion and Mill roads.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BENTWOOD ROCKERS

**The Bentwood Rockers, from left, Dave Goldman, Alan Cohen, Ken Tackett, Pat Markham, and Stafford Markham.**

## Live Music: Bentwood Rockers

The Shepherd’s Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) hosts a benefit performance with the Bentwood Rockers. Enjoy some fabulous foot-stomping Bluegrass music. Friday, Sept. 6, 6:30 p.m. (doors open 5:30) at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20-\$25 at [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com). To volunteer, donate or learn more, visit [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org).

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](http://community-foodworks.org).

## THURSDAY/AUG. 15

**Nottoway Nights: The Seldom Scene.** 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug. 22. 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.

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 15-18

**Grand Opening: Blend 111.** At Blend 111, 111 Church St., Vienna. An independently owned bistro, Blend 111 serves farm-to-kitchen organic food, coffee, cold pressed juices, and organic French and Spanish wines. They will launch their permanent menu along with new prix-fixe lunch and dinner options. Drink and food specials all week. Blend 111 is open Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 703-232-1640 or visit [blend111.com](http://blend111.com) for more.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 16

**Summer on the Green: Big Bad JuJu (rock and dance covers)** . 6:30 p.m. on Vienna’s

[potomacfestival.org/race.html](http://potomacfestival.org/race.html) for more.

**Wagon Ride at Riverbend.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Travel by the Potomac River and through the woods while learning about Riverbend Park’s wildlife and the American Indians who once lived here. For participants age 2-adult. \$7 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).

**Stand-Up Paddleboarding Skills.** Noon-2 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Raise paddleboarding skills to the next level with “Stand-Up Paddleboarding II.” This course includes a quick review of skills and safety before new strokes, board maneuvers and safety topics are taught and developed. For paddleboarders age 13-adult. \$50 per person; all equipment will be provided. Required prerequisite: Stand-Up Paddleboarding I or equivalent experience. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).

## SUNDAY/AUG. 18

**Breakfast Buffet.** 8 a.m.-noon at Vienna American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Vienna. Get omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy and more. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$4. Call 703-938-6580.

**Wood Carving Lessons.** Noon-3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Whittle out some time for “Wood Carving Lessons” at Colvin Run Mill with the Northern Virginia Carvers. No reservations are required. These lessons are designed for participants 12-adult. There is a nominal charge for wood blanks. Or enjoy a “Grinding Demonstration.” See and hear 19th century technology at work while watching the miller grind flour or meal. Demonstrations will take place as conditions permit. No reservations are required. Tours of the mill cost \$8 for adults, \$7 for students 16 and up with ID, and \$6 for children and seniors. Call 703-759-2771 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill).

## TUESDAY/AUG. 20

**Kids on the Green: Beech Tree Puppets.** 10 a.m. on the Vienna Town Green. The Kids on the Green series is a weekly collection of interactive animal shows, magicians, puppet performances, and more, running through Aug. 20. Free. Visit [viennava.gov](http://viennava.gov) for more.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 22

**Nottoway Nights: Billy Coulter.** 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug. 22. 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.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 23

**Summer on the Green: Wayne Tympanick Trio (jazz).** 6:30 p.m. on Vienna’s Town Green. Friday nights through Aug. 23. 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](http://www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997).

## SUNDAY/AUG. 25

**Album Release Party.** 7-9 p.m. at Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Ricky Parrell is going to release his debut album “Keys To My Life” featuring Randy Brecker of The Brecker Bro. and Justin Stanton of Snarky Puppy. \$10. Call 703-501-2657 or visit [rickyparrell.com](http://rickyparrell.com).

## MONDAY/AUG. 26

**Back to School.** Fairfax County Public Schools first day of the 2019-2020 school year. Visit [www.fcps.edu/calendars/2019-20-standard-school-year-calendar](http://www.fcps.edu/calendars/2019-20-standard-school-year-calendar).

## SATURDAY/AUG. 31

**Woodstock 50th Party.** 7-11 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Woodstock 50th and Rock ‘n Roll heaven with The Rockits, Randoll (Elvis) Rivers and guests. Sixty songs from the ‘60s. Dine, drink, and dance. \$10 advance. Call 703-281-4679 or visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).



# Road Repairs Continue Following Floods

Several closures remain for repairs following heavy rains.

**V**irginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) crews have been making repairs to roads that were damaged during the July 8 flash floods and continue to make progress towards extensive repairs that remain on Kirby Road and Swinks Mill Road. Those repairs will require construction contractors and will keep both roads closed for a few more months, according to VDOT report.

## Short-Term Repairs:

### McLean Area

By July 25, the flood repair strike team repaired twelve roads since the floods. The team focused on milling, paving, and shoulder repair on Barbee Street, Benjamin Street, Beulah Road, Churchill Road, Georgetown Pike, Ironwood Drive, Morningside Drive, Leigh Mill Road, Lorraine Avenue, Prosperity Avenue, Thrasher Place, and Valley Wood Road. All twelve roads were repaired in five days. Bridge maintenance crews are continuing to remove debris from around and under bridges and in-



PHOTO COURTESY OF VDOT

## Bridge damage on Swinks Mill Road.

side of culverts.

Long-Term Repairs: Kirby Road (VA-695)

Several areas of Kirby Road sustained damage during the storm: ❖ A segment of road just south of Claiborne Drive was washed away. The remaining asphalt in that location has been undermined.

❖ Asphalt on the approaches to the deck of the VDOT bridge over Pimmit Run was damaged, but temporarily repaired the same day.

The bridge also has damage to the guardrails and abutments (the "legs" that support the bridge deck) and retaining wall.

❖ Pimmit Run will need to be realigned to its original location.

❖ The sanitary sewer line and underground utilities were affected.

❖ Damage to VDOT infrastructure is not preventing access to any homes.

❖ Note: A privately owned and maintained bridge across from

Claiborne Drive was severely damaged and homeowners are evaluating repair options.

Long-Term Repairs: Swinks Mill Road (VA-685)

Swinks Mill Road bridge over Scotts Run damage:

❖ Several hundred feet of asphalt approaching the bridge on both sides was damaged.

❖ Asphalt on the bridge deck was destroyed. Also, the bridge has sustained damage to the guardrails, abutments, and retaining wall.

❖ Bridge scour (removal of sand and gravel from around the abutments) was observed.

❖ Debris was observed in Scotts Run.

❖ Damage to VDOT infrastructure is not preventing access to any homes.

## Current Status

❖ Structural assessments of VDOT bridges and roads have been completed.

❖ Survey work (to gather information needed to create a detailed map of current conditions) is un-

derway and expected to be completed over the coming weeks.

❖ Soil borings (samples taken to determine underground conditions) should be completed around the same time as survey work.

❖ Preliminary designs of both bridges and road repairs have begun.

❖ Coordination has begun with external agencies to determine location of and efficiently schedule repairs to damaged utilities.

❖ Concrete jersey barriers were installed on Swinks Mill Road to prevent drivers from continuing to move temporary barriers and drive across the bridge.

## Immediate Next Steps

❖ Debris removal will continue in accordance with environmental regulations.

❖ Completed survey work and soil boring results will be used to finish developing the engineering design of road and bridge repairs.

❖ Essential bridge and road repair plans will be put out for construction bids.

For ongoing updates, follow VDOT Northern Virginia on Twitter: @vadotnova

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## NEWS

# Selecting a New Life for Historic Ellmore Farmhouse

**Park Authority welcomes comments on curator applications.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Park Authority announced it is asking the public to submit comments in writing by Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, regarding the two applications under review for its Resident Curator Program at the historic Ellmore Farmhouse, 2739 West Ox Road in Herndon. Curators are determined through an open and competitive application process, based on several criteria, including a formal proposal, demonstrated experience, competency in historic preservation techniques, financial capabilities, and the incorporation of public benefits. Completed applications can be viewed online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program/ellmore](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program/ellmore).

The Evaluation Team will hold a meeting open to the public concerning the applications on Thursday, Sept. 12, 9 a.m. in the Park Authority boardroom, 9th floor of the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, but there will be no opportunity for public comment at that time.

In the first of the two cover letters and completed applications sent to Stephanie Langton, resident curator program manager, Applicant #1 stated: "We have been coming to Frying Pan Farm Park for more than a decade with our four children. ...We would enjoy the opportunity to make the Ellmore Farmhouse a place where children can learn and play again. Our children, much like the Ellmore and Smith children, have had the opportunity to spend time learning about farming and caring for animals through the 4-H... Living in the Ellmore Farmhouse would allow us more time to learn and share with others about the original families and animals that lived here on this property."

Regarding skills, Applicant #1 stated: "I do not have any specialized skills in historic preservation projects outside of the general remodeling and construction skills I have learned over the years doing projects on the houses I have lived in... I am a Mechanical Engineer working in Aerospace... On a daily basis, I am required to pay attention to details, follow strict standards, and know the requirements of a task prior to acting on it."

In the other cover letter and completed application, Applicant #2 stated: "After rehabilitation and renovations are completed, ServiceSource proposes using the Ellmore Farmhouse as a "launchpad" for one of our Long-Term and Community Integration Services (LTCIS) programs. A group of approximately 15 people with disabilities and staff will gather at the Ellmore Farmhouse from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday... ServiceSource has a 47-year history of providing high-quality, innovative programming in Northern Virginia. In FY 2018, we served more than 4,000 people with disabilities through long-term and



FILE PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

**Ellmore Farmhouse within Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon, Hunter Mill Supervisory District, Owner: Fairfax County Park Authority.**

community integration services, senior services, employment supports, and other services."

Regarding skills, Applicant #2 stated: "To rehabilitate and renovate this historic property, ServiceSource has selected Pizzano Contractors as a partner for this project...Pizzano Contractors was an early adopter in the "Green Building" movement and continues to demonstrate leadership in this area...Pizzano Contractors continue to include LEED design and best practices in their projects... Additionally, Pizzano Contractors has extensive experience in renovating historic properties, including former residences, for modern times-a major asset for the Ellmore Farmhouse project."

According to the Park Authority, the farmhouse is a two-story, 3,300-square-foot property within Frying Pan Farm Park. Members of the Ellmore family occupied the two-story, 12 room home for more than 50 years, operating a productive dairy farm there through 1945. In February 2001, the Park Authority purchased the property for inclusion within Frying Pan Farm Park. The Resident Curator Program provides the opportunity for individuals, nonprofit and for-profit organizations to secure long-term lease agreements in beautiful public park settings. The curator leases are without charge in exchange for a financial commitment towards approved rehabilitation of the Park Authority's underutilized historic properties.

For additional information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program). Or contact Stephanie Langton, manager of the Resident Curator Program, at 703-324-8791. Web: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/z-ir126>.



# BULLETIN

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

## DONATIONS NEEDED

**School Supply and Backpack Drive.** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Parent Resource Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Room 105, Dunn Loring. For the nearly 56,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools living at the poverty line, obtaining school supplies can be difficult. FCPS is partnering with roughly 20 nonprofits and businesses to ensure that students will have the supplies they need this fall for its "Collect for Kids" campaign. A \$25 donation will fill a backpack with FCPS approved supplies for a student. Organize a collection drive of new backpacks in your community and bring to one of the Collect for Kids drop off locations. Visit [www.collectforkids.org/get-involved](http://www.collectforkids.org/get-involved) or call 703-204-3941.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 15

**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](http://scov.org). Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net).

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 21

**4th Annual Clergy Breakfast.** 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road, SW, Vienna. This once-a-year connection continues to build fellowship and goodwill throughout the year as attendees collectively address common issues. All faiths are welcome. RSVP by Aug. 16 at 703-281-0538 or [office@scov.org](mailto:office@scov.org).

**Public Comment Sought.** The Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, under the leadership of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), are developing a plan to study Virginia's 179 miles of the Interstate 95 corridor between the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Alexandria, and the North Carolina border. The first comment period will end Aug. 21, 2019. For more information about the study, or to view meeting materials and access the online engagement tool, visit [VA95Corridor.org](http://VA95Corridor.org).

## THURSDAY/AUG. 22

**Hispanic Connect NOVA.** 8:30-9:30 a.m. at 8300 Boone Blvd. in the Partners' Conference Room, Suite 450, Vienna. Join the Virginia Hispanic Chamber for this recurring event series designed for chamber members and newcomers alike. Members, business owners, community leaders, entrepreneurs and more connect with their peers, share ideas and gain useful knowledge. Free for members, \$10 nonmembers. Register at [www.vahcc.com/hispanic-connect-nova](http://www.vahcc.com/hispanic-connect-nova).

## SATURDAY/AUG. 24

**Large Yard Sale.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Unity of Fairfax will host a large, indoor, church yard sale with hundreds of items from many households and a restaurant liquidation. Free admission. Visit [www.unityoffairfax.org](http://www.unityoffairfax.org).

## MONDAY & WEDNESDAY/AUG. 28-SEPT. 25

**Community Emergency Response Team Training.** 7-11 p.m. at the Fire and Rescue Academy, 4600 West Ox Road, Fairfax. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program trains county residents in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Emphasis on hands-on skill development and Fairfax County protocols and procedures. Visit [volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp\\_details/184989](http://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp_details/184989) to register.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 29

**Beyond #MeToo: Strategies for Preventing & Responding to Harassment.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Fairfax County EDA, 8300 Boone Boulevard, Ste. 450 Tysons. Presented by the Multicultural Chambers Alliance (Asian-american CC, NVBCC, The Virginia Hispanic Chamber). Free. Visit [www.vahcc.com](http://www.vahcc.com) or call 703-790-0303 to register.

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## Don't Monkee Around With Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I mean, he didn't even examine me, which he rarely does. (The CT scan pretty much tells him what he needs to know, so he says.)

In addition (or is that subtraction), he didn't even ask me the standard questions he typically does about my quality of life, activities of daily living and general health and welfare. In fact, near the presumptive end of our appointment, as peculiar and uncharacteristic of an appointment as it was, I felt compelled to blurt out the answers to all the questions that he didn't bother to ask that for years he's always asked: any pain, shortness of breath, coughing, headaches, neuropathy, muscle weakness or any new or persistent symptoms? All he could muster was a perfunctory "Do you need any prescriptions filled?"

And then the semi-out-of-the-blue-bombshell: "Are you familiar with Palliative Care?"

Followed by the offer to refer us to a book that he thought we might find helpful/useful.

Helpful? Useful?

I didn't say it at the time because the entire appointment was so odd and impersonal almost. But WHAT?! Palliative Care? What are you talking about? He has never brought up palliative care before. (Although way back when, he had given us a brochure titled "Final Wishes.")

You see, we know about palliative care. We've attended multiple conferences organized by LUNgevity, "the largest national lung cancer-focused non-profit in the country" where palliative care doctors often have spoken. Palliative Care is not hospice care but it's a transitional level of care to be sure.

If I'm transitioning, I wish somebody would have told me, and not by asking about my familiarity with this type of care.

In a word, palliative care is a type of downsizing, as best as I can describe its subtleties; separate and apart from hospice care which is, if you don't know it, "the last train to Clarksville," if you get my euphemism (and hopefully someone is meeting you at the station)? But so far as I've been told, I'm not on the last train to Clarksville or any other final destination.

In fact, I rarely take the train. Not that being on or off the train matters when one comes to the end of the line.

Nevertheless, as I review in my mind what my oncologist said this past Monday, I have to wonder if he was feeding me a line, throwing me a line or just reciting a line that is required of oncologists in their regular communications with their cancer patients – a sort of caveat emptor for long-time cancer survivors who are inexplicably still alive (as evidence of such sentiment, my oncologist refers to me as his "third miracle").

But I didn't feel much like a miracle on Monday. I felt more like a dope. Like I was being told something I didn't realize, sort of an emperor has no clothes "something." It was a feeling I had never experienced before; during or after any of our appointments.

Previously, even at the initial Team Lourie meeting in late February 2009 when the hammer came down, I had – though having it in utter disbelief – a grasp of the obvious: "terminal cancer," with a "13-month-to-two-year" prognosis to boot. The particulars of which would be sorted out over the following weeks and months beginning with my first chemotherapy six days later.

And boy were they ever sorted. Ten years and almost six months later, I'm still sorting.

Was I just given an updated "terminal" diagnosis/prognosis or was my oncologist merely having an off day?

Obviously he knows that his words carry enormous weight and significance and create terrible burdens for his patients and their families. But he can't simply toss out the phrase palliative care like it has no impact. Its impact is huge.

It's akin to being hit by a speeding train, the likes of which would prevent one from getting anywhere near Clarksville, let alone being on the last train.

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



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