

Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION



Emily McCoy, Director, Turning Point Suffragist Memorial; Nancy Sargeant, Chairman Turning Point Suffragist Memorial; Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Patricia D. Wirth, Executive Director Turning Point Suffragist Memorial; and Michael Nardolilli, Chairman NOVA Parks; at the Thursday, Nov. 14 groundbreaking ceremony for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 16

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Suffragist Memorial Breaks Ground

NEWS, PAGE 3

The Good, the Bad, And the Lovestruck

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9

Give Locally

EDITORIAL, PAGE 4

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First National Suffragist Memorial Breaks Ground

Site in Lorton to mark women's struggle for right to vote.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Construction for the first national suffragist memorial, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial located in Lorton, in Fairfax County is set to begin following its Thursday, Nov. 14, groundbreaking ceremony. "With the stroke of a pen, 25 million women entered the Constitution and secured the right to vote," wrote Patricia Depew Wirth, Executive Director/CEO of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association. "Few Americans know about the suffrage movement or its historical significance as it rarely makes it into the history textbooks."

Fairfax County kicked off support for the needed \$2 million memorial construction costs when it issued a \$200,000 grant to the cause. During program remarks before the groundbreaking at Occoquan Regional Park, Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors said, "Our contribution in Fairfax County that was put into our budget was a turning point, so to speak, for fundraising. And it was clear that Fairfax County had skin in the game." According to "The Sentinel, the Newsletter of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial," Board Chairman Bulova and Supervisor John W. Foust drafted the motion to support the project. "They cited its importance to the county's tourism and hospitality industries and said the memorial will only enhance the interest among residents and tourists to visit a famous historical and cultural area of Fairfax County." The Fairfax County Board unanimously approved the motion of Supervisors.

Sargeant described the suffragist movement as the 'Best Kept Secret in American History.' While the seven-decade campaign sought women's economic, social and political gender equality, the effort was not for the faint hearted. In the early years, women organized and built a movement. Then at the turn of the century, they changed tactics for the new generation with a new battle cry.

Women paraded, petitioned and picketed. Few women who began the campaign saw it to fruition. Material distributed at the groundbreaking titled, "SHALL NOT BE DENIED, Women Fight for the Vote," by Library of Congress, stated: "Their story is one of courage, perseverance, savvy, creativity and hope that inspires women today."

According to Wirth, the groundbreaking date coincided precisely one hundred and two years after the infamous Nov. 14, 1917 "Night of Terror." On that evening scores of suffragists ages, 19-73 were illegally imprisoned and tortured at the nearby historic D.C. prison grounds (what is known as the former Occoquan Workhouse) after peace-



Dressed as American suffragists Alice Paul, Rose Winslow, Lucy Burns and Elizabeth Cady Stanton respectively, from left: Debbie Glaser of Woodbridge, Julianna Smith of Woodbridge, Michelle McCall of Herndon and Quinn Jones of Arlington hold up shovels used at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Groundbreaking at Occoquan Regional Park, Lorton, Nov. 14, 2019.



Patricia D. Wirth, Executive Director Turning Point Suffragist Memorial; Sharon Bulova, Chairman Fairfax County Board of Supervisor and Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon).

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



People from across Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland and the nation listen to remarks held during the Suffragist Memorial Groundbreaking on Night of Terror Anniversary.

fully picketing outside the Woodrow Wilson White House for the right to vote. "There, they were humiliated, kept in inhumane conditions, tortured, locked in solitary confinement, and brutalized."

Doris Stevens wrote 'Jailed for Freedom' in 1920. In it, she stated, "When all suffrage controversy has died away, it will be the little army of women with their purple, white and gold banners, going to prison for their political freedom that will be remem-

bered. The challenge of the picket line roused the government out of its half-century sleep of indifference ... (On the Night of Terror) I saw Dorothy Day brought in. She is a frail girl. The two men handling her were twisting her arms above her head. Then suddenly, they lifted her up and banged her down over the arm of an iron bench twice."

Wirth said when word leaked out about the unconscionable treatment; it became a

"turning point" in forcing President Wilson to ask Congress to consider a Constitutional Amendment. The site for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial is located within Occoquan Regional Park and the National Register-listed D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory Historic District, where the Night of Terror occurred.

CONSTRUCTION of the national suffragist memorial is anticipated to take nine months, culminating in the Aug. 26, 2020 dedication ceremony, which is the centennial anniversary certification of the 19th Amendment, Wirth announced in a statement. Designed by R.E. Beach Architects of Falls Church, the memorial, Wirth said would be the cornerstone of a planned park redevelopment. It would commemorate the five million women who fought for seven decades to win ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution - the right for American women to vote. Wirth said Turning Point Suffragist Memorial would tell a critical part of history about American women through the construction of the memorial and "establishment of the Turning Point Institute and development of a 'Constitution Trail' in collaboration with numerous historical sites germane to our ever-evolving Constitution."

SEE GROUND, PAGE 7

OPINION

Give Locally

For tens of thousands of families in our area, uncertainty and need are distant from the celebrations and plenty that so many of us associate with this holiday period.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 54,000 students (29 percent) are poor enough to receive subsidized meals.

Many are children living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Christmas

and the holiday season.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

Many nonprofits in the region need your help to provide holiday meals around Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season, for humans in need, for animals in need, for an environment in need. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

predominantly in Centreville and Chantilly.
www.ourneighborschild.org/

❖ **Pathway Homes** providing non-time-limited housing and supportive services to adults with serious mental illness and co-occurring disabilities in Northern Virginia. Founded in 1980, Pathways currently serves more than 400 adults in community-based homes in Northern Virginia.
www.pathwayhomes.org

❖ **PRS, Inc.** is a non profit providing mental health, crisis intervention and suicide prevention services in Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. Seeking to change and save lives in our community by empowering hope, safety, recovery, wellness, independence and community integration.. PRS also provides crisis counseling and connection to supports CRISISLINK When crisis calls, we answer 24/7 Call: 800-273-TALK [8255] Text: “CONNECT” to 85511

❖ **Second Story** — Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. second-story.org.

❖ **SHARE** of McLean, celebrating its 50th anniversary, is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. We are supported by donations from local religious congregations, community organizations and individuals. Our food and clothing room is housed in space donated by the McLean Baptist Church. Our year round and seasonal programs include family emergency financial assistance, food pantry, used clothing room, recycled furniture, back-to-school supplies and refurbished laptop computers. During the holidays, we also provide our neighbors in need with grocery cards and gifts.

Main Message Center: (703) 229-1414
info@shareofmclean.org
Mail: Share, Inc. P.O. Box 210 McLean, VA 22101
Food and Clothing Room: McLean Baptist Church 1367 Chain Bridge Road McLean, VA 22101
www.shareofmclean.org

❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. It is our mission to get families back into stable housing in order to provide them the opportunity to continue their journey to self-sufficiency.
www.shelterhouse.org

❖ **Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna** providing services, personal enrichment, volunteer opportunities for adults 50 and over. Currently serving 3,000-plus mature adults in the region. 703-281-0538, www.scov.org

❖ **Tahirih Justice Center**, 703-575-0070, www.tahirih.org, Legal services, public policy advocacy, and education for immigrant women and girls.

❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization focused on how to enlighten, excite, and educate children about how they can experience the true joy that comes from helping those in need.
www.touchingheart.com, 703-901-7355.

❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — 4511 Daly Drive, Suite J, Chantilly, VA 20151 in Chantilly. email Assistant Food Pantry Manager/Volunteer Coordinator Debbie Culbertson at dculbertson@wfcma.org and put Holiday Food in the subject line. wfcma.org/

Where to Give Locally

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact nfo@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org

❖ **Britepaths** Britepaths is working to assist 500 Fairfax County area families who might otherwise go without holiday meals and gifts for their children. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. britepaths.org <https://britepaths.org/our-programs/holiday-program>

❖ **Centreville Labor Resource Center** (CLRC), a safe, organized center where residents and contractors can negotiate work arrangements with day laborers. Centreville Square Shopping Center, 5944 Centreville Crest Ln, Centreville, VA 20121. Phone: (703) 543-6272 Email: Contact@CentrevilleLRC.org www.centreville-lrc.org/

❖ **Closet Of The Greater Herndon Area** is a nonprofit thrift shop in the heart of historic downtown Herndon. When you donate, volunteer and shop at The Closet, you help us give to the local community. The Closet recently awarded over \$20,000 in grants to seven local non-profit organizations: Cornerstones, Fellowship Square, Herndon-Reston FISH, Meridians Recovery, Mobile Hope of Loudoun, South Lakes High School PTSA Food Pantry, and Herndon Woman's Club in support of Wreaths Across America. We continue to be a source of low-cost clothing and household necessities for families and individuals on a tight budget. We also give away clothing at no cost to truly needy individuals. 845 Station Street Herndon, VA 20170 (703) 437-7652. Email TheClosetInc@verizon.net Web: theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/

❖ **Committee for Helping Others** (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Coming up, holiday bike drive. 703-281-7614, www.cho-va.com

❖ **Community Foundation of Northern Virginia** www.cfnova.org The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in our region. Your gift helps us make grants in our focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists www.cfnova.org/for-donors/donate-now

❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org.

Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. For families in need, often there isn't enough money to spend on gifts. To register for the Gifts for Kids drive, visit <https://www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/gifts-for-kids/>.

We will be accepting personalized wish list donations for the 2019 Gifts for Kids Drive at our main office, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, VA 20190, on the following schedule: Thursday and Friday, Dec. 5-6: 9 AM to 6 PM
Saturday, Dec. 7: 9 AM to 12 noon
Contact Nate King, Donations and Drives Coordinator, at 571-323-9569.

❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of donations and volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities.
Please donate a basket of non-perishable food and a \$25 grocery store gift card

(so the recipient may purchase the perishable items needed to complete their meal). Please drop off your donations of Thanksgiving food baskets and gift cards by Friday, Nov. 22. Donations will be accepted at FACETS' main office (10700 Page Avenue, Building B, Fairfax VA 22030) between 9am – 5pm.

Contact Haylee Davis at hdavis@facetscares.org. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

❖ **Food for Others** Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. 2938 Prosperity Ave. info@foodforothers.org. Food for Others distributes food to more than 1,800 local families in need each week. Drop off food at our Merrifield Warehouse, 2938 Prosperity Ave, Fairfax, VA 22031. Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 5pm. The best time is between 2pm and 5pm. Park in a space, walk up to loading dock #2 and let one of the warehouse staff members know you have a donation. Holiday wish list: stuffing, gravy packets, instant potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, pie, canned cranberries, canned meat (tuna, chicken, beef, turkey) peanut butter, canned tomato products (chopped, diced, peeled), canned pumpkin, soup, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce; cereal, cans of beans, mac & cheese. www.foodforothers.org

❖ **Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter**. Each year, nearly 5,000 pets, including cats, dogs, small mammals, reptiles and livestock, come to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter funds important needs throughout the Shelter such as behavioral training and dental or medical care beyond what the shelter's budget can provide. generalinfo@ffcas.org 571-212-9858 www.ffcas.org/

❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 herndonrestonfish.org Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short-term crises by since 1969. 703-437-0600.

❖ **Homestretch**, to empower homeless

parents with children to attain permanent housing and self-sufficiency by giving them the skills, knowledge and hope they need to become productive participants in the community. Since 1990 Homestretch has helped over 2,000 families achieve permanent housing and self-sufficiency. 303 South Maple Ave, Suite 400, Falls Church, VA 22046 Phone: 703-237-2035 homestretchva.org

❖ **Lamb Center**, www.thelambcenter.org, day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178.

❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more. On Dec, 14th we will provide clients with food and new toys for children newborn through 16 years of age. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.

❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** (LCAC) will provide holiday assistance to hundreds of families. There is still time to help for Thanksgiving, Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for children and teens will help low-income families. See website for warm coat donation details and volunteer needs. <https://lortonaction.org/2019-thanksgiving-outreach/>

❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, (571) 482-4770 . www.capitalareafoodbank.org

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. The organization provides the essential building blocks for financial, emotional and physical well-being, serving as leaders and innovators for the Northern Virginia community. Every year, it empowers 35,000 individuals to achieve self-sufficiency. www.nvfs.org Northern Virginia Family Service, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. 571-748-2500

❖ **Our Neighbor's Child** (ONC) volunteers are preparing for delivery of holiday gifts for children from financially struggling families in western Fairfax County –

COMMENTARY

Helping Families Struggling to Make Ends Meet

Ensure a living wage and meaningful tax relief for working families to address affordable housing crisis.

BY KERRIE WILSON AND
LISA WHETZEL

Rent or childcare? Food or gas for the car? A doctor's visit or the electric bill? Those are impossible – often daily – decisions faced by too many families and individuals struggling to live and work in Northern Virginia.

At Cornerstones and Britepaths, we serve individuals and families throughout Fairfax County who are struggling to make ends meet and live in constant uncertainty about their future. With nearly 85 years collectively of serving the community, our nonprofits work with our most vulnerable neighbors to help them manage their limited income. But while our region rapidly attracts major industry, we're finding a punishing domino effect is forcing our clients to save less and less just to cover basic needs – with affordable housing as the greatest barrier to everyone thriving in our community.^o

Addressing the affordable housing crisis in Virginia is possible today if we offer meaningful tax relief for working families and ensure a living wage for families in the Commonwealth. This was the strong recommendation of local and national affordable housing experts convened recently in Northern Virginia.

Of course, meaningful, permanent investment in the Virginia Housing Trust Fund (such as the proposed \$35 million increase) is critical. Practically speaking; however, the long runway for housing production means we must look at near-term solutions to help struggling families today.

That's why we support tax policy proposals that offer a promising path forward.

Legislation has been proposed at the federal and state levels that would strengthen the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

At the federal level, lawmakers have proposed to build on the success of the federal version of the EITC and the federal Child Tax Credit. This proposal, known as the Working Families Tax Relief Act, would strengthen both credits, enabling working people to keep more of their hard-earned pay and help millions of more kids in families with low and moderate incomes get a stronger start in life.

At the state level, restrictions around Virginia's state EITC means families are missing out on the full value of the credit. Making the state EITC refundable would allow these families to keep more of the

income they earn.

We work with clients every day like "Denise," who explained to us what the EITC has meant to her and her family...

"I was a 21-year old single mother to a three-year-old. I worked full time, earning about \$12,000 a year. I paid \$75/week in daycare. I had no health care. A constant challenge was not having enough money to pay unexpected bills. A trip to the emergency room cost hundreds of dollars that I didn't have. My old Honda needed a significant repair before passing inspection, which I couldn't afford. Without my car, I couldn't get to work. Thankfully, every year, I received about \$1500 of EITC. The first year I qualified for EITC, I felt like I'd won the lottery. I paid off some bills, bought a new stroller for my son, and a blue futon from IKEA, which meant I no longer slept on the floor next to my son's crib.

The tax credit didn't allow me to work any less hard. It didn't pay the rent, or the tax bill, or fill my tank with gas. But it allowed me to make purchases that I could never have afforded and it improved my quality of life. It also did something less tangible – it gave me hope. I counted on that check and planned and re-planned throughout the year how to best use it."

That hope kept Denise moving forward as she eventually earned a college degree and worked her way into higher-paying jobs. She is now financially comfortable, and her son works as an engineer.

She explained, "My experiences as a young single mother have forever impacted the way I see the economic injustices. We fail as a society if we don't recognize where we can remove obstacles and create opportunities for people to build a good life for themselves and their children. Conversations about social support programs are not hypothetical political statements; they are decisions that impact real people."

It's time to prioritize working Virginians and their families. We urge Virginia's congressional delegation to support improvements to the federal EITC and CTC, and we urge the governor and state lawmakers to strengthen the state EITC by making it refundable. We hope all lawmakers will join them in sponsoring these proposals.

For more information on the proposed tax policy changes, please visit <https://www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org/research/budget-tax/>

KERRIE WILSON IS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CORNERSTONES; AND LISA WHETZEL IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BRITEPATHS

Fairfax Water

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2020, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,260 to \$4,320¹.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$15,285 to \$18,030.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,300 to \$1,370¹.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$39 to \$40.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$12.20 to \$14.40¹.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.07 to \$3.20 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.80 to \$3.85.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$48 to \$49.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and the Peak Use Charge.
10. A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 105% to 104% and the Overhead Charge for Materials from 16% to 13%.
11. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$38 to \$39.

¹Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$192.5 million budget for calendar year 2020¹. Water sales are expected to provide \$166.2 million and the remaining \$26.3 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2019	2020
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 56,839	\$ 60,020
Power and Utilities	10,890	11,060
Chemicals	7,241	7,878
Purchased Water	7,510	7,812
Supplies and Materials	5,418	5,713
Insurance	991	1,185
Fuel	685	730
Postage	612	622
Contractual Services	12,635	13,103
Professional Services	829	1,290
Other	2,353	2,562
Sub-Total	106,003	111,955
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,380)	(10,313)
Total	\$ 95,623	\$ 101,642

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$43,000,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$36,099,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Karen Barnette at 703-289-6029. Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on **Wednesday, December 11, 2019** to be included in the record of the public hearing.

Cooking with Children this Thanksgiving

Holiday meal prep can help create life-long memories.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Mashing sweet potatoes for a soufflé and drizzling spoonfuls of olive oil over carrots for roasting are Sarah Pardo's earliest memories of cooking with her mother and younger sister during the holidays.

"Some of the things I made then became a family tradition," said Pardo, who is now a nutritionist in Falls Church. "I still make sweet potato soufflé every Thanksgiving."

From establishing tradition and making memories to building confidence and expanding one's palate, the holidays are a perfect time to include children in holiday meal preparation, says Pardo and other culinary aficionados. Bringing children into the kitchen using kid-friendly tools and recipes gets little ones excited about the feast, creates a sense of independence and offers an opportunity to learn about nutrition.

"Thanksgiving is all about tradition and family," said culinary instructor Terri Carr of Terri's Table in Potomac. "I started cooking with my son Nick when he was four or five. I bought him a Cookie Monster apron and we would bake and decorate cookies and give them to friends. We created a lot of special memories."

Allowing children to help with meal planning helps them to feel invested, especially if their favorite fare is included. Enticing children into trying new dishes that they claim to dislike might be made easier if they had a hand in the preparation. "You can also encourage them to try something new or introduce the food groups that make up a balanced meal," said Pardo. "Take them shopping with you and let them help you find the ingredients."

Advanced planning might be necessary for parents who tend to find preparing for a holiday meal stressful. "When you're in a frenzy to get the meal cooked before guests arrive, it might seem easier to do it yourself than have your kids trying to help," said Jessica Bernard, a personal chef in Alexandria. "You can include them in the prep work, even the



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRI'S TABLE

Baking holiday cookies with her son when he was four, became a family tradition that continues today.

day before. They can wash vegetables or measure ingredients

"Kids particularly would love making mashed potatoes," added Carr. "When parents do the prep work, kids can put the dish together."

Cooking is not the only task involved in a holiday meal. Creating a centerpiece or the table or choosing decorative items to display will help them to feel included in the festivities. "Kids can set the table so that they realize that it's a special day," said Carr. "Get them involved in decorating. You can set the table a day or two in advance and kids can make crafts to incorporate in the table setting. Decorating the house ahead of time gets everyone in the mood for the holiday."

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

From left: Emily McCoy, Director, Turning Point Suffragist Memorial; Dr. Thelma Daley, 16th President Sigma Theta Sorority; and Lidia Soto-Harmon, CEO, Girl Scouts Council of the Nation's Capital.

Ground Broken for Suffragist Memorial

FROM PAGE 3

Preceding the program guests spoke out. Nancy Tate, a board member of Turning Point and Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow, shared her thoughts about the brave and brilliant suffragists. "I joined the board when I was Executive Director of League of Women Voters, which was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt, leader of the major suffrage movement and who ensured the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment which the memorial is here to honor."

Lois Elizabeth Bingham, Executive Director of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., said: "I think at long last women are being recognized. As an African American woman, I am doubly proud because we face the double jeopardy of being black and being women."

Mary Ellen Brock, International President, General Federation of Women's Club, spoke about how dedicated the suffragists were and that they "suffered so much."

Patricia Harrison, Fairfax County representative to NOVA Parks Board, said she was there to support and celebrate the achievements of women. "And to recognize the importance of the women's suffrage movement in creating opportunities for all women who come after us."

Significant donors, national partners and others spoke during the program, among them Tara Hogan Charles, Global Government Relations and Public Policy, Proctor and Gamble. She explained P&G had an aspiration, "to create a world free of bias, with equal voice and equal representation

for all individuals, which is why we are humbled to support the construction of the memorial to recognize the decades-long fight for the women's right to vote here in the United States."

Colleen Shogan, Assistant Deputy Librarian for Collections and Services at the Library of Congress, Vice Chair of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission shared how different states had already celebrated the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. "They have honored those occasions with commemorative proclamations and resolutions, lighting up state capitals and landmarks in purple and gold and holding celebrations and educational programs throughout the states."

OCCOQUAN REGIONAL PARK is part of NOVA Parks. In a Memorandum of Understanding, NOVA Parks provided the land and perpetual maintenance of the memorial. "NOVA Parks is proud to share its role in the route for this important addition to Occoquan Regional Park," said Michael Nardolilli, Board member, Chairman, NOVA Parks. "As engaged citizens today, we need to understand the low points, and there were low points suffered by these women that are driven by fear and hatred but at the same time aspire to the high point of unity and love where all of us can strive to be our best. Let this site point to a better future for all Americans with liberty, and justice for all."

To learn more about the memorial, visit suffragistmemorial.com.

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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. 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.

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 weekly farmers market 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.

Christmas and Holidays

NOW THRU DEC. 24

HGTV's Santa HQ. At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Kids can explore the wonder of Santa in the digital age with HGTV's Santa HQ at Tysons Corner Center! This holiday, check out the interactive Elf Academy at Santa HQ. You can try on the latest elf looks with Santa's Magic Mirror, create your very own Elf-ID Card and scan yourself on the Naughty or Nice O'Meter. Plus, new this year, spend less time in line and more time on holiday fun with a Fast Pass. Prices and times vary. Visit the website: www.tysonscornercenter.com/SantaHQ

NOV. 23-24

Christmas Market/Santa. Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. At Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Come shop hand-crafted holiday gifts, fine art jewelry, nature photography, paintings, wreaths (Sunday only), candles, bake sale and gift wrapping. Take your own photos with Santa Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.andrewchapelumc.org/upcoming-events/>

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Reston Holiday Parade. 10 a.m. At Reston Town Center, Reston. The 29th annual Reston Holiday Parade – one of USA Today's 10 Best – plus tree lighting, sing-along, horse-drawn carriage rides, and more all day. Rain or shine. Schedule: 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.: Visits and photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus; 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.: Mini-train rides on Market Street; 5 p.m.: Dance Performance at Fountain Square; 6– 6:30 p.m.: Tree Lighting & Sing Along; 6:30– 10 p.m.: Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/holidays.

NOV. 29 THRU DEC. 24

ACS Gift Wrapping. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The American Cancer Society volunteers will be offering holiday gift wrapping, located next to Santa Claus Headquarters in the mall, Fashion Court, Level 1. Donations to help fight cancer are welcome. Free. All donations for the gift wrapping go to fight cancer from all angles with the American Cancer Society. Email: shiri.rozenberg@cancer.org or visit the website: www.cancer.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

2019 Celebration of Lights. 3:45-6:30 p.m. At the Village Field in Great Falls (behind the Post Office). Celebrate the beginning of the season with the 29th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies next to the fire as you listen to local children's choral groups sing seasonal music. The petting zoo and pony rides will keep your kids busy until Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck to light the tree. The timeline is as follows: 3:45 p.m. - Great Falls United Methodist Preschool



Meeting Santa at HGTV's Santa HQ at Tysons Corner Center.

NOW THRU DEC. 24

HGTV's Santa HQ. At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Kids can explore the wonder of Santa in the digital age with HGTV's Santa HQ at Tysons Corner Center! This holiday, check out the interactive Elf Academy at Santa HQ. You can try on the latest elf looks with Santa's Magic Mirror, create your very own Elf-ID Card and scan yourself on the Naughty or Nice O'Meter. Plus, new this year, spend less time in line and more time on holiday fun with a Fast Pass. Prices and times vary. Visit the website: www.tysonscornercenter.com/SantaHQ



PHOTO BY BILL ARTICOLA/THE CONNECTION

IONA will play at The Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 5 and 7 p.m.

IONA to Perform

SUNDAY/NOV. 24

Traditional Celtic Music. 5 and 7 p.m. At The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Since 1986, the East Coast's premier pan Celtic group IONA has transported audiences to Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Mann, Brittany, Asturias and Galicia, and explores the Celtic cultures of the New World. Founder and lead singer, bouzouki and bodhrán player, Barbara Ryan, and co-founder Bernard Argent on wooden flute, whistles, vocals and percussion, are joined by Air Force Band veteran, Jim Queen, fiddle, banjo and vocals, and dancer Joe Duffey, regular Riverdance and Lord of the Dance performer. The Old Brogue is a fully licensed restaurant, with a masterful selection of ales and world and Irish cuisine. Tickets must be purchased in advance at oldbrogue.com - \$18 general admission/\$12 children. Call 703-759-3309.

4:00 p.m. - Village Green Day School Pony Rides and Petting Zoo begin
4:15 p.m. - King's Kids Preschool
4:30 p.m. - Siena Academy
4:45 p.m. - St Francis Creche Preschool
5:00 p.m. - Santa & Mrs. Claus light the tree
5:15 p.m. - Forestville ES Ensembles
5:30 p.m. - Great Falls ES
5:45 p.m. - Colvin Run ES Singalong
6:00 p.m. - Live Nativity (pony rides and petting zoo close)
Volunteers are needed between 4-6 p.m. Contact info@celebrategreatfalls.org if you are available. After Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in an antique fire truck to light the Great Falls Tree, they will meet all children who wish to share their holiday wishes.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

53rd Annual McLean Holiday Homes Tour. Hours of tour: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tour four large, festively decorated homes in McLean's Ballantrae Farm and Langley Forest. Lunch, jewelry and holiday boutique, baked goods at Trinity United Methodist Church, McLean. Cost: \$30 before Dec. 5th and \$35 after at Mesmeralda's, in McLean; Karin's Florist, in Vienna, and Great Dogs of Great Falls; also on website, www.mcleanwomansclub.org and at church. Call 703-556-0197.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Santa Visits. 12 - 2 p.m. At Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church Street, NE, Vienna. Presented by the Historic Vienna, Inc., The jolly ol' elf will listen to children's holiday wishes in the decorated parlor next to the Christmas tree. Free admission; no reservations necessary. Questions? Call 703-938-5187, email historicviennava@gmail.com, or visit historicviennainc.org.

Christmas Concert. 6 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. "Waiting for the Messiah" – a blend of the Christmas Section of Handel's Messiah with Advent and Christmastime favorites. Also features Artists: Lewinsville's vocal and bell choirs, featuring orchestra. Visit <https://www.lewinsville.org/concerts/> or call the church office during business hours 703-356-7200.

Events in Alexandria

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 6-7

The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. At various Old Town Alexandria locations. The Campagna Center presents the 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade. The parade is Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. and begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. Admission: Free for parade and Heather and Greens Sales; \$180-\$290 for Taste of Scotland; \$40 for Holiday Home Tours. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. Through your support of the events of The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, you provide vital support to Campagna Center programs that serve more than 2,000 children, teens, and adults throughout the year. Visit the website: <https://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend>

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Boat Parade of Lights. Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (O Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade Schedule in Old Town (2 to 8 p.m.)
❖ Holiday music and giveaways from 97.1 WASH-FM
❖ Letters to Santa postcard station from Penny Post
❖ Holiday ornament activity from AR Workshop Alexandria (2 to 4 p.m.)
❖ Bookmark making station from Old Town Books (4:30 to 8 p.m.)
❖ Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival
❖ Santa arrives by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina (3:30 p.m.)
❖ Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights begins (5:30 p.m.)

VIENNA, MCLEAN AND GREAT FALLS

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 20

Holy Happy Hour. 6:15 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Rock music from the 1969 Woodstock event featuring Lewinsville's pipe organ with guitars, bass, drums, and vocals. Artists: Bruce Deatley, drums; Joe Koenig, guitar; Clay McConnell, bass & vocals; John Nothaft, organ. For more information, visit <https://www.lewinsville.org/concerts/> or call the church office during business hours 703-356-7200.

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

Book Club Meeting. 10:30 a.m. to noon. At the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The November Book Club Meeting will be focused on "Tony's Wife" by Adriana Trigiani. Open to all. Join a group of your friends and neighbors at this book discussion club meeting. Call 703-790-0123.
"**Racketeers for Life.**" 7:30 p.m. At St. John the Beloved Catholic Church, 6420 Linway Terrace, McLean. The topic is "Racketeers for Life: Fighting the Culture of Death from the Sidewalk to the Supreme Court" by Joe and Ann Scheidler of the Pro-Life Action League. Don't miss this opportunity to meet pro-life warriors, Joe and Ann Scheidler. The husband and wife team have

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

ENTERTAINMENT

The Good, the Bad, and the Lovestruck

Oakton High presents
'Wild Oats.'

BY CHARLIE WILLIAMS

PHOTOS BY SAMBA PATHAK

Oakton High School embarks on an Old West adventure in their latest production of "Wild Oats."

Set in 1880s Muleshoe, Texas, the story follows Jack Rover, a traveling Shakespearean actor whose arrival in Muleshoe is accompanied by his falling madly in love with Kate Thunder, the inheritor of a large fortune. With the schemes of Gammon and Ephriam, Muleshoe's resident greedy bad guys, and a series of hilarious identity-swaps, "Wild Oats" is a production sure to keep the audience laughing throughout.

THE PLAY is full of comic talent, and the dedicated actors have been working nonstop to bring their characters to life. "I first began by reading through the script a couple times to get the gist of my character and the story," says junior Jonathan Geerdes, who plays Rover. "From that and consulting with my directors, I came to the realization that Jack Rover portrays three different personas throughout the play not including himself. So, after analyzing Rover as a character himself, I had to develop the characters I would be playing as Rover. I started the process by incorporating a total of 4 different accents into the play so that the audience could distinguish between all of them."

With the primary setting being a Wild West town, the Oakton Technical Theatre class was tasked with fitting a lot of buildings into one small stage. "It's all about angles," explains stage manager Kylie Wilson. "You want to make sure that the audience can see every aspect of the town. We took an idea similar to what we did last year for "Taming of the Shrew" and figured out how it would fit for "Wild Oats." Everyone worked really hard to figure how to best set up the buildings to look the best."

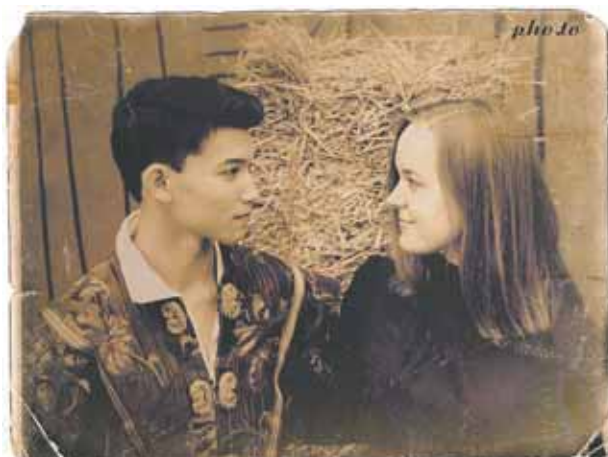
Another interesting aspect of the play is it's blending of styles, from Shakespearean writing to a Wild West setting. Maxwell Branciforte, who plays adventurous thespian Harry Thunder, says, "Shakespeare wrote most, if not all, through universal themes. This means that it is completely possible to slap different coats of paint onto these ideas, allowing them to be presentable to different audiences. In this case, these themes are all presented through that of the Wild West."

Branciforte continues, "In 'Wild Oats,' and specifically my character, Harry Thunder, we see lots of mistaken identity; Harry juggles playing the persona of both himself and Dick Buckskin, his thespian alter-ego. I had to figure out how Harry would act as himself, and then, how he would act if he were pretending to be someone else. I have completely fallen in love with playing Harry, as his reactions are just as over the top and insane as that of the situations he encounters in the Wild West."

CARSON CULLEN, a high school junior and one of the directors of the play, has the concluding thought.



Maxwell Branciforte as Harry Thunder, Justin Zombron as Muz.



Jonathan Geerdes as Jack Rover, Vivian Lemons as Kate Thunder



From left — Cecilia Schmitz as Jane Gammon, Ian Matthews as Ike Gammon, Kevin Holcombe as Sim Gammon.

"The best experience I've had is getting to go from words on the page and moving them onto the stage," says Cullen. "It's really like working out a puzzle. It reminds me of a quote I once heard, 'when you're a director your goal is to help the audience. When that curtain opens the audience is in trouble and your goal is to get them out of it.' So it's interesting to see how the show morphs and changes and how we can help get the audience 'out of trouble.'"

See the madness and hilarity of "Wild Oats" for yourself on November 21, 22, 23 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online at www.oaktondrama.org.

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trip



Double Feature
Friday, Nov. 22, 4 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$50/\$40 MCC district residents

Presented by The Alden



Simon and Garfunkel [Revisited]:
Live in Central Park
Recreated by Lee Lessack
and Johnny Rodgers
Friday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m.
\$40/\$35 seniors & students
\$30 MCC district residents

Closing Notice

Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Thursday, Nov. 28-Friday, Nov. 29

It's Back & Better Than Ever!



The McLean Holiday Crafts Show
Friday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Admission: \$7; good for all three days of the show

5th and 6th Grader Party



The Yule Ball
Friday, Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$35/\$25 MCC district residents



The McLean
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www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org
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-Werner Heisenberg

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

spent their lives working on the issue since the Supreme Court allowed abortion in 1973.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/

NOV. 21-23

Christmas Craft Sale. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Rd., Vienna. This big annual fundraising craft sale features a variety of handmade items, craft supplies, holiday decor, baked goods, a soup-and-salad lunch, and more. Free admission. Hours are 10-7 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10-4 p.m. Saturday. Visit the website: www.oaktonbrethren.org.

Book Sale. At Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Friends of the Great Falls Library hold their semi-annual book sale in the branch in time for the Christmas season. In addition to a nice selection of Christmas books for kids and adults alike, we feature a great variety of genres in books, DVDs, audio books, CDs and eclectic. Donations for the sale will be accepted for as long as we have the space! Dates and times: Thursday, Nov. 21, Members Pre-Sale (join at the door, \$15) 6-8 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 22, Book Sale open to public 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 23, Book Sale open to public 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 23, 4-5 p.m. Books \$5/bag. For details, contact the Library at 703-757-8560, or friendsofthegreatfallslibrary@gmail.com.

NOV. 21-24

"You Can't Take It With You." Show times are Thursday thru Sunday at 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinee at 1:30 p.m. At McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Meet the Sycamores, the family that is the very definition of eccentric itself. Directed by Phillip Reid and Assistant Directed by Annalise Kirby, the cast is led by Graham Cole, Benjamin Cudmore, John Godwin, Wyatt Lahr, Will Chapman, and Michael Aten.. The rest of the show is double cast, with Amanda Mulet, Easton McCollough, Jackie Stoll, Nate Fimbres, Rebecca Blacksten, Georgia Titus, Sheridan Dalier, Kiera Murphy, Tess Mellinger, Kylee Majkowski, Sanjna Kaul, Owen Stevens, Becca Sullivan, and Clarre A'Hearn leading the Fulton Cast, and Erica Bass, Sophie Camus, Kara Murri, Connor Mulhall, Avery Versaw, Erin Sharpe, Lyssa Bass, Emilia Ermanoski, Celine Jelinski, Chris Tillotson, Skye Bailey, Laura Connors, and Jack Abba leading the Dwayne Cast. Tickets are \$12 online, \$15 at the door, and \$8 for students, and can be purchased at https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/15599.

FRIDAY/NOV. 22

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. to noon. At The McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Gale Pean, a proponent of palette knife painting, will be the featured artist. She will be doing a demonstration of techniques. Guests are welcome. Call 703-790-0123.

"Simon and Garfunkel [Revisited] Live in Central Park." 7 p.m. At The Alden Theater, at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Recreated by Lee Lessack and Johnny Rodgers. Cost is \$40/\$35 senior/\$30 MCC district residents. "Simon and Garfunkel [Revisited] Live in Central Park" uses visual media, a terrific band and vocalists' beautiful voices to bring to life an accurate and honest recreation of the concert's original 21-song set list, including two songs not included on the 1982 concert album. The recreation pays homage to the folk-rock legends with Lee Lessack's and Johnny Rodgers' own voices and musicianship rather than impersonations or "tribute band" antics. Call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: www.aldentheatre.org.

NOV. 22-23

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Books, DVDs, audio books, Christmas books galore. Cost is 25 cents to \$2. All genres of materials. \$5 bag sale takes place at 4 p.m. Saturday. Pre-sale for members on Nov. 21 from 6-8 p.m.; no scanners, join \$15 at door. Email: friendsofthegreatfallslibrary@gmail.com. Call 703-304-6561.

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

The French Connection. 7:30 p.m. At The Falls Church Episcopal Church, 166 East Broad Street, Falls Church. The second concert of the Washington Sinfonietta's 2019-2020 season, The French Connection, will be held at The Falls Church Episcopal. Under the baton of Music Director Joel Lazar, the program of French music includes Suite from Masques et bergamasques and Ballade, both by Gabriel Fauré, and Charles Gounod's Symphony No. 1. Rachel Franklin, piano, is the soloist in the Ballade. Advance tickets for the performance, \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, plus a small service fee, are available at https://bit.ly/364vRqv. Tickets at the door are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students. Children under 18 are admitted at no charge. Visit www.washingtonsinfonietta.org.

The Path to Academic Success. 7 p.m. At Oakcrest School, 1619 Crowell Road, Vienna. Oakcrest School will hold an event for parents

entitled "The Path to Academic Success." Faculty will share Oakcrest's vision of academic success, and parents will leave with a renewed vision of their role in their daughter's academic flourishing. The panel is part of Oakcrest's Adventures in Parenting series. The event will feature Head of School Dr. Mary T. Ortiz; Dean of Faculty & Curriculum Elizabeth Black; history teacher Virginia Boles; Dean of Students Meghan Hadley ('06); and science teacher Dr. Kat Hussmann. This event is open to all parents, and registration is now open at oakcrest.org.

1950s Sock Hop. 7-9 p.m. At the Auxiliary Gym at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Presented by the Historic Vienna, Inc. There will be a short dance lesson at 7 p.m. followed by DJed music. Light refreshments included. Admission \$5; 5 years old and younger free. Tickets at the door. Also advance tickets are available in advance at the Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna. Call 703-938-5187, historicviennava@gmail.com or www.historicviennainc.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 24

Inova Blood Drive. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church. Save the date now to donate blood at TRS. One unit of blood can save up to three lives. Contact Nancy at nancycb700@gmail.com. Visit the website: https://www.inovabloodsaves.org/index.cfm?group=op&expand=23633&z=22043

Tribute to Poet Mary Oliver. 4-6 p.m. At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. "A Tribute to Mary Oliver" will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax. Oliver's award-winning poetry will be presented across four large themes that frame her extensive, poetic canon: Beginnings; Natural Inspirations; Meaning and Theological Questions; and Closures. Each 10-minute section will feature five to six poems, including "The Journey," "In Blackwater Pond," "Crows," "Angels," "White Owl Flies Into and out of the Field" and "The Summer Day." To frame each program section, jazz pianist Dave Anderson will enrich the poetry with his music. Shari MacFarlane has prepared more than 100 photographic images of her paintings that will be streamed as a backdrop to the music and poetry. Tickets are \$20. Contact Jerry Poje, poje2530@verizon.net. Visit the website: www.uucf.org

An Afternoon of Opera and Song. 4 p.m. At Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Amadeus Concerts Frank Conlon's insights allow him to bring top voices. Tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at the door or online at http://www.amadeusconcerts.com.

Announcements

Announcements

Legals

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Over 2 Miles of Guns, Knives & Accessories!

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540-951-1344 TheNationsGunShow.com

f t y i

ABC LICENSE

Mike's Warehouse Inc, trading as Mike's Warehouse, 260 Cedar Lane SE, Ste B, Vienna, Fairfax County, Virginia, 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Nader Saghafl, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

BULLETIN

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

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meetings in 2019

12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Nov. 26 Committee Meetings
❖ 9:30 a.m. - Economic Advisory Commission
❖ 11 a.m. - Personnel Committee
❖ 1:30 p.m. - Legislative Committee
❖ 3 p.m. - Budget Committee
❖ 5 p.m. - Audit Committee
Dec. 3, 2019 9:30 a.m. - Full Board of Supervisors Meeting
Dec. 10 Committee Meetings
❖ 9:30 a.m. - Health, Housing and Human Services Committee
❖ 11 a.m. - Development Process Committee
❖ 1:30 p.m. - Transportation Committee
❖ 3 p.m. - General Assembly Annual Reception and Work Session

NOW THRU DEC. 18

Active Aging Wellness Exercise Class. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. An eight week exercise class to improve strength, balance and mobility for older adults sponsored by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Cost is \$40 for 8 week session – payable to Sun Fitness LLC. To register, contact Casey Tarr, eleentarr1@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

AAUW Speaker. 7 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. The Vienna Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host Briana Sewell of the Virginia Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy, who will summarize current Virginia law and proposed legislation on family leave. Free. Co-sponsored by Patrick Henry Library. AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Founded in 1881, AAUW members examine and take positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. Visit the website: <https://vienna-va.aauw.net/>

SATURDAY/NOV 23

Smart Money Retirement Expo. At Sheraton Tysons Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. WMAL 105.9 FM is presenting The Smart Money Retirement Expo which features 26 seminars on retirement topics. Experts in retirement planning and public policy will show how to make smart retirement decisions. The event is being sponsored by the non-profit Funding Our Future Coalition and Edelman Financial Engines, a financial planning and investment management firm in the region. Cost is \$10. Visit <https://smartmoneyretirementexpo.com>.

Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION

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An Idiot Servant No More



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Given the extremely sad experience I shared with you all in last week's column: "Chino Lourie, Rest in Peace," this column will be an attempt to bounce back to my usual and customary reality, one oddly enough that has nothing to do with cancer (well, much, anyway). Instead it has to do with unexpected joy.

The joy to which I refer has to do with a subject which typically provides me little joy: I refer to our two automobiles, a 2000 Honda Accord and a 2018 Audi A4. The former inherited from my parents, payment-free but rarely hassle-free, the latter not free of payments, unfortunately, but free of hassle since its maintenance is covered by the warranty.

Nevertheless, for the past few years, off and mostly on, both cars have had an indication that all was not right. Each had illuminated dashboard warning lights (aka "idiot lights") constantly reminding the driver that attention to some detail was required. For the Honda, it was twofold, a "Main't Req" light and a "Brake" light "were dashing." For the Audi, it was "onefold," an icon which looks like an upside down horseshoe, sort of, which I learned, after thumbing through the owner's manual, meant low tire pressure, appeared directly under the speedometer. Since I felt no give or take with the Honda and saw no evidence of low tire anything with the Audi, I learned to take their reminders in stride and figured I'd wait until their respective next service calls to respond to them.

Those service calls have now occurred. And I am extremely glad - and relieved to say, that their necessary/underlying repairs have been made. Glad/relieved not so much because the repairs/obvious safety issues have been addressed. Rather, glad/relieved that in making those repairs, the dashboard warning lights are no longer illuminating their disdain with the idiot behind the wheel: me, neglecting them.

No more, after starting either car, will my initial focus be on the dashboard to see if miraculously the warning lights have disappeared and finally stopped their incessant, non-verbal badgering. No more will I be forced to ignore their illumination and attempt to compartmentalize their visual reminders that all is not well under the hood (so to speak). And finally, no more will I have to worry that one day - or night, the other mechanical shoe will drop and I or my wife, will be left stranded on the road somewhere waiting for a tow truck to drag us to our car-repair maker.

And though this dashboard-warning-light-turn-off is really a turn-on, I am still able to keep its effect in perspective. It's not a cure for cancer and neither it is a cure for my "stable" issue as written about multiple times recently ("Please Relief Me" and "Apparently, Not a Stable Genius"). However, as we say in sales: "I'll take a yes," as they say on the high seas: "Any port in a storm;" and has been said for the last century: "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth." For the official record, I am not horsing around in the least when I say how thrilled I am now that everytime I start our cars, I see no lights reminding me what an idiot I've been. As a cancer patient I don't need that kind (or any other kind, quite frankly) of negativity in my life, or in my car either. Eliminating it from my activities of daily living adds a bounce to my step and a joie to my vivre.

I realize I may be over stating the significance of this momentous occasion, but when cancer takes over your life, it does so emotionally before it does so physically. As such, finding relief is HUGE. Moreover, solving a problem however insignificant in the scheme of things it appears to be, provides the building blocks of success that, as a cancer patient, help strengthen your foundation as you navigate your daily routine. A routine which is already filled with enough challenges. So yes, I am going to make a mountain out of a molehill. And I am going to fill myself up with as much positivity, nonsensical or otherwise, as possible.

I need to be pulled forward, not dragged backward.

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

NovaLabs Hosts Maker Event for Kids

NovaLabs, a local educational nonprofit, hosted its second Kids Open Maker monthly event on Saturday, Nov. 16, at its facility in Reston. Children explored and learned about robotics, coding, drones, deconstruction, crafts, and blacksmithing, with the help of volunteers.

Founded in 2011 as part of the “maker movement,” NovaLabs is the largest makerspace in the DMV (D.C., Maryland, Virginia) area and runs 24/7. It is supported by memberships and a vast array of volunteers including inventors, artists, engineers and entrepreneurs. The nonprofit offers classes to foster learning, teaching, and collaboration in a 10,500 square-foot space equipped with classrooms, offices, tool shops and manufacturing equipment. It hosts a multitude of popular meetups, “the largest of which is cybersecurity and hacking, one of the hottest careers in STEM right now,” said Jennyfer Peterson, operations services leader.

“Nova Labs’s mission is to create a community that makes things, all kinds of things. We have a lot of tools here, but the thing that makes it different is the community of people who help each other make things using those tools,” said Peterson.

As for the nonprofit’s future, nothing could be more at stake than its own facility. A new high-rise is set to replace the current facility within the next two years. The immediate goal is to find a new home that is affordable and allows the nonprofit to remain independent.

Madison High Junior Speaks About Opioids, E-Cigarettes Crises

Christina Luckett, a Madison High Junior, organized a recent Public Health Presentation for the general public. The United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps did an interactive presentation about two major crises: Opioids and E-Cigarettes. This Public Health presentation also included handouts and suggestions about how the public could help in tackling these two national health crises. The mission of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, which is overseen by the U.S. Surgeon General, is to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our nation. As one of the seven uniformed services, the USPHS Corps comprises of highly qualified health professionals, including nurses, physicians, dentists, etc., who serve underserved and vulnerable communities across the United States. Luckett is a Girl Scout Ambassador, Editor-in-Chief of the Madison High Newspaper, and President of the Madison Robotics Team.



From Vienna, Lieu sisters Harriet, 8, and Beatrice, 6, participate in crafts.

“NovaLabs is one of the true meaningful things for residents to (participate in) besides going to dinner and shopping. We are a family learning space and very successful. It is critical that we get some help to remain in the Reston area so we can continue to serve the community to rediscover the joy of making things,” said Peterson.

NovaLabs will host a Kids Open Maker on the third Saturday of each month, starting again in January.

For more info on NovaLabs and its events, visit <https://www.nova-labs.org/>



Lt. Cmmdr. Hanah Pham, Christina Luckett, and Cmmdr. Zanethia Eubank.

FAITH

First Baptist Church of Vienna Celebrates 152nd Anniversary

The First Baptist Church of Vienna will celebrate its 152nd anniversary — the oldest church in the town of Vienna — with weeklong outreach to the Northern Virginia community that include donating 100 Thanksgiving baskets to the needy.

The celebration will culminate with the anniversary on Sunday, Dec. 1.

The anniversary theme is Celebrating While Serving. “The church doesn’t exist to take care of its own.

We exist to meet the needs of others and to transform the world,” said Senior Pastor Dr. Vernon C. Walton. “What better way to celebrate 152 years of ministry.”

Anniversary Program

When: Saturday, Saturday, Nov. 23-Sunday, Dec. 1
Where: First Baptist Church of Vienna
450 Orchard Street NW, Vienna

On Saturday, Nov. 23, the church will blitz the community with teams dispatched to participate in several service events including:

- ❖ Loads of Love (paying for loads of laundry at a local laundry facility)
- ^ Grocery store blessings (making purchase of grocery store shopper’s bills)
- ❖ College campus visit/distributing “Finals Survival Packs”
- ❖ Feed the homeless in the District of Columbia
- ❖ Nursing Home visits — worship service/distribution of gifts;
- ❖ Distributing 100 Thanksgiving Baskets



B.GOOD team members prepare for the grand opening.

B.GOOD Opens First Restaurant In Northern Virginia

Farm-to-table restaurant chain, B.GOOD, held a grand opening at its first location in Northern Virginia on Thursday, Nov. 14 in Tysons Corner. The celebration included a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by members of the Tysons Chamber of Commerce and executives. B.GOOD gave away samples and prizes, and even free entree cards to the first 50 customers. It is the third to open in Virginia and the 65th restaurant in the U.S.

Tysons Corner was selected as a market where the restaurant can thrive, according to B.GOOD. “There are a number of factors that make the DMV, and Tysons in particular, an attractive place to plant our roots. There is a diverse population of savvy diners who know what good food is all about, and there is ongoing demand for fast, healthier food options. We’re excited to bring a differentiated menu to the local food scene,” said Chris Fuqua, Chief Executive Officer.

B.GOOD prides itself in using fresh ingredients while also ad-

hering to standards of animal welfare. The chain sources as often as possible with local farmers and suppliers, while cultivating relationships with them. A diverse menu of healthy food options can be found including “responsibly sourced” burgers, bowls, salads, sandwiches and smoothies.

“The Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud and excited to have B.Good be a member of the Chamber and a part of the Tysons community. We look forward to partnering with B.Good to support Tysons,” said Mariam Tadros, on the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber helps to promote businesses through various means in the Tysons area and is the largest chamber in Virginia.

B.GOOD executives were overall pleased with the restaurant chain’s grand opening. “It’s going to be the first of many stores to come,” said Kevin Lias, store manager at the Tysons location. For more information, visit www.bgood.com

– DENISE LEW



The Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce and B.GOOD leaders at the grand opening’s ribbon-cutting ceremony.