

# McLean CONNECTION

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## Progress Report on McLean Business Center Study

McLean CBC Task Force and County staff review draft Comprehensive Plan text.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**D**on't expect proposals on the table for the redevelopment of the McLean Central Business Center (CBC), just yet. The Overall Project Schedule for the CBC Study must be completed first, followed by other steps at the County level. While documents presented at the Task Force Orientation Meeting held May 31, 2018, anticipated the Study's timeline to run from April 2018 through January 2020, a revision proved necessary.

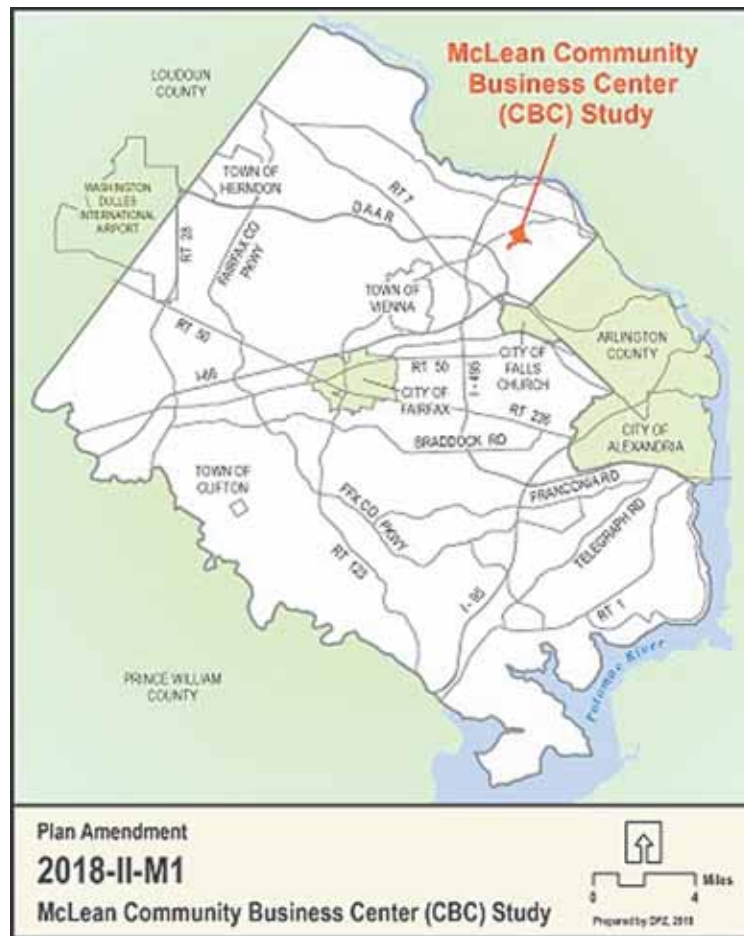
The Revised Plan Amendment Timeline for 2020, as viewed on Feb. 10, 2020, at the McLean CBC Study Task Force meeting detailed: March 16 - Task Force Meeting to Draft Comprehensive Plan Text, March 28 - Community Meeting at McLean High School and April 13 - Task Force Meeting to Draft Comprehensive Plan Text. A Transportation Analysis presented by VDOT was also scheduled. Looking into the summer, Staff Reports and Public Hearings ran from May through July 2020 on the PowerPoint presentation.

**SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS** in the McLean CBC Planning Study has been made. Check the box for a critical project goal, "A common vision for downtown McLean." On Dec. 18, 2018, contractor Streetsense completed and presented its Final Vision for the McLean Community Business Center after compiling and analyzing community input.

As for achieving another critical project goal vital to the future of downtown McLean, that of translating this vision into recommendations for changes to the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, 2017 Edition, McLean Planning District, McLean Community Business Center, progress by the McLean CBC Task Force, county staff and the community is nearing Staff Reports and Public Hearing after 21 meetings. According to Leanna Hush O'Donnell, AICP, Director, Planning Division Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development: "The next several Task Force meetings will continue to focus on comments to draft Plan language. Staff will be working on revisions to the draft Plan language for consideration by the Task Force and the community."

The most recent meeting of the McLean CBC Task Force was held Monday evening, Feb. 10, at the McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road. Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville District) appointed the McLean CBC Task Force to consider and offer recommendations for changes to the Comprehensive Plan guidance for the McLean CBC. The recommendations needed to be ones that were implementable and promote revitalization.

The evening's agenda listed three items participants hoped to accomplish that evening: Administrative, Draft Comprehensive



PLANNING AND ZONING FAIRFAX COUNTY

**The area of the McLean Community Business Center Study encompasses a small part of Fairfax County as a whole, but for residents nearby and within, it makes a difference.**



Staff from Fairfax County, David Stinson, Planner and Barbara Byron, Director in the Department of Planning and Development, take notes on what the McLean CBC Task Force discusses during the McLean CBC Task Force meeting held Feb. 10, 2020.



**Linda Cevalasco of McLean: I'm interested in the traffic plans for Elm and Beverly Streets, especially the intersection and the turn, and I'm interested in the trade-offs for building heights too.**



**Frank Cevalasco: I remain relatively confident the task force will succeed in steering the county's planning process in a positive direction; that outcome will be aided by what I perceive is a motivated and talented county planning staff.**



**Bob Hollis: I'm new to this and don't know enough about what is going on. I viewed the videos and disengaged. And now, I moved to the Signet, which will be impacted by decisions related to the CBC.**

sive Plan Text, and Public Comment. Kim Dorgan, Chair of the McLean CBC Task Force, thanked the staff for "the really good draft." "I think it reflected overall the center of what the task force has been talking about. I appreciate all the effort that went into that," Dorgan said.

Key Fairfax County staff in attendance included not only O'Donnell but also Bob

Pikora, Senior Planner at Transportation. Ben Wiles of the Dranesville District Supervisor's Office also attended. Task Force membership comprising representatives of several focus groups, such as McLean Citizens Association, McLean Planning Committee, McLean Revitalization Corporation and others.

During the Feb. 10 meeting, the McLean

CBC task force began their review of the draft Comprehensive Plan language for the McLean CBC and provided comments for consideration to County staff. The Vision Plan guided the task force as its contents proved to be determinants community members brought forward in focus groups, online surveys, workshops, public comment and direct feedback to Streetsense, contracted by Fairfax County to complete the Vision. Such factors as Economics - the unique challenges for McLean development due to assemblage of retail and office condos having to split the ownership and land control of parcels; Planning and Urban Design-access and mobility for both vehicular and potential bike/pedestrian connections and Form and Character - what design influences would guide task force discussions and suggestions.

In one of the first discussions, Task Force member Derrick Swaak read a letter from McLean Public Art (MPA). It encouraged public art as part of the revitalization. He said: "Bringing public art projects, both temporary and permanent to the community, has shown clear benefits in measurable economic and social returns to municipalities in our region...and enhances the identity of the community and often become place

# OPINION

## Black History Month 2020

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



A tradition in the House of Delegates that has come about in recent years is to have a speech at the beginning of each daily session during February about a Black person. Some speeches are about well-known historic figures; most are about lesser-known Black persons who have made contributions to their communities and to the state. After all, the point of Black History Month is to have all of us gain a greater knowledge and appreciation of Black persons' contributions to our history. The Legislative Black Caucus organizes the event, and I am pleased to have been invited to speak each year at one of the daily sessions. This year I spoke about the late Gwen Ifill of PBS NewsHour and Washington Week in Review who was the first Black woman to become a national news commentator. I always appreciated receiving the daily news from her in her calm and professional manner. Not all speeches are about historic figures; one delegate spoke

this year about his experiences of growing up Black.

I predict that in future years a speech will be made on the floor of the House of Delegates about the 2020 Virginia General Assembly being a transformative event in Black history. Black experience accounts for a major portion of the story in a state that unfortunately has been known for centuries for its racist policies. The first enslaved Africans were brought to Virginia in 1619, and the slave codes that were enacted to keep them subjected as slaves were inhumane. When the tobacco fields were no longer productive, Virginia's chief source of income became the selling of slaves into the deep South. Even the freeing of the slaves with the Civil War did not bring equal rights to Virginia's Black population. Slave codes were replaced by Jim Crow laws. Voting by Blacks was restricted. Their separate schools and other accommodations were not equal.

Supreme Court decisions and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 brought about changes that started Black people on the way to greater freedom. A suc-

cessful lawsuit against gerrymandering in the state along with greater voter participation brought about a record number of Black candidates being elected to the General Assembly. Black legislators took on greater roles of responsibility in the 2020 session of the legislature. The first Black woman was elected Majority Leader of the House of Delegates, and the first Black woman was elected President of the State Senate. While there had been a few Black committee chairs over the years in the House of Delegates, half of the fourteen committee chairs are now Black. Vestiges of Jim Crow laws that remained in the Code even though they had been overturned by the courts are being stripped away. Localities are being given permission to deal with Confederate monuments that were the symbols of Jim Crowism. Laws that were unevenly applied to Black persons are being amended or repealed. Black cemeteries are being cared for as the Confederate cemeteries were for many years. A commission is going to look at the teaching of Black history in our schools to ensure that it tells the whole story. Major strides are being made in this month of Black history!

## Arriving at Crossover with Many Bills Moving

### Driver privilege, minimum wage, class action lawsuits, marijuana decriminalization ...

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL  
(D-36)



The sixth week of the General Assembly brought us to "crossover" – the day each chamber is required to cease work on their own bills and work on bills from the other chamber.

The last two days brought furious action on many major bills. Forty-three of my own bills crossed over to the House of Delegates. Last week, the Senate passed my legislation creating driver privilege cards for undocumented immigrants for the first time and on a bipartisan basis. We still have work to do in order to reconcile the House and Senate bills, but it will change the lives of over 100,000 Virginia residents.

We also passed my legislation authorizing state-level class action lawsuits. Forty-eight other states and the District of Columbia already allow similar lawsuits. The lack of such remedies in Virginia means that corporations can steal money from Virginians in smaller amounts and never face justice.

The Senate also approved my bill allowing people to expunge evictions that have been dismissed. Companies have begun to collect and disseminate eviction records to landlords and the existence of multiple dismissed and unfounded eviction cases can present a barrier to property rental. My bill will allow people to clear unfounded lawsuits from their third party data files.

We also passed my bill to create the Virginia

Efficient and Resilient Buildings Board. It requires each state agency to designate an energy manager to monitor and reduce energy consumption over time. Energy efficiency is America's cheapest energy resource to access and I appreciate the collaboration with my constituent Elizabeth Beardsley and the United States

Green Buildings Council who brought this concept to my attention.

The Senate also approved my bill I am carrying with Del. Kathleen Murphy to create two hundred \$4,000 college scholarships for children in families who receive Temporary Need for Families (TANF). The bill has passed the Senate four times but always dies in the House. This year will be different.

Beyond my own bills, we took action on majority legislation. Sen. Adam Ebbin's marijuana decriminalization bill passed with a large bipartisan majority. The bill is not perfect, but an appropriate first step as we move towards legalization.

I helped to negotiate the Senate's proposed minimum wage increase. The bill increases the state minimum wage to \$9.50/hour starting January 1, 2021. The wage then increases \$1/hour per year starting July 1, 2022 until it reaches \$15/hour and then increases with the Consumer Price Index. Other parts of Virginia would be divided into Wage Regions and the wage increased on a basis relative to their Median Family Income compared with Northern Virginia. We also created an exemption for training employees and students employed

part-time while in college or high school. The House approach is much different and must be reconciled.

Both chambers passed legislation allowing collective bargaining by public employees, ending Virginia's ban on project labor agreements, and allowing localities to require prevailing wages to be paid in public contracts. We also passed legislation creating private actions for worker misclassification, employer retaliation for reporting illegal conduct, and wage theft.

On the energy front, we passed bills endorsing a renewable energy portfolio standard or mandate that utilities shift to renewable energy by certain deadlines. We created a framework to authorize a \$2 billion investment in offshore wind that will make Virginia and Hampton Roads a national leader in technology deployment.

We also passed legislation to officially join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) also known as "Reggie." Joining this compact will give the Commonwealth greater flexibility in reducing carbon emissions and net the Commonwealth \$100 million per year in revenue given the progress we have made this far relative to other compact states.

We also passed Senator Adam Ebbin's legislation authorizing a statewide tax on plastic bags of \$0.05 per bag. It only applies to bags in grocery, convenience, and drug stores, but not restaurants. The monies will go to the General Fund and retailers will be allowed to keep \$0.02 of the tax to defray the costs of collection.

Each chambers' proposed budgets will come out before this goes to print and we will also begin work on legislation from the opposite chamber and the state budget. Please send me any feedback at [scott@scottsurovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsurovell.org).

McLean  
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# Open House on Possible Arts Center at Clemyjontri Park

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and the McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) will host a public open house to discuss the potential for development of an arts and education center at Clemyjontri Park. The meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, with the open house at 6:30 p.m. and a presentation and community discussion at 7 p.m. The meeting will take place in MPA's Emerson Gallery at the McLean Community Center, located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue in McLean.

Clemyjontri Park and its vision was made possible through the generosity of benefactor Ms. Adele Lebowitz and the Lebowitz family, who donated the property to the Park Authority in 2000 with the desire to provide a comprehensive play experience for all children in a barrier-free setting, provided that the home be occupied for compatible community use. The park is one of the first large-scale parks in the country specifically planned and built as an inclusive space where children of all abilities can play side-by-side. It includes a playground, carousel, swings, and other recreational features. Clemyjontri Park, owned and operated by FCPA is located at 6317 Georgetown Pike in McLean.

MPA and the Park Authority are exploring the possibility of developing a new arts center at Clemyjontri Park to further its arts and educational mission. MPA, established in 1962, is a leading contemporary visual arts organization that exhibits the work of emerging and established artists from the mid-Atlantic region; promotes public awareness and understanding of the concepts of contemporary art; and offers instruction and education in the visual arts.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The proposed project would feature the reuse and redevelopment of the existing residence on the property, as well as new construction for gallery exhibition space, and arts education classroom facilities.**

The proposed project would feature the reuse and redevelopment of the existing residence on the property, as well as new construction for gallery exhibition space, and arts education classroom facilities. MPA envisions an all-inclusive art center which provides a creative respite for the community that is integrated into, yet distinct from, Clemyjontri Park. The center could potentially exhibit the work of contemporary artists; offer arts instruction and classroom space; and include public artwork in the park. This new facility would build upon the existing visual arts programming currently provided by MPA through a public/private partnership with Fairfax County at the McLean Community Center (MCC). MPA will continue its award-winning exhibitions in the Emerson Gallery and maintain its robust visual arts instruction and DuVal Studio, both at the MCC.

Staff from the Park Authority and representatives of MPA will be on hand to share information on the park master plan, development of the park to date and the proposed arts center. A question and answer opportunity will follow the brief staff presentation.

## Downtown McLean Discussed

FROM PAGE 3

makers." Although Line 347 of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, 2017 Edition McLean Planning District mentioned public art, Swaak recommended it be "taken one step further" and expanded.

**OTHER TOPICS** covered at the meeting, which focused on a review of the initial set of draft Plan language were as follows and provided as a summary by O'Donnell:

- ❖ Discussion on public art and proposal to incorporate language that encourages public art to help create a sense of place and community vitality;
- ❖ Changes to map colors to make them easier to read;
- ❖ Checking for consistency in terminology (e.g., references to urban parks);
- ❖ Providing definitions, examples, or other means like a glossary of terms so the reader can understand the meaning of certain terms (i.e., community services, urban, suburban, best practices);
- ❖ Examine which recommen-

dations could be stated with stronger language (e.g. "it is expected");

❖ Given lines by # to be changed, from X to Y; word-smithing;

❖ Description of the overall vision for the CBC, and making sure the draft vision statement does not give the impression that the sole focus of the plan is on the bonus area;

❖ Suggestions to address building heights in the number of feet to define the stories, rather than just providing a maximum number of stories;

❖ Discussion on center zone urban park and the consolidation conditions

Wrapping up the meeting, Chair Dorgan said, "Some of this is wordsmithing... We prefer the document to be pretty much done but not done and leave it open for input from the community... and we'll consider that before we have our final meeting in April, which is looking more like May."

Visit [DPZMcLeanCBC@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:DPZMcLeanCBC@fairfaxcounty.gov) to send comments and questions.

## Task Force Members and Affiliation

Kim Dorgan, Chair of McLean CBC Task Force  
 Roshan Badii, McLean Revitalization Corporation  
 Bailey Edelson, JBG Smith  
 Kelley Green Kahn, Churchill Road PTA  
 Francesca Gutowski, McLean Citizens Association  
 Rob Jackson, McLean Citizens Association  
 Tom Jacobi, At-Large  
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 Bob Montgomery, McLean Properties  
 Nicole Morrill, McLean Planning Committee  
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 Johanna Ogden Henneberg, At-Large  
 Jim Peoples, Bryn Mawr  
 Winnie Pizzano, West McLean  
 Amitha Prabhu, Franklin Sherman, At-Large  
 Elizabeth Ruhl, At-Large  
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 William Suddow, McLean Revitalization Corporation  
 Derrick Swaak, McLean Project for the Arts  
 Jack Wilbern, At-Large

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# HOME LIFE STYLE

## Traditional-Style Makeover Satisfies

A second act for family home.

BY JOHN BYRD

Sometimes the second act requires a set change. In the case of a Reston couple seeking to re-vitalize the home they had occupied for 30 years, agenda-busy lives had come to a reflective pause.

The kids were now in senior high school and college—mostly living at home. The lower-level family entertainment area, meanwhile, belonged to a by-gone era. The master suite was, likewise, an anachronism.

The circa 1990s kitchen in the northwest corner of the first floor provided easy access to both an adjacent family room with fireplace, and a dining room/living room—which, nonetheless, were being used less frequently. In short: the house was ready for new beginnings, revisions more properly aligned to a dynamic family's actual needs.

"Of course, large-scale life changes don't necessarily require a whole house makeover," Sun Design president Bob Gallagher admits. "We advocate an incremental approach focused on what is needed now, and what changes will satisfy the whole regimen of foreseeable requirements."

On the other hand, when a homeowner is discovering an interior design style that speaks to them, "the process may build momentum," he adds, "especially when the owners have been given the tools needed to explore ideas in depth."

By tools Gallagher refers to multi-faceted space-planner/lead designer Ericka Williams, and the project team at Sun Design Remodeling.

"It was an inspiring collaboration," Gallagher allows. "The owners had attended Sun Design seminars earlier, toured several remodeled homes and talked to our past clients...so they knew what to expect. Turns out, this was just the beginning of their discovering more about their personal tastes."

To start at the top: that summer the owners had celebrated 23 years of residency in their two story, four bedroom production house, and were taking stock of what they wanted from the years ahead.

At just over 1,000 square feet, the home's primary level living area seemed adequate relative to living space requirements. The problem was that the original space plan and interior finishes were quite dated. Bathrooms designed in the 1990s featured oversized bathtubs, small showers and a vanity illuminated by Hollywood strip lighting. The children's playroom in the lower level had been set up for grade school activities. Walls formed to define rooms also blocked the light, and obstructed visual continuum.

The food prep island in the kitchen, meanwhile, nearly abutted a breakfast table which was, in turn, sequestered from the family room by a half wall. When entertaining was underway, the kitchen was beyond the conversational reach of both social gathering zones. Moreover, with the microwave above the cooktop and refrigerator to the right, the cook's work triangle was often in the center of traffic bottlenecks.

"There was a wall with an HVAC duct separating the kitchen from the dining room/living room," Williams recalls. "The original Formica countertops didn't function well as a working surface for hot pots and pans."



Glass-facing cabinets, a 25-bottle wine refrigerator and a granite-topped serving station now unify the kitchen and the family room.

PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY



To generate more light and living space in a circa 1990s house, Sun Design Remodeling removed a wall between the kitchen and great room. A granite food prep and dining counter replaces a stand-alone breakfast table. The wine refrigerator is convenient to the re-designed family room.

Elsewhere, main level carpet and tiling were becoming threadbare. While the dining room and kitchen had been originally conceived for formal entertaining, the reality was a 24 ft x 16 "great room"—mostly reserved for holidays.

"Interior lines were not well articulated," Williams says. "The first level rooms were large enough, but the space seemed looming, almost empty."

What was needed was an "open" plan with interactive, clearly defined activity zones.

Seizing the day, Williams proposed a custom buffet as a way to differentiate the dining zone and from the living room. The piece would function as a service station and storage unit from both sides.

To better articulate the main level interior, Williams re-routed the HVAC duct work and converted the wall into a pair of arched openings crowned. Taupe-hued walls combined with a soft white trim confer a stately elegance on uncluttered sightlines.

Glass-facing cabinets, a 25-bottle wine refrigerator and a granite-topped serving station now unify the kitchen and the family room. The fireplace surround is MSI Gray Oak tile in a straight lay pattern. The new flooring is 5-inch plank gray-stained solid maple.

Upstairs, the new spa bath features a large walk-in shower with a bench seat, "cubbies" designed for personal-use and hand-held shower sprays. Among the lighting enhancements: overhead LED recessed lighting and decorative sconces.

The lower level now boasts a state-of-art entertainment center and is equipped with refrigerator and wet bar.

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors design and remodeling seminars as well as tours of recently remodeled homes. For more information, visit [www.SunDesignInc.com/Events](http://www.SunDesignInc.com/Events) or call 703-425-5588.

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## The Old Firehouse



**Teacher Workday Trip**  
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**Tuesday, March 3, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.**  
**\$55/\$45 MCC district residents**

## Presented by The Alden



**Unruly Theatre Project**  
**Improv Performance**  
**Friday, March 6, 7 p.m.**  
**The Old Firehouse**  
**1440 Chain Bridge Rd.**  
**Free admission**

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**Movies for Children and Families**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 12:30 p.m.**  
**In the Community Hall**  
**Free admission**

## Making Memories



**Father-Daughter Enchanted**  
**Evening Dance**  
**Friday, March 13, 7-8:30 p.m.**  
**\$25 per participant**



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# CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING

**Hogwarts's Vacation Bible School Registration.** At Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. The camp dates are June 22-26, 2020 for morning or afternoon sessions. Children 5 through 11 years old are invited to participate in this popular and unique summer camp experience which explores the Christian themes and lessons in the Harry Potter stories. Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Vienna is magically converted into Hogwarts School where children attend "classes" taught by favorite professors including Professors McGonagall, Snape, Hooch, and Binns. Teenage Prefects lead age level groups to their activities and all students share a closing snack in the Great Hall. This year's theme will be based on book 2, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. Registration forms will be in the Church Office and online. More information: [http://www.holycomforter.com/Children/Vacation\\_Bible\\_School/](http://www.holycomforter.com/Children/Vacation_Bible_School/)

**The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia**, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, visit the web site [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org)

**Library Display Features Church.** Thru March 1. A display at Dolley Madison Library in McLean is featuring St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The display illustrates the church's history and close relationship with the community of McLean and presents a newly published book recounting the church's first 150 years. The book, *This Far by Faith, A History of St. John's Episcopal Church, McLean, Virginia 1866-2016*, was co-authored by parishioners Deborah Watson, Sandy Smoot, and Ramona Speicher. The book is available for purchase through the church office (703-356-4902).

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

**Preschool Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have fun with your child and build early literacy foundations for reading success. Age 3-5 with adult.

**Volunteer for the Environment.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Join in working to combat climate change and global warming. Activities include campaigning on massive data centers and fighting oil and gas pipelines in Virginia. Come be part of the solutions. Free. Email [sbonney001@aol.com](mailto:sbonney001@aol.com).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 20

**Brain and Breathing.** 10-11 a.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. In this course, you will learn breathing exercises designed to help support brain function. Instructor: Dr. Charles Masarsky of Vienna Chiropractic. Free. Call 701-255-7801.

**Adventures in Learning.** 10 a.m. At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. "Let it Go-Dealing With the Emotional Connection to Items" - Terri Blanchette. Cost is \$45 per semester. To Register/Questions: Call 703-281-0538. View the schedule of classes and registration form at <http://www.scov.org/ail-open-house>.

**Acoustic Autumn Live Music.** 6:30-9 p.m. At Blend 111, 111 Church Street, NW, Vienna. Laissez Fouré is an acoustic swing quartet playing classics from the '30s and '40s. The group consists of acoustic bass, swing rhythm guitar, saxophone/clarinet, and trumpet. In the tradition of New Orleans jazz, the quartet emphasizes an acoustic sound when feasible and plays charts by Armstrong, Ellington, Count Basie and others from the era.

**The ABCs of CBD and Medical Marijuana.** 7:30-9 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. The discussion will provide medical information about CBD/THC, the differences between CBD and medical marijuana, and how people can legally obtain medical marijuana in Virginia. Free. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5843108>

## FEB. 20 TO MARCH 1

**ReelAbilities Film Festival.** The 8th Annual ReelAbilities Film Festival: Northern Virginia, powered by the Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, will present a lineup of 17 films in select venues across Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District from Feb. 20-March 1. The festival is comprised of contemporary international films and post-film programs as well as a fine arts exhibit, all selected to be engaging, empowering, and championing the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with different abilities. Visit the website <https://www.thej.org/reel-abilities/reelabilities-film-festival-northern-virginia/>

## FRIDAY/FEB. 21

**Karate for Kids.** 5 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Join the Karate to gain powerful



## Celtic Concert

**Beth Patterson will appear at the Old Brogue Irish Pub on Feb. 23.**

## SUNDAY/FEB. 23

**Beth Patterson Performs.** 5 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. At The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. The Old Brogue Irish Pub and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 31st season of family friendly, Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. Featuring internationally recognized Celtic musicians, the concerts are performed in a listening room by the fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance at [www.oldbrogue.com](http://www.oldbrogue.com): \$20 general admission/\$15 children under 12. Visit [oldbrogue.com](http://oldbrogue.com) or call the Old Brogue at 703-759-3309.

tools for self-defense, inner-strength and a strong, healthy body. Ages 4 and up.

**Young Adult Game Night.** 7:30 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Guests will gather in the chapel for some games, snacks, and fellowship. Please bring friends and games you are interested in playing. We can't wait for a little healthy competition. Call 703-356-7200. Visit the website: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/young-adult-game-night/>

**Nora Jane Struthers Concert.** 8 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Nashville-based singer/songwriter Nora Jane Struthers is a rootsy artist with a bent toward mixing traditional country and contemporary rock stylings into her passionate Americana sound. Also on stage, Sarah Borges and the Broken Singles. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com)

## SATURDAY/FEB. 22

**Storytime with Officer Twombly.** 11 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Enjoy stories read by a real life police officer! All ages.

**Boolean Girl Clubhouse.** 1-4 p.m. Campus of Virginia Tech Falls Church, Think a Bit Lab, 7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church. Join Arlington-based nonprofit Boolean Girl at the clubhouse. Hosted in partnership with Virginia Tech, girls and non-binary individuals will learn to code and build electronics in a fun, collaborative setting. Scholarships available for families in need by registering for the Boolean Girl Clubhouse Scholarship. All experience levels are welcome. Cost is \$5-\$65. Email [brian.moran@booleangirl.org](mailto:brian.moran@booleangirl.org). Visit the website: [booleangirl.org/clubs](http://booleangirl.org/clubs)

**Getting out of Debt.** 2 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Are you 100% sure that you will have a great retirement, or do you have some doubt? They can show you how to get out of debt including your mortgage and personal loans in 9 years or less without spending any additional money. Adults.

**Winter Wine & Beer Tasting.** 7-10 p.m. At The Great Falls Grange, 9818 VA-193, Great Falls. The 2020 Winter Wine and Beer Tasting (chaired by Missy Perkins) turns the Great Falls Grange into a WINEter Wonderland with Frosty Beer served on the lower level. Sample a variety of red wines, white wines and locally crafted beers featuring wines selected by Rich Ashton of Classic Wines in Great Falls and beers of the Lost Rhino Brewery in Ashburn. This year's beer selections include Papa's Pilsner, which is made from the hops that are grown locally in Chef Jacques' garden at L'Auberge Chez Francois. Tickets are \$50 per person and on sale through 2/20/20 (or until sold out).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

**Washington Sinfonietta.** 7:30 p.m. At The Falls Church Episcopal, 166 E. Broad Street, Falls Church. Conducted by Music Director Joel Lazar, the program will feature three of Beethoven's masterworks: Musik zu einem Ritterballet, Symphony No. 4 in B-Flat Major, and the Triple Concerto. Distinguished artists Aaron Berofsky, violin, Tobias Werner, cello, and Catalin Dima, piano, join the Sinfonietta as soloists in the Triple Concerto. Advance tickets for the performance, \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, plus a small service fee, are available at [washingtonsinfonietta.org](http://washingtonsinfonietta.org). Tickets at the door are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students. Children under 18 are always admitted at no charge.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 23

**Pancake Breakfast Youth Fund-Raising Event.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. At Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. All are welcome for food, fun, and fellowship. The Holy Comforter Youth will be serving pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, juices, milk, coffee, and tea. Gluten free options will be available. Proceeds go to support Holy Comforter Youth Ministries and this summer's mission trip to Puerto Rico to care for local children and adults struggling with poverty and the aftermath of Hurricane Maria and the recent earthquake. \$7 per person, \$25 per family, children 2 and under eat free. Visit [www.HolyComforter.com](http://www.HolyComforter.com).

**Jazz Worship & Pancake Brunch.** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. A jazz quartet, the Chancel Choir, and the Lewinsville Choristers will help lead worship. Music will include excerpts of Bob Chilcott's Little Jazz Mass, and the music of Duke Ellington and Moses Hogan. After the service, join us in Fellowship Hall for pancakes, breakfast quiches, casseroles, and crepes. Share fellowship with friends, enjoy a pancake brunch and join in the Pancake Games for the kids. Call 703-356-7200. Visit the website: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/jazz-worship-pancakes/>

**Maple Syrup Boil-Down.** Noon to 2 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. How does maple syrup get from the tree to your breakfast table? See the old-fashioned process from beginning to end at the "Maple Syrup Boil-Down at Colvin Run Mill." When the sap starts to rise, the maple trees are tapped at Colvin Run and the drip, drip, drip begins. Now, it's sugaring time! Bundle up, watch and learn as sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an outdoor, open fire. Cost is \$8 per person. No reservations are

required. Call 703-759-2771 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill>.

**Relay-Palooza.** 1-4 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Join Relay For Life of Northern Virginia for the annual Relay-Palooza Battle of the Bands kickoff celebration benefiting the American Cancer Society. Local acts may register to perform on the Jammin Java stage and then they need your vote to choose a winner. The winner of Relay-Palooza will get the chance to headline the 2020 Relay For Life event. This is a family-friendly event. Donations benefit the live-saving mission and programs of the American Cancer Society. Ticket purchase: [eventbrite.com/e/89780709519](https://eventbrite.com/e/89780709519). Contact: Anusha Nallapat at [nush@vt.edu](mailto:nush@vt.edu). Visit the website: [relayforlife.org/northernvirginia](http://relayforlife.org/northernvirginia)

**Taizé Contemplative Worship.** 5 p.m. At Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Taizé contemplative worship is a powerful and moving combination of song and scripture featuring lush greenery, candles, icons and considerable time spent in silent meditation. It is a unique opportunity to decompress and prepare for the week ahead. Visit [www.HolyComforter.com](http://www.HolyComforter.com).

**Ask-a-Pastor/Doubt Night.** 6 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church is hosting an "Ask-A-Pastor/Doubt Night." This will be your opportunity to ask Pastor Scott Ramsey, Pastor Annamaria Groenenboom, and Pastor Jen Dunfee questions you've got about the Christian faith, the Bible, theology, the church, spirituality, and more. You don't need to be a member of Lewinsville to attend. Visit the website: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/ask-a-pastor-doubt-night/>. Call 703-356-7200.

**Capitol Steps Performance.** 7 p.m. At Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Capitol Steps will perform with new material for the 2020 election. Tickets cost \$37. This is a one-time event and the main fundraiser for the Langley High School Class of 2020 All-Night Grad Party (ANGP). Buy online at <https://form.jotform.com/LangleyPTSA/angp2020>.

## MONDAY/FEB. 24

**Baby Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have fun with baby while building early literacy foundations for reading success. Birth -18 months with adults.

**Ayr Hill Garden Club Meets.** 12:30 p.m. At Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna.

# Acclaimed Poet Nikki Giovanni Comes to The Alden

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**A**ward winning poet and writer Nikki Giovanni will share her eloquent words of wisdom in a special event at The Alden Theatre. Giovanni insights will span the civil rights movement, politics, love, art and beyond. "Ms. Giovanni is a quietly celebrated icon, and we are excited to hear her speak," said Renee Edwards, Program and Educational Services Director, Fairfax County Public Library

Discussing the ideals of equality, Giovanni will share the experiences and thoughtful poetry that personify her activism and legacy of passion for the arts. For those less familiar with Ms. Giovanni's works she is with "the trinity of African American women literature; and always will be: Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Nikki Giovanni," noted Edwards.

Giovanni taught at Virginia Tech for decades including during the tragic shooting in 2007. She composed a chant-poem which she read at the memorial service, a special convocation the day after. Her "We are Virginia Tech" reverberated with words about sadness and mourning and prevailing in the face of such tragedy.

Giovanni has received numerous awards and accolades for her work including seven NAACP Image Awards, the Langston Hughes Award for Distinguished Contributions to Arts and Letters, the Rosa Parks Women of Courage Award and more than twenty honorary degrees from colleges and universities around the country.

"In the 1990s, I used Ms. Giovanni's poetry with my third grade students. Her simple prose touched me profoundly," added Edwards. Now area audiences will be able to hear Nikki Giovanni "share her experiences and words of wisdom."



PHOTO COURTESY FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Nikki Giovanni with 'An Afternoon of Poetry, Love and Enlightenment' at The Alden, McLean Community Center.**

## Where and When

Fairfax County Public Library presents "Nikki Giovanni: An Afternoon of Poetry, Love and Enlightenment" at The Alden, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Event on March 1, 2020 at 2 p.m. This is a free event at The Alden. Registration for this free event is required at: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5588178>. Note: There are also VIP tickets available for purchase through the Fairfax Library Foundation. VIP tickets include special seating and other extras described by the Fairfax Library Foundation at [www.fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org/events/](http://www.fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org/events/)

## TUESDAY/FEB. 25

**A Wise Woman's Guide to Financial Planning.** 10:30 a.m. to noon. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Longevity, healthcare, earnings, expectations and life paths often mean that women should follow different rules when it comes to planning for and living in retirement. In this class, they talk about how to address healthcare planning, asset management, social security and estate planning. Learn the challenges women face when it comes to financial planning and how to overcome them. Presented by: Kelly

Campbell of Campbell Wealth Management. Cost is 1 lesson @ 1.5 hrs, \$7/\$5 MCC district residents.

**AAUW Speaker Event.** 7:30 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E., Vienna. Audrey Davis, Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, will discuss the history of Alexandria's African American residents. 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 <https://vienna-va.aauw.net/>

The topic is Weeds in Your Yard with speaker Tony Makara, a Fairfax County Master Gardener and Home Turf Director. In his presentation, Tony will identify the more prominent nuisance weeds that can be found throughout the year. He will discuss how these weeds establish themselves and offer several options for prevention or eradication. Email [emilielarson@rcn.com](mailto:emilielarson@rcn.com)

**Pokémon Club.** 6:30 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Bring your Pokémon trading cards to trade or play the Pokémon game. Age 6-12.

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## NEWS

## Catholic Charities Gala Raises Funds to Help Those in Need

On Feb. 7, 2020, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington held its 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Ball at The Ritz-Carlton in Tysons Corner. The event was sold out with more than 1,000 attendees. It is the largest annual fundraiser for Catholic Charities, raising a significant portion of the resources needed to support 21 programs serving those in need throughout the 21 counties and seven cities of the Diocese. This year's theme was, "With Love and Charity."

"I am incredibly grateful for yet another successful Catholic Charities Ball, and for the sacrifices those in attendance made to support the many Catholic Charities ministries which uplift the needy and vulnerable in our Diocese," said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, Catholic Diocese of Arlington. "It is inspiring to see so many people compelled to model Christ's own love for us through generosity and faith. They have shown tre-

mendous compassion and opened their hearts to the light of Christ's message. The Catholic Charities Ball has a long tradition of helping those in need through the generosity of those who attend. I pledge my continued support for the Ball and pray that we only increase the number of people we serve in years to come."

For more information, visit [www.cdda.net](http://www.cdda.net).



PHOTO BY JENIFER MORRIS PHOTOGRAPHY.

Attendees Mr. and Mrs. Ray and Laura Bennett.

## Announcements

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# BULLETIN

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

## THURSDAY/FEB. 20

**Adventures in Learning.** At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton.  
10 - 10:55 a.m. "Let it Go-Dealing With the Emotional Connection to Items" - Terri Blanchette;  
11 - 11:55 a.m. "History of Popular Music - South of the Potomac" - Ken Avis "Real Downton Abbey and Surrounding Neighborhood"- John Capps;  
1-2 p.m. "Media Bias and Impact of Technology"- Steve Miska;  
Cost is \$45 per semester. To Register/Questions: Call 703-281-0538.  
View the schedule of classes and registration form at <http://www.scov.org/ail-open-house>.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 21

**Parenting Your Teen.** 10 a.m. to noon. At Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1, Room 100, Dunn Loring. Learn important strategies to help form a positive relationship with your teen. Topics include:  
Understanding the development of the teen brain;  
Recognizing ways to create a positive climate in the home;  
Identifying constructive discipline approaches;  
Increasing more productive and effective communication strategies;  
Presented by Michele Tureaud, FCPS Behavior Intervention Teacher.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 22

**Career and Transition Meeting.** 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. It is never too early or too late to start planning for a successful transition from school life to life as a young adult. Learn about Career and Transition Services (CTS) programming and course options for students with disabilities. Breakout sessions will cover:  
In-school as well as postsecondary support services. Employment and postsecondary education considerations.  
Student self-determination as an evidence-based predictor of post school success.

## MONDAY/FEB. 24

**Possible Arts Center at Clemyjontri Park.** 7 p.m. The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and the McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) will host a public open house to discuss the potential for development of an arts and education center at Clemyjontri Park. The meeting will take place in MPA's Emerson Gallery at the McLean Community Center, located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue in McLean.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

**Town Hall Meeting.** 7-9 p.m. At James Madison High School, Lecture Hall, 2500 James Madison Dr., Vienna. With Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 27

**Adventures in Learning.** At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton.  
10- 10:55 a.m. "The Joy of Planning Ahead" - Rachel McLean;  
11 - 11:55 a.m. "Generational Differences for Personality Traits" - Bill Weech;  
1-2 p.m. "Journey to the Top of the World"- Colonel Phil Walsh;  
Cost is \$45 per semester. To Register/Questions: Call 703-281-0538. View the schedule of classes and registration form at <http://www.scov.org/ail-open-house>.

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## One Step Forward, Hopefully Not Two Steps Backward



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And so, what happens next? There's calm and then there's an eventual storm. The storm to which I refer is what will happen after the March 2nd meeting with my endocrinologist when she will assess and determine the next step in my post-thyroidectomy treatment. Presumably, in conjunction with my oncologist, a coordinated plan will be implemented for treating my two cancers. I can't imagine however, that being treated for two cancers, simultaneously, will be easier than being treated for one. And I doubt, although I don't know, that one medicine will be recommended for the treatment of both my non-small cell lung cancer and my thyroid cancer. We'll know soon enough.

In the interim, I intend to acknowledge and appreciate how easy these next few weeks will be. No appointments with doctors, no diagnostic scans, no procedures, no medicine - and no side effects, and no lab work other than as needed, to measure my calcium and magnesium levels and any other thyroid-related effects. Moreover, I am free to come and go as I please. And it does please me. Because I've earned it. I deserve it and I'm going to bask in it. You think being a cancer patient under constant treatment - for nearly 11 years is in any way amusing? Hardly. I make fun of it to make light of it. Otherwise, the weight of it would crush me. And even though my father always said I had broad shoulders, I'm always fearful that the next result will be the straw that finally breaks this camel's back. After all, I'm only human.

But for now, February 9, as I sit and write, I am three weeks and one day to my next reckoning. And since it's early days yet to know what life will be like after that March 2nd appointment (radiation and/or chemotherapy possibly), I will try to be blissfully ignorant and not think too much how easy and unencumbered my life is at the present. As a cancer patient, ceding control where you can and securing it where you thought you couldn't are keys to managing expectations and minimizing aggravation. Unfortunately, there is no one key that unlocks all doors. And there are plenty of doors, and plenty of doctors too, and plenty of fear waiting for one of your doctors to walk through any of these doors to deliver the results from your most recent cancer-related whatever.

None of which concerns me right now, or rather it shouldn't. And if there's any port in this storm where I can offload some anxiety and get in a little R&R, literally, figuratively, hypothetically, magically, unexpectedly, I should jump at the chance. I am reminded of a conversation I had with my oncologist years ago when I experienced a similar interval between treatment. The medicine I was on had stopped working so we needed to start another, another with unknown benefits and side effects. My oncologist suggested that since I felt good, perhaps we should delay the beginning of the next infusion and that I should take that trip I had always dreamed of because I might never feel this good again. I didn't then and I won't now. When I jump however, I can barely get off the ground.

I haven't exactly been presented this time, with this kind of do-before-you-die opportunity, but there is an erie familiarity to my circumstances. And though I've been down this road trying-to-find out before, I can't be at all certain to what kind of twists and turns await. The last thing a cancer diagnosis provides is a guarantee. Actually, that's wrong. A cancer diagnosis does provide a guarantee: that there are no guarantees. And so, as I prepare for the next phase of my life, the one that begins 11 years after being diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV and being given a 13 month to two-year prognosis to boot, I will quote the late, great Satchel Paige: "Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you."

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