

Great Falls CONNECTION

Walking Out of Darkness

NEWS, PAGE 7

Building Community
that Works for All

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Time for Great
Falls Studio Tour

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HomeLifeStyle

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Teams pass by Fairfax City Hall at the beginning of the Out of the Darkness Fairfax Walk to prevent suicide.

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Under Contract

VALO390492 | \$805,000 - 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.



For Sale

VAFX1081822 | \$1,285,000 - Vienna
1284 Cobble Pond Way: 5BR, 6FB, 2HB

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



For Sale

VAFX1083622 | \$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.



Sold

VALO383222 | \$695,000 - Ashburn
20977 Ashburn Heights Dr.: 4BR, 2FB, 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.



Sold

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.



Sold

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 -37th balcony, overlooking Lake Anne.



Sold

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.

FOR DETAILS OF OUR NEXT DOWNSIZING SEMINAR VISIT WWW.BOBN.US/DOWNSIZING



Sold

VAFX1078970 | \$332,500 - 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.



Sold

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.



For Sale

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, October 21st at our:

Military Appreciation Monday (MAM)

Event at the Old Brogue in Great Falls.

We will be raising funds for the group:

Patriot Point

For details visit Facebook.com/BobNelsonTeam or www.BobNelsonTeam.com



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Building Community that Works for All

Maj. Gen. Carl H. McNair Jr. receives community leadership award.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia held its 2019 Raise the Region Gala at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner on Friday evening, Oct. 4. Organizers described the gala as a homecoming, an elegant, uplifting event that brought together business, community and philanthropic leaders to celebrate the Community Foundation and raise critical funds to support its work in the region.

Under the theme, Building a Community that Works for Everyone, 650 guests celebrated the charitable work of The Community Foundation and supported the organization's mission to respond to need; seed innovation, and lead and convene the community.

"This gala is so important to The Community Foundation. It is a mission-critical event," said Tara Nadel, of The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. "The gala is also an opportunity to celebrate this community in particular, the 650 plus guests who attend are only a small sample of the number of people it takes to build a community that works for everyone." The Foundation gala honored Major General Carl H. McNair Jr. (RET) with the 2019 Community Leadership Award for his lifetime of community leadership and public service.

According to The Community Foundation, the award is the longest standing community-based recognition award in Northern Virginia and is presented annually to an individual for outstanding commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for all Northern Virginians.

ON STAGE, Honorary Chair, Ki Ho Kang, CEO of KIHOMAC, asked the crowd if they ever wondered if they made a difference. Turning to Major General McNair, who Eileen Ellsworth, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia described as "one of the most generous local philanthropists Northern Virginia has ever seen," Kang said, "Sir, be assured you have made a lifetime of difference to your family, to your friends, to the United States Army, to your community, to your country and all of us."

McNair, who was awarded two Distinguished Service Medals, three awards of the Legion of Merit, four awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with "V" devices (denotes bravery), among commendations. When he retired from the Army, McNair joined DynCorp.

Surrounded by family and friends seated at his banquet table, McNair sat ramrod straight, eyes focused forward. When he walked on stage, Kang presented him with the award, which McNair graciously accepted. However, in his remarks, McNair, the first Chief of the Army Aviation Branch,



Major General Carl H. McNair Jr. (RET) joins his tablemates, Saffiatu Janneh and Kadiatu Kamara, before the start of 2019 Raise the Region Gala produced by The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia held at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner on Friday evening, Oct. 4.



From left, Fairfax County Park Foundation supporters Kathryn Falk, Cox Communications; Del. Mark Sickles (D-43); Bobbi Longworth, Fairfax County Park Foundation; Lynn Tadlock, Claude Moore Charitable Foundation; and Del. Ken Plum (D-36).

turned the spotlight off himself and onto others.

McNair spoke highly of the guests present, their unceasing generosity qualified once again as seen during the evening's Live Auction and Stand Up and Pledge, led by Matt Quinn of Quinn's Galleries.

Guests flashed their bidding cards with flurries of multiple cards in the air, bidding against one another, raising bid after bid. In thirty minutes, Quinn broke last year's record by nearly \$10,000, raising \$57,500

to support the critical needs of the Northern Virginia community.

MCNAIR praised The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia. "The Northern Virginia Community Foundation is our good friend... It's been a tremendous asset to northern Virginia and also an example for all of Virginia... The Community Foundation raised \$400,000 worth of grants and provided critical service to the residents of Northern Virginia," he said.



Cathleen Kennedy and Brad Jeter of Great Falls at the Silent Auction

"We want to support The Community Fund of Northern Virginia and raise funds so organizations can reach their objectives in the community."



Ki Ho Kang of Vienna and Honorary Chair; CEO of KIHOMAC:

"There is no one else like Major General Carl H. McNair Jr. I don't think I've ever come across anyone in my life so incredible. His military records are mind boggling. Very successful businessman and an incredible philanthropist."

Not forgetting who did the work, McNair praised staff. "None of this would've been possible without the great and significant staff of The Foundation... What they do here is well beyond our imagination... I give a special thanks obviously to Eileen, Tara and all the staff for their work." Jokingly McNair added, "And I'm so grateful for somebody out there who had the gumption to at least nominate me to be this year's awardee... Eileen told me now I have to work for them every Saturday."

Capstone to Four-Years of Police Reform

BY PHIL NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER AND
ADRIAN L. STEEL JR.

Just in time for the Oct. 8 fourth anniversary of the 2015 release of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Final Report, the Board of Supervisors approved full implementation of body worn cameras (BWC) by the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD). This is one of the Commission's most significant and consequential recommendations. While a potential aid to criminal prosecution, the body worn camera's equally important contribution is to foster greater transparency and accountability of all parties during the interactions of the police with the public. Full implementation will begin in May 2020 and take three years to phase in countywide.

The Board's decision followed the completion of a 2018 pilot study chartered by Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. and conducted by the American University, which found that there was "...overwhelming support among community members for the widespread adoption of body worn cameras...." and "...consensus among the officers involved in the pilot that body worn cameras will increase the gathering of evidence and help settle complaints against officers."

The Board's decision is a fitting capstone to a four-year successful effort by the Board to oversee the transformation of the Police Department from one that was excellent to now being on a clear path to becoming "best in class."

The Commission's formation by the Board of Supervisors followed a few high-profile police use of force incidents, with the ultimate catalyst being the August 2013 shooting death of unarmed Springfield resident John Geer in his doorway.

Board Chair Bulova formed the Ad Hoc Commission and her office closely oversaw the Commission's work over an intensive five-month period in 2015. Charged with "...assessing the (Fairfax County) Police Department's

performance against national best practices," the Commission made more than 200 recommendations for strengthening the public's trust and confidence in the Department.

Public Safety Committee Chair Supervisor John Cook combined forces with Board Chair Bulova and Chief Roessler to drive the Board and Police Department to embrace the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendations. As they complete their many years of service to our community, Bulova's and Cook's police-reform efforts will certainly be a key legacy.

The significant reforms for which all can be proud will increase police accountability, divert those who suffer from mental illness into treatment rather than incarceration, reduce use-of-force injuries and deaths, open public access to incident information, and engender public confidence.

Body worn cameras will now complement the dashboard cameras mounted in each FCPD patrol vehicle. The Department's policy enshrines sanctity of human life as an organizing principle, with de-escalation as the strategy of first resort when confronted with a threat rather than the use of force. Constraints and strengthened supervisory oversight are now in place on police use of vehicle pursuit. "Diversion First" offers alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities.

An Independent Police Auditor (IPA) automatically reviews investigations of death or serious injury cases as well as uses of force when a citizen complaint is filed. A Civilian Review Panel reviews investigations of civilian complaints regarding "abuse of authority" or "serious misconduct" by an FCPD officer and holds public forums to hear from the community. Policies regarding release of information provide for increased public visibility into the Department's daily activities and performance, with a predisposition to disclose information, regardless of incident controversy. Intense efforts are underway to recruit talented personnel that better reflect Fairfax County's population diversity.

Sustained effort and energy are still required to move decades-old engrained practices into a "new normal." Further, those who are "best-in-class" constantly seek to improve.

Tough questions still need to be asked as the County implements body worn cameras. Should an agency other than the Department, for example, control access to the massive amount of data to be collected? Should the IPA or an independent third party audit the program? Heightened expectations alone should give our policymakers pause, particularly when we know that no technology deployment is mistake and error free. Not collecting video data during a controversial use of force incident is bad, missing video data under the Department's control is worse.

As to the revised vehicular pursuit and stopping policies, it will be important for the FCPD to provide a detailed report to the Board and the public in early 2020 as to the effects of the revised policies, details of 2019 pursuits and vehicle stops, and whether any further changes are needed. It will also be important for the Board to monitor and take any appropriate action with respect to the racial disparity study underway by the Independent Police Auditor.

On this fourth anniversary of the Ad Hoc Commission Report, Fairfax County and its Police Department have achieved many reforms of which to be proud. The temptation will be to declare the mission accomplished. This would be a mistake. The new Board of Supervisors come January must provide vigilant monitoring through performance expectations and progress reports. Not because enough has not been accomplished, though more improvements are needed, but because that's the norm for best-in-class police departments.

Niedzielski-Eichner and Steel were chair and vice-chair of the Ad Hoc Commission's Use of Force Subcommittee and spent many hours with a small, loosely configured group of former Commission members dedicated to implementing Commission recommendations, working with FCPD leadership. Steel oversaw as chair the formation of the Civilian Review Panel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shocked and Disappointed

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my shock and great disappointment that the Great Falls Connection printed a clearly partisan letter this week from Greg Brandon ("Voices of Partisanship," Great Falls Connection, Oct. 2-8, 2019) without mentioning that he is a former Chair of the Dranesville District Democratic Committee (2016) and former Democrat endorsed candidate for the school board (2011). This was information that I was able to find online in about 5 minutes. This opinion letter denigrated a group of hard working citizens who recently formed

a grassroots organization called Voices of Fairfax.

Your editorial staff chose to lead with his letter over a significantly less partisan and certainly less mean-spirited letter from a citizen with no political aspirations or history. I also found the headlines chosen very telling.

Voices of Partisanship? Seriously? What research did your editors do to feel that this was an appropriate title? The headline for the letter below from Ms. Sinclair Dahm had a very neutral title.

Mr. Brandon was also actively involved supporting the Democratic candidates at this event. He interrupted the event to complain to the GFCA that his preferred candidates were not being given appropriate air time. He is not just a

concerned dad. He is a politician and you did not alert your readers to this important fact.

I am a founding member of Voices of Fairfax and I respectfully request that I be permitted to have equal space and prominence in next week's publication to explain why we think that our current school board is not being up front or honest about their intentions regarding school board policy 8130. There is a great story here about a non-partisan (yes, we have Democrats, Republicans, Independents and Libertarians) group of parents who felt the need to organize to get their school board to listen to them and how their videos are sparking outrage across the county.

This "equity lens" is part of a

national wave that is not working out well where implemented.

Erin W. Lobato
Great Falls

Lobato scheduled to appear on a panel in Springfield on Oct. 9: WHAT FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD HAS IN STORE FOR YOUR CHILD. Talk will include: Topics your child will learn in FLE from Kindergarten- 12th grade. Transgender policy and what situations your child could encounter. Information your child can access in the school library and other media. Discussion of the "One Fairfax" policy and how it will affect what school your child attends.

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Delegate, Supervisor Candidates to Debate in Great Falls

The Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) has announced it will hold a debate for candidates for the Virginia House of Delegates (34th District) and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (Dranesville District) on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Participating in this debate will be incumbent Del. Kathleen Murphy (D) and challenger Gary Pan (R), and incumbent Supervisor John Foust (D) and challenger Ed Martin (R). This program will start earlier than most GFCA meetings to accommodate the schedules of some of the participants.

The first debate from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. will feature the candidates for Delegate; the candidates for Supervisor debate will follow. In addition, State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) is unopposed and will make a short statement during the program. The format will include short opening and closing statements by the candidates and questions from the moderator provided by the audience. The public is encouraged to attend.

Free Screening of 'Like' Documentary

Families and kids are welcome to this free community event. If your child is active on any kind of social media, come and bring them with you. Safe Community Coalition (SCC) presents a screening of the documentary LIKE that explores the impact of social media on our lives and the effects of technology on the brain. The goal of the film is to inspire us to self-regulate. Social media is a tool and social platforms are a place to connect, share, and care ... but is that what's really happening? Find out more about the film at www.thelikemovie.com. After the film, discussion will be led by Dr. Clifford Sussman, a DC-based psychiatrist and expert on helping people achieve a more balanced rela-

SEE WEEK, PAGE 10

YOU MIGHT THINK YOU'RE DOING FINE, BUT WHAT DOES YOUR MRI SAY ABOUT YOUR RELAPSING MS?



Join us for a live event, "Using MRIs to View Your RMS Differently," and learn how MRIs help determine if your treatment is working. You'll also hear about a relapsing MS treatment option that may be worth considering.

Date and Time:

10/16/2019
at 12:00pm

Speaker:

James Simsarian, M.D.,
Fairfax, VA

Location:

The Capital Grill
1861 International Dr.
McLean, VA 22102

Event Code:

PEP-16531

Reserve your seat today. 1-877-895-1136 • relapsingMSevent.com

Registration is limited to 2 people per RSVP. Guest is limited to only 1 per registrant. Photo ID may be requested at event entrance. Attendees must be 18 years of age or older.

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PHOTOS BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Alexandria based designer Quintece Hill-Mattauszek designed this "Boys Club" space using vintage finds.

Local Designers Create Dream Home for Charity

Proceeds will help preserve historic sites such as an Underground Railroad stop and one of the first public schools for African Americans.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

A few of the area's top interior designers were tapped to transform a grand home into a showcase house to raise money for charity. Designers Quintece Hill-Mattauszek of Studio Q Designs, Rhonald Angelo of Rhonald Angelo Interiors and Sheryl McLean of McLean and Tircuit Designs will unleash their collective creative talent to create a library, a teenage girl's bedroom and a lounge space for a family of six.

"I envision this to be a sophisticated ... entertaining space, but not necessarily a man-cave," said Alexandria-based Hill-Mattauszek, who used vintage finds to bring-to life "The Boys' Club," the space she was tasked with transforming. "I envision poker nights [and] Oscar parties."

"I designed the library for how a family of six will actually function within it," said Angelo. "New walnut flooring and paint changed the look. The room felt unbalanced beforehand, which I corrected in the final design."

Sheryl McLean of Bethesda, Md. added bold artwork and vibrant colors to the home's sitting room.

Interior design aficionados who are up for a short road trip can see the creations of the three local designers and others during the Historic Ellicott City, Inc.'s 33rd Annual Decorator Show House. Proceeds go toward preserving historic sites including a stop along the Underground Railroad and one of the



Bethesda-based designer Sheryl McLean, of McLean and Tircuit Designs, created this sitting room.

first public schools for African Americans.

Twenty-one designers decorated 24 rooms and spaces in the stately French Provincial private home that is the future home to a couple with four young children.

The house will be open to visitors through Oct. 20, 2019 with hours Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 at the door or online are available online at <http://historicec.com/show-houses/>

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County 911 Call Center team before the start of the Out of the Darkness Fairfax Walk.

Out of the Darkness Walk in Fairfax

The Out of the Darkness Fairfax Walk to fight suicide occurred on Oct. 5 in Fairfax. The Fairfax Walk began at Fairfax City Hall and continued through the surrounding neighborhoods. The two-mile journey brought the community together and drew attention to the ways in which suicide and mental illness have affected their lives and loved ones. More than \$100,000 was raised by 90 teams and 718 participants for the

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to use towards new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss. AFSP has set a goal to reduce the annual suicide rate 20 percent by 2025. The best way to prevent suicide is through early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of depression and other mental health conditions.

—TOM MANNING



Participants gather at the Veterans Amphitheater for the opening ceremony.



From left, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and supervisors Kathy Smith, and John Cook are recognized during the opening ceremony.

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Here's What's Happening at MCC!

Closing Notice

**Columbus Day Holiday
Monday, Oct. 14**

The Old Firehouse Teacher Work Day Trip



**Behind the Scenes at
Baltimore Aquarium
Monday, Oct. 14, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.**
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$80/\$70 MCC district residents

The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trip



**Haunted Trip
Friday, Oct. 18, 4:30-11 p.m.**
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$60/\$50 MCC district residents

Presented by The Alden



**The Pop Ups
"The Great Pretenders Club"
Saturday, Oct. 19, 1 p.m.**
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

An Outdoor, Family and Pet-Friendly Event



**McLean Pet Fest
Sunday, Oct. 20, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**
McLean Central Park
1468 Dolley Madison Blvd.
Free admission

Presented by The Alden



**"Brush Up Your Shakespeare"
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.**
\$7/\$5 MCC district residents

MCC Governing Board



**MCC Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.**
Open to the public



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

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101



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@mcleancentervva

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Students' Art Work on Display. At Great Falls Starbucks, 9863 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Falls Studios in collaboration with Great Falls Starbucks presents "Still Life in the Style of American Realism," the work of 10 young artists ages 7-13 years who studied under Michela Mansuino, artist and Fellow at Studio Incamminati/Philadelphia in summer camp at the Arts of Great Falls. The exhibit space in the Starbucks conference room rotates the work of local students from the Arts of Great Falls, Colvin Run Elementary, Forestville Elementary and Great Falls Elementary schools. Visit www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

Countless Shades of Black. Through Oct. 12, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Frame Factory Gallery, 212 Dominion Road N.E., Vienna. Countless Shades of Black features local artist Alfredo Milián and Discovery Graphics. Free. Visit www.theframefactory1.com for a slideshow.

The Glow: A Pumpkin Wonderland. Through Oct. 27, Thursday-Sunday nights in Lake Fairfax Park, 140 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Enjoy an immersive Halloween stroll along a trail illuminated by thousands of intricately carved pumpkins, many highlighting the Capital City's most famous including pumpkin look-alikes of iconic landmarks, musicians, movie stars, superheroes and princesses. Advanced tickets are required. \$16.99 for children; \$22.99 for adults, at www.glowpumpkin.com/washington-dc.

Pop-Up Selfie Museum. Through Nov. 3, on select dates and times at Tysons Corner Center, Lower Level near Lord & Taylor. The American Scream Selfie Museum will feature interactive exhibits that will make visitors laugh and scream and the star of eye-popping selfies. The museum will feature an array of custom-built Halloween themed sets individuals can interact with: sit on the Iron Throne and rule the Seven Kingdoms, stand in an ancient Egyptian tomb and face the Mummy; visit a gruesome morgue; and more. \$15-\$18. Visit www.american-scream.com for timed tickets.

Oak Marr Farmers' Market. 8 a.m.-noon at Oak Marr RECenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Every Wednesday through Nov. 13, rain or shine. 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. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean.

Great Falls Farmers Market. Year-round, Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org

Oakton Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round. Visit community-foodworks.org.

Mah Jongg Cards. Order cards through Jan. 15, 2020, from Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St. 2020 Mah Jongg cards are \$8 for small cards and \$9 for large cards. Official cards and will be sent directly from the National Mah Jongg League in late March/early April 2020. Go to bit.ly/mahjonggcards2020 or email iva.gresko@gmail.com to order.



COURTESY OF NVMR

The picture is one of the HO gauge steam engines stopping at the Salisbury station. This is an award winning model of the real station in Salisbury, NC.

Open House

Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Saturday, Oct. 12, 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 10

Celebrate "Hitchcocktober." 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center - Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. North by Northwest (1959). Every Thursday night in October, a classic film by Alfred Hitchcock will be featured culminating with a showing of PSYCHO on Halloween. \$14.50. Visit www.AngleikaFilmCenter.com

FRIDAY/OCT. 11

Great Decisions Talk. 1-3 p.m. At Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Part of Great Falls Seniors' discussion: Great Decisions: The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested. Visit the website: www.gfseniors.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Celebrating Lady Liberty's Birthday. 6-8 p.m. at The Garden by Building Momentum, 5380 Eisenhower Avenue, #Suite C, Alexandria. A night of music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, silent auctions and more. Party hosted by local non-profit Just Neighbors to support legal services for low-income immigrants and refugees. Childcare will be available at Scramble next door to the venue. www.justneighbors.org

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE., Vienna. Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

SUNDAY/OCT 13

Washington Symphonic Brass. 4 p.m. At Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The power and romance of brass is on display in this tour-de-force of brilliant and dynamic sound. This all-star ensemble brings virtuosity, color, and even humor to their imaginative take on the expressive side of Beethoven's musical heirs. Tickets are \$40 <http://www.amadeusconcerts.com>. Students 17 and under and active military are admitted free. A pre-concert lecture by Music Director A. Scott Wood will begin at 3:15 p.m.

MONDAY/OCT. 14

Trip to Baltimore Aquarium. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Meet at McLean

Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Cost is \$80/\$70 MCC district residents. Experience the aquarium like you have never before. Join The Old Firehouse staff as they go behind the scenes to feed and encounter some of underwater friends. Lunch at Hard Rock Café. Total aquarium package and lunch are included in the fee.

TUESDAY/OCT. 15

Talk by Andrew Hyde. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The foreign service officer will discuss The Art and Practice of American Diplomacy in the 21st Century. Give back donation of canned fruit. Visit the website: www.gfseniors.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 17

Celebrate "Hitchcocktober." 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center - Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. The Birds (1963). Every Thursday night in October, a classic film by Alfred Hitchcock will be featured culminating with a showing of Psycho on Halloween. \$14.50. Visit www.AngleikaFilmCenter.com

Meet Bill Lewers. 7:30-9 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Meet the author of the Gatekeepers of Democracy series, fiction books that celebrate those who volunteer on Election Day to serve as election officers. Learn about "a day at the polls" as seen through the eyes of the election officers, who are truly the unsung heroes of the American election system. Books available for sale and signing. Visit [https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5247267](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5247267).

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

Haunted Friday Night Trip. 4:30-11 p.m. Meet at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Cost is \$60/\$50 MCC district residents. The Old Firehouse staff invites the brave-hearted to join them on a haunted journey searching for ghosts, zombies and whatever creepy creatures might appear in the night. Admission to all attractions are included in the fee.

Refugee Chef Event. 5 to 10 p.m. At Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, McLean. Diners can savor Chef Nejat's dishes via a special tasting menu or a la carte. Highlights include Kabuli - braised rice with lamb,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

topped with raisins and slivered carrots; Kadoo – baked pumpkin with yogurt sauce, garlic and mint; Chicken Kabob, featuring an Afghan spice blend and cilantro chutney. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Tables Without Borders www.opentable.com/r/harth-mclean.

OCT. 18 TO NOV 3

"Guvnors" Play. At The Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. The Vienna Theatre Company's production of "One Man, Two Guvnors" premieres at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18. Other performances at 8 p.m. Oct. 19, 25, 26, and Nov. 1 and 2. Matinee performances at 2 p.m. Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased online at viennava.gov/webtrac or in person at the Vienna Community Center.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Halloween at Town Green. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave, E, Vienna. Children ages 2-10 are invited to get their spook on with the Town of Vienna at Halloween on the Green.

Valeclub Fall Fair. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. At Vale Schoolhouse, Corner Fox Mill and Vale Roads, Oakton. Bar-B-Q, bake sale; children's games, activities and pony rides, costume parade, haunted forest; Fairfax County Police car-touch and explore and more. Free. Visit the website: www.Valeschoolhouse.org.

The Pop-Ups Perform. 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. From three-time Grammy nominees, The Pop Ups, "The Great Pretenders Club" takes family audiences of all ages on a scavenger hunt for the best imaginative play games your mind can dream up! This highly interactive show unfolds, propelled by award-

winning music and dance beats that will catapult both young and old out of their seats. Cost is \$15/\$10 MCC district residents.

Fearless Girls. 2-3 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. "Fearless Girls": An Afternoon of Storytelling. Folk stories of brave women and fearless girls can be found around the world. Kristin Moyer will tell two stories about Molly Whuppie, from the collection The Adventures of Molly Whuppie and Other Appalachian Folktales, with a musical interlude. Visit <https://vienna-va.aauw.net/>.

Christian Concert. 7-8 p.m. At Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. "One Waypoint" Christian Band Concert at Great Falls United Methodist Church. Cost is \$10 advance/\$15 door. Pay Online at <http://www.greatfallsumc.org/giving.html> (Click on VANCO, Concert is last item on the list).

SUNDAY/OCT. 20

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

McLean Pet Fest. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Free admission. The McLean Community Center has created the "purrfect" event for local pet owners and their beloved animals. Learn valuable information and get tips on a variety of pet products and services that can enhance the lives of your pet and improve your experience as a pet owner. A variety of pet care related exhibitors will be participating.

Time for Great Falls Studio Tour

To the Editor:

If it's October, it must be time for the annual Great Falls Studio Tour, so mark your calendar for the 16th annual tour which will be held Friday through Sunday, Oct. 18, 19 and 20 from 10-5 each day.

I am still in my studio at the Artists' Atelier located in the Great Falls Village Centre just two doors down from the Old Brogue.

This summer my wife and I moved to Ashby Ponds in Ashburn as part of our life plan: however, I still continue my quest to photograph the timeless natural beauty of the Great Falls area. I feel so fortunate to be able to photograph the land, the river and the wildlife of an area where I have lived for nearly 50 years. When I think back to an earlier time over 200 years ago, a painting that was done in 1797 of the "Great Falls of the Potomac" so moved a local citizen that he purchased the work and it still hangs today in his home in Mount Vernon.

I invite you to stop by the Artists' Atelier and say hello and see my collection. I have attached two images for your viewing enjoyment.

Walt Lawrence
Photographer



Walt Lawrence, Common Merganser at Riverbend

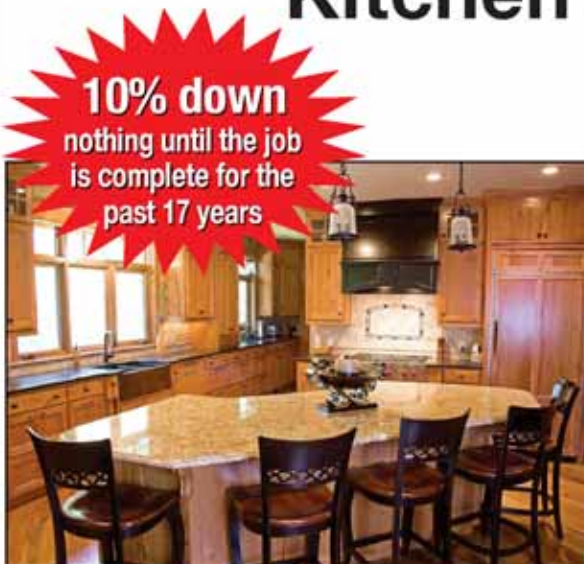


Walt Lawrence, Great Blue Heron.

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LETTERS

Upset About Biased Letter

To the Editor:

I am writing to express how upset and biased that I feel Great Falls Connection became by printing a partisan piece for Greg Brandon ("Voices of Partisanship," Great Falls Connection, Oct. 2-8, 2019) without first and foremost stating that he was the former Chair of the Dranesville District and a former Democrat endorsed candidate in 2011. His opinion letter attacked a group of concerned parents and residents in this county and while some may not agree with those concerns

name calling, besmirching reputations and following Democratic playbook. Mr. Brandon was also actively involved supporting the Democratic candidates at this event. He interrupted the event to complain to the GFCA that his preferred candidates were not being given appropriate air time. He is not just a concerned dad. He is a politician and you did not alert your readers to this important fact.

As a founding member of Voices of Fairfax I request that you give us the same opportunities afforded to Mr. Brandon. I would like to

meet with the editors of The Connection so that we can tell why we are concerned and have a fact based conversation instead of the party politics talking points. The current school board has not been transparent in the rewriting of policy 8130 and would like to discuss the schedule and importance of this policy for the future of Fairfax County Schools.

This "equity lens" is part of a national wave that is not working out well where implemented.

Laura Timmins
Great Falls

The Dranesville District Candidate Forum to Be Held on Oct.17

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will sponsor a Dranesville District Candidate Forum on Thursday, Oct. 17, from 7 to 9 p.m. The event will be held at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean.

Candidates certified for the Nov. 5, 2019 General election have been invited. They are listed here as they appear on the Virginia Department of Elections' website: Board of Supervisors Member candidates Ed R. Martin (R) and John W. Foust (D); School Board Member candidates Anastasia S. Karloutsos (Independent), Ardavan Mobasheri (Independent) and Elaine V. Tholen (Independent).

This event is free and open to the public, and questions for the candidates will come from the audience. Questions can be submitted in advance by accessing: www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWVFA2019

Following the formal session, an informal Meet and Greet session will allow direct audience interaction with the candidates.

Send any questions about the event to PR@lwv-fairfax.org.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

FROM PAGE 5

tionship with digital technology. Events are free and recommended for adults and students of any age who have phones.

❖ Langley High School auditorium, Thursday, Oct. 10, 7-8:30 p.m.

❖ McLean High School auditorium, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.

Military Appreciation Monday to Honor Patriot Point

This month's Military Appreciation Monday (MAM) dinner will take place on Monday Oct. 21 in support of Patriot Point. This will be the second time raising funds for this organization. Those who wish to attend need to call the Old Brogue at 703-759-3309 and make a reservation for either the 5:30 or 7:30 seating.

Patriot Point provides a relaxing and safe environment to enjoy outdoor recreational activities for our nation's wounded, ill and injured service members and their families. At Patriot Point, our nation's warriors are able to reconnect with their families and their caregivers, decompress after a deployment, or just take some time to rejuvenate. Situated on 290 acres of Maryland's Eastern

Shore, fronting two pristine waterways and just a short distance from the Chesapeake Bay, Patriot Point has one thing in mind: Creating a destination for those who have valiantly served our nation so that they can recharge, refresh and rejuvenate away from the stresses and challenges of their everyday lives.

Great Falls Senior Center Announces Upcoming Events

Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) has announced the following upcoming events:

❖ Oct. 11: Great Decisions — The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested, 1—3 p.m. at the Great Falls Public Library

❖ Oct. 15: Andrew Hyde, Foreign Service Officer —The Art and Practice of American Diplomacy in the 21st Century, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Christ the King Lutheran Church Give Back Donation Canned Fruit

❖ Oct. 22: Loudoun County Bus Trip \$35 (cost of trip not including lunch) "Roots 657" Restaurant, Vanish Brewery and Tarara Winery

❖ Oct.30: Deadline to submit Application for Board of Directors Membership election

See Website gfseniors.org for instructions and application form

BULLETIN

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

THROUGH OCT. 23

How to Build a Better Budget. At the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The McLean Community Center (MCC) Governing Board invites residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville to engage with planning Center's fiscal year 2021 budget. All meetings of the Governing Board are open to the public. The preliminary consolidated budget will be posted on the Center's website and available at the Center's reception desk. Visit www.mcleancenter.org/news-items/404-board-holds-meetings-on-fy2021-budget-proposal for more.

Residents may submit written comments through Monday, Oct. 21 - by mail to McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101; fax 703-653-9435; or email to george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Board will approve the FY2021 budget when it meets at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23. The final budget will be approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in spring 2020.

THURSDAY/OCT. 10

Social Media Wellness. 7-8:30 p.m. At Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Safe Community Coalition hosts a free community showing of the IndieFlix Original Documentary "LIKE." The movie explores the social impact of social media on our lives and the effects of technology on the brain. After the film, discussion will be led by Dr. Cliff Sussman, a DC-based psychiatrist and expert on helping people achieve a more balanced relationship with digital technology. This event is free and recommended for adults and students of any age who have phones. Visit www.mcleanscc.org

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Watershed Clean-Up Days. 10 a.m. to noon. At Riverbend Park, Great Falls. Grab a bag and go on a trash scavenger hunt as the Park Authority hosts "Watershed Clean-Up Days" again this fall. lend a hand by helping to remove tires, bottles, cans and other debris from local waterways. Helping to clear the earth's vital arteries is a great community volunteer project for service groups and students. All ages are welcome. For a complete listing and to sign up as an individual volunteer, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer.

TUESDAY/OCT. 15

Doing Well By Doing Good. 6-8:30 p.m. Meets at Tower Club, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 1700, Tysons Corner. PHILLIPS Programs for Children and Families, a Fairfax-based nonprofit helping youth throughout the region with a variety of behavioral health needs succeed, is partnering with the Tower Club's Young Executives Ambassador Committee to host a panel discussion and networking event: Doing Well by Doing Good. The panel discussion will explore the benefits of joining a charitable board for personal and professional growth, steps on securing a position, and impact of board leadership on the community and a business. Five other nonprofits will also be exhibiting onsite. RSVP@TowersTysons.com.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 16

Panel on Human Trafficking. The Vienna Woman's Club and Just Ask Prevention are holding a panel discussion on "Human Trafficking in our Neighborhoods — What it Looks Like and How to Help Stop It." 7 - 9 p.m. at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, The Hall (Second Floor), 400 Center Street South, Vienna. Entrance and parking lot on Cherry Street. Bill Woolf, Executive Director of Just Ask, will lead a panel that includes topic experts from both local nonprofits and government organizations. For more information email: events@justaskprevention.org.

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Apparently, Not a Stable Genius



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Let me get this out of my system because until I do, I won't be able to write about anything else. Not to worry. This is not a cancer column. I am fine until they tell me otherwise which occurs every eight weeks after my bi-monthly CT scan tells the tale of the tape.

No, this column is about my lack of understanding and business acumen which twice has led me down the garden path only to be asked to leave before I got to smell any of the pretty flowers. Once (twice, actually) had to do with attempts at refinancing this old house (carbon dated to approximately 1750, according to a plaque the previous owner hung to the right of the front door), and most recently (also twice) to do with reverse-mortgage financing this same now older house.

With respect to the attempts at refinancing, I will make this short and not particularly sweet. Without getting into the lead paint, bathrooms, roof, door and window issues, it always perplexed me that if I could afford to pay \$1800 per month at 6.75% interest, I could probably afford to pay \$1400 per month at 3.75% interest. However, and this is where my lack of common banking sense manifests itself; my presumptive inability to pay \$400 less per month was problematic for the lenders to be. And an over 800 credit rating did nothing to dissuade the lender's notion that whatever financial wherewithal I had exhibited over the previous 30-plus years was irrelevant borrowing forward.

As concerns the current issue: the reverse mortgage. To say my financial life depends on its approval might be a bit of an exaggeration, but not if you're in my shoes, even occasionally. I can understand the need for the installation of safety rails on the left and right side of the staircase going down to the basement. And grudgingly, I can understand the need for the structural integrity fix relating to the five wooden pillars sitting atop the cracked concrete slab which floors our front porch and apparently prevents the house from falling forward. But I can't understand why the old stable matters so much to the appraiser/underwriter.

It is not used or functional in any way other than as a repository for junk and as a landing spot/vantage point for the Turkey Vultures who nest there. This building is approximately 50 yards from our house and 10 to 15 yards from our neighbor's house. If it fell, like our barn did years ago, it would land on part of our two acres. Given its age, likely over 100 years, it was not, nor has it ever been covered by our home owner's insurance. "Too old," they said. The structural engineer who submitted the report about our house did a walk-around the stable with me and made note of its peculiar structural fixes which included cinder blocks and some rocks. However, in response to my "What do I do?" question; his answer: "We don't certify the structural integrity of 100 year-old buildings." Now I'm being told by my reverse-mortgage banker that I have to fix/secure the foundation of the stable or else the deal is likely dead. Dead over an out-building that nobody uses and was likely built before two century's turned?

The whole point of this application was to spend nothing and get something. It was not to spend something and get nothing. This stable, either structurally sound or not provides me nothing as a living benefit. We're not moving into it. Nor are we selling the property. We're here for the duration. The stable, if it matters at all, will matter to whomever sifts through our financial remains, and since we have no children, those 'remains' are not really our concern. Yet according to the most recent email I received, either I make it my concern or stew in my own juices and slowly wither away.

When I began this process, I had hoped there would be an end in sight. I didn't realize it would be my own.

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

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