

McLean CONNECTION



PATRIOT PIONEERS



PATRIOT

From left -Tara Stewart (Senior, McLean HS); Kerry Gallagher, Senior, Herndon High) and Grace Chen (Sophomore, Washington & Liberty High, Arlington) at the gymnastics State Championship last Saturday, Feb. 22.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JILL GALLAGHER

The event raised more than \$45,000 for the NVTC Foundation's Veterans Employment Initiative



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Auction Raises \$45,000 for the Veterans Employment Initiative

On Feb. 19, 2020, the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC) hosted its sixth annual NVTC Foundation CXO Auction at Convene in Tysons Corner. The well attended event, sponsored by Amazon Web Services (Platinum Sponsor) and Attain (Bronze Sponsor), raised more than \$45,000 for the NVTC Foundation's Veterans Employment

Initiative (VEI), which connects Veterans and military spouses to employment opportunities within Northern Virginia's business and technology communities. The VEI also provides support to NVTC member companies in their efforts to recruit, hire, train, and retain qualified Veterans and military spouses as employees.

Bobbie Kilberg, NVTC's President, provided opening remarks and introduced Vonzell Mattocks, the VEI's new Executive Director. Greg Baroni, CEO of Attain, Marta Wilson, CEO of Transformation Systems and Tony Crescenzo also spoke as co-chairs of the event and long-time supporters of the NVTC Foundation CXO Auction.

One hundred attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and refreshments while networking and bidding on 40 C-level executives from leading technology companies. The bidders competed electronically using the One Cause fundraising platform to win one-on-one meetings with regional and industry leaders. Some auction packages went beyond a meeting to include outings like golf, clay shooting, boating, and major league sporting events.

Winning bidders are guaranteed a meeting with their auctioned executive within 12 months, during which they can gain advice and perspective from the C-level executive and pitch future plans.

As a special bonus, NVTC auctioned off a deluxe CES 2021 package which included VIP conference and keynote tickets.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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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NEWS

County Launches JET Task Force

Joint Environmental Task Force addressing climate change and environmental sustainability.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Following their first meeting of the year on Jan. 22, a public meeting of the Joint Environmental Task Force, or JET for short, met on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at the Fairfax County Public School Gatehouse Administration Center in Falls Church. The Task Force is a collaboration between the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the School Board. Its mission is to join the political and administrative capabilities of the county and the school system to address climate change and environmental sustainability proactively.

Membership includes Supervisors Penny Gross (D-Mason) and Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon), School Board members Karl Frisch (Providence) and Elaine Tholen (Dranesville), as well as community partners from higher education, industry, community and student advocacy groups. The work of the Task Force is to “set and meet aggressive goals in areas of common influence, such as workforce development; infrastructure and sustainability of public facilities and transportation; land use planning; communication and community engagement; and other challenges and opportunities as they arise,” according to fairfaxcounty.gov.

On Jan. 22, Supervisor Storck discussed Board member and governmental leadership. He said that the task force wanted to harness the membership’s energy and “may be able to move things more quickly than CECAP” (the Community-wide Energy



Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck (D)



Providence School Board Member Karl Frisch



Mason Supervisor Penny Gross (D)



Dranesville School Board Member Elaine Tholen

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

and Climate Action Plan of the nine district-level Focus Groups). School Board Member Frisch suggested JET “should develop very clear, achievable stretch goals with a plan to achieve and way to measure success.” Supervisor Gross noted the need to recognize and identify associated costs. Members agreed JET needed staff technical support on subcommittees. Members noted consideration of waste management, workforce development and a clean energy plan.

Subcommittee leadership is as follows: Storck-Energy; Gross-Waste Reduction/Recycling; Frisch-Transportation and Tholen-Workforce.

Members will establish an understanding of County/Schools existing practices, goals and targets, as well as restrictions on what County/Schools can and cannot do. Members would identify what additional information was needed to make recommendations to the County/Schools.

Meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is March 4 at the Fairfax County Gatehouse Administration Center, first Floor – Gatehouse Café, 8115 Gatehouse Rd. Falls Church.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LWVFA

Del Vivian Watts (D-39) describes her own more than 50 years as a League member.

League of Women Voters Celebrates 100th Anniversary

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) celebrated the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters on Feb. 23, 2020. More than 100 LWV members attended the afternoon tea, held at the Country Club of Fairfax. The League was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, just six months before the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving all American women the right to vote after a 72-year fight for women’s suffrage.

Vivian Watts, Member, Virginia House of Delegates, was the featured speaker and described her own more than 50 years as a League member, including as President of LWVFA (1975-77). She recounted the strong influence and encouragement of League mentors as she launched her political career and how greatly she benefitted as a delegate from the subject-matter expertise she had developed during her years as a League member. Watts described members as “engaged with energy and spirit” as they “not just ensured that people vote but that the voters are informed.”

LWVFA Co-President Nancy Roodberg honored the 28 women who have been members of the League for 50 or more years. One of them, Leslie Byrne, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives

and LWVFA President (1982-83) described the critical support she had received from Vivian Watts in starting her own political career. She also credited the League in providing her with her first experience in fundraising.

In a congratulatory letter read at the event, United States Senator Mark Warner praised the “extraordinarily important role” the League has played in U.S. democracy. “You have worked to empower citizens by helping them understand policy issues and through your advocacy efforts.”

Capital Harmonia, a community women’s chorus based in Northern Virginia, dedicated to bringing music written for women’s voices, opened the event by performing songs that celebrate and inspire women.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan citizens’ organization that has fought since 1920 to improve the government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. The League operates at national, state and local levels through more than 700 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well as in DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to anyone — men and women — age 16 and older. More at <http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>

K9 Doby-End of Watch: Feb. 22

Police canine served alongside law enforcement officers.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

K9 Doby, Fairfax County Police Department, Virginia, died after suffering a medical emergency while on an active track of two robbery suspects in the 2000 block of Arlington Drive in the Mount Vernon area of the county. K9 Doby, a Belgian Malinois-German Shepherd mix, was two years old and served a tour of 11 months.

According to Officer Down Memorial Page, Remembering All of Law Enforcement Heroes, fallen officers and K9s, “(K9 Doby) and his handler had

tracked the suspects several buildings away and were attempting to reacquire their scent when K9 Doby suddenly collapsed. His handler immediately initiated CPR before transporting him to an emergency veterinary clinic. K9 Doby was not able to be revived.”

K9 Doby served with the Fairfax County Police Department for 11 months and was certified in patrol and narcotics detection. Like other fallen K9s, K9 Doby gave his life to ensure his handler, fellow officers and citizens stay safe. “Today, we remember K9 Doby, our four-legged brother who died unexpectedly while responding to an armed robbery due to an undiagnosed medical condition. We honor K9



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPT

K9 Doby is remembered by Fairfax County Police after he died unexpectedly due to an undiagnosed medical condition while responding to an armed robbery.

Doby today and every day. Rest in peace, Doby,” tweeted @FairfaxCountyPD.

Budgeting the State's Resources

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



COMMENTARY

In contrast to the federal government's method of budgeting, the budget for the Commonwealth of Virginia is more than balanced. The state Constitution prohibits the borrowing of money for operations, and it requires a "rainy day fund" of reserve monies that can be drawn upon in an economic downturn. That is in part why the state has a perfect AAA bond rating giving it the best terms when monies are borrowed for capital projects.

Both the House and the Senate have completed work on their versions of the budget that was proposed by Governor Ralph Northam earlier this year. The two budgets will be reconciled in a conference committee that will resolve differences between the two. Total spending for the biennium will be about \$48 billion in general funds raised through taxes. Individual and corporate income taxes provide three quarters of the revenue with sales tax providing about seventeen percent and additional smaller taxes making up the rest. General funds coming from taxes make up about

36 percent of total revenue. Non-general funds that consist of fees such as motor vehicle and gas taxes, college tuition, federal grants and other fees make up 64 percent of the budget.

Noteworthy features of the House and Senate budgets that are being reconciled and are subject to change before a final budget is adopted include a much needed increase in rates for personal care providers in Medicaid programs, an increase in developmental waiver disability slots by 1,135 in the Governor's budget to 1,635 in the Senate version of the budget. While the increase will help, the number of persons on the waiting list still number in the thousands. The Governor and the House budgeted for 630 supportive housing slots for persons with serious mental illness while the Senate provided 1,630. Budget language provides for the establishment of a state-based exchange for health insurance.

The budgets of both houses provided for teacher raises as did the Governor's budget.

The amount differs in each with an expected three to four percent over the biennium. The ratio of counselors to students in the public schools will be improved. The Governor proposed a ratio of one counselor per 250 students. The House ratio is 325 and the Senate's is 300. Likewise, the ratio of teachers for English learners will be improved. A major point of contention among the Governor's and the House and Senate budgets is that only the House has proposed to restore the cost to compete funding for Northern Virginia schools because of the high cost of living in the region. The average per pupil direct aid for public school students range from \$6,206 in the Governor's budget \$6,297 in the House budget.

A major emphasis in the budget is an increased investment in preschool education that was championed by the First Lady. The Governor's "Get skilled, Get a job, Give back" (G3) funding to provide tuition assistance to low- to moderate-income students who meet certain criteria is receiving significant funding. The Housing Trust Fund will receive a much-needed infusion of cash proposed in all the budgets.

For information comparing the three budgets, go to www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org.

We Both Deserve \$15. Why Don't Our Senators Think So?

BY NICK RIVIERE AND
TONY HEDGEPEATH



Riviere



Hedgepeth

Like millions of Virginians, we work hard. As home care providers, we work every day to help older adults and people with disabilities live independently at home and in the community. By keeping people out of costly nursing homes and institutions, we save taxpayers money and deliver quality care.

We do the same work but in different parts of Virginia – Fairfax County and City of Richmond – and have different backgrounds. One of us is a 21-year-old assisting young adults with developmental disabilities and one of us is a 61-year-old Army veteran helping his fellow vets who suffer from PTSD.

However, we both love what we do. It's a blessing to be able to help others live with dignity.

We both deserve to make at least \$15 per hour and live with dignity ourselves.

Unfortunately, our Virginia state Senators seem to disagree.

Earlier this month, the Virginia House of Delegates passed a bill to raise the minimum wage to \$15 for all workers by 2025. They recognized that working families are falling behind no matter how hard we work, and that we need to build an economy that works for everyone.

The Senate, however, passed a bill which would create different minimum wages in different regions, even for workers who do the exact same jobs like us.

Their bill also forces workers to wait even longer to get a raise.

If the Senate bill becomes law, people working in Fairfax won't make \$15 until 2027, while those in Richmond won't make \$15 until 2032. Our fellow homecare providers and others working in Hampton Roads won't make \$15 until 2034.

Delaying the minimum wage increase for 14 years, and paying different wages for the same work, is not only unfair; it's unacceptable.

Every person who works hard and plays by the rules in Virginia deserves equal respect. We deserve living wages, paid sick days, affordable health care, a secure retirement, and the right to join together in a union.

While the cost of living varies in different parts of Virginia, we all feel the same pain when we struggle to pay rent, buy groceries and pay utilities. Housing costs are skyrocketing in both Richmond and Northern Virginia. Health care costs, food costs and transportation costs are all increasing. We need a state-wide \$15 minimum wage to ensure that no one gets left behind.

To our Senators, we ask: why should a home care worker in Richmond or Roanoke make less than a home care worker in Fairfax when we make the same contribution to Virginia's families?

We elected Democratic majorities to the House and Senate because they promised to deliver a brighter future for working Virginians. It's time that our Senators delivered on that promise.

LETTERS

A Time to Elect a Fixer

To the Editor:

As a physician who has treated kids in Northern Virginia for more than two decades, I've seen firsthand the transformative impact of the availability of high quality health care. It's also clear that uninsured families and high prescription drugs costs are a fiscal burden on families and means that people receive less timely medical care. The stakes of the 2020 election are crystal clear - do we stay on the same dangerous path of skyrocketing prescription drug costs and constant attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act? Or do we elect a fixer, someone who has spent his whole career solving problems? The choice is clear: we must elect Mike Bloomberg President.

A Bloomberg Administration would put the focus back where it belongs - on helping citizens like those I care for in Virginia every single day.

While the Trump administration has filed multiple lawsuits attempting to repeal the Affordable Care Act, Mike Bloomberg would use the federal government's bulk price purchasing power to dra-

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PET CONNECTION

A Perfect Friend

County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay: "I have an adopted retired racing Greyhound named Pascal. Despite their reputation as fast dogs that can run 45 mph, they also live up to their nickname as the '40 mph couch potato.' Greyhounds are loving, calm, and relaxed; a perfect friend for me and my kids Aidan and Leann. Adopting older pets from places like the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is great too."



Pascal with Leann.



Pascal with Aidan.



Michael and Kimberly Murphy's five dogs standing in front of their front door in North Reston (Northpoint area).

Finding a Home in Reston

Michael and Kimberly Murphy moved to Reston in 2015 because they needed space for their "canine family" of five dogs. While serving overseas with the State Department in countries with significant street dog popula-

tions, the Murphys fostered many dogs and ultimately adopted five of them. They found Reston to be the perfect place to live with their dogs, and they enjoy walking their dogs along the tree-lined streets and wooded paths around their neighborhood.

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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

**495 Express Lanes
Northern Extension Study (NEXT)**

I-495 (Capital Beltway) in the vicinity of the Dulles Toll Road interchange to the George Washington Memorial Parkway interchange in the vicinity of the American Legion Bridge

Fairfax County
Location & Design Public Hearing

Thursday, March 12, 2020, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presentation starts at 7 p.m.
Langley High School
6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101
Inclement Weather Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Learn about the Virginia Department of Transportation's environmental study regarding plans to extend the 495 Express Lanes by approximately three miles from the Dulles Toll Road interchange to the George Washington Memorial Parkway in the vicinity of the American Legion Bridge to reduce congestion, improve safety and travel reliability, and provide additional travel choices.

In compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771, an environmental study in the form of an Environmental Assessment (EA), which includes a Preliminary Noise Analysis, was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for public review and comment. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on historic properties is also included in the EA.

This project will involve a change in limited access control.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to learn more about the project and discuss your questions with VDOT staff. A short presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

Review study information on the project website (495northernextension.org), at the meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-691-6715 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting or submit them by April 15, 2020 to Abi Lerner, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email 495NorthernExtension@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Study" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

NHPP-495-5(095), State: 0495-029-419, P101, UPC: 113414

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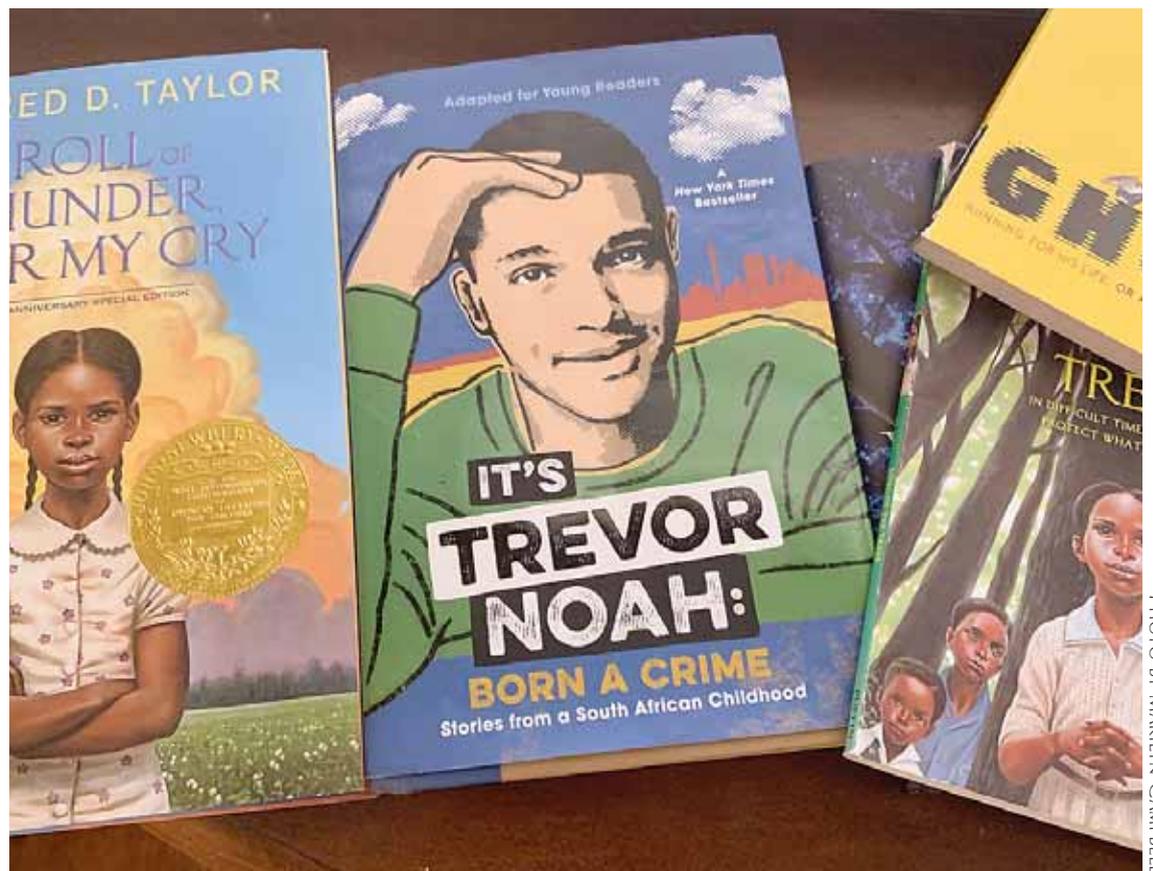


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

While February is designed to raise awareness of the societal contributions of African Americans, in some schools, it's taught all year long.

Black History for a New Generation

Lessons on the contributions of African Americans not limited to February.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Black History Month was created to devote one period during the year to highlight the contributions of African Americans. It represents an opportunity for all, not just African Americans to learn about and appreciate the numerous contributions of Black Americans. That conversation, however, is changing at some local schools.

"It's part of Madeira's curriculum ... not specifically for Black History Month," said Karen Joostema, Director of Communications at Madeira. "[Students] taking Modernism will be researching a Harlem Renaissance poet of their choice, analyzing their lives and work. Juniors have also read Frederick Douglass' Narrative and Toni Morrison's Song of Solomon to interrogate the promise, failures, and continuing work in the U.S. on race and civil rights."

The school's curriculum, says Joostema incorporates studies of the contributions of all cultures including those of African Americans, seamlessly throughout the year. "AP (Advanced Placement) seniors will be finishing up Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man, working to understand how Ellison viewed the struggles of race and class in the middle of the twentieth century and how he viewed himself as part of

the American literary tradition, as voiced in his response to Irving Howe, "The World and the Jug," she said. "Sophomores have just finished reading a short story from the Kenyan writer Ngig) wa Thiong'o along with a play from the white South African playwright Athol Fugard.

Ninth graders read Maya Angelou's I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings to explore how identity, one's sense of self, are shaped by race, class, gender, and geography.

At The Heights School, African American history is part of year round study, said Linda F. Maher. "We study seminal figures in American History, many of whom are African American, so it's just a given that it's just a part of studying history throughout the year," she said. "Studying the Civil Rights movement, for example, is integral to our study of Civics.

Still, February offers an opportunity to focus on African Americans history outside of tragic events. KiKi Davis, Director of Institutional Equity and Diversity at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, says that African Americans have contributed to every aspect of American culture, her school's celebrations include recognition for those influences. "[We're] celebrating the contributions of African Americans to the arts literature, music, theater," she said. "Students will learn about the contributions and the effects of Americans of African descent in other segments of society including, academia, medicine and science."

"There will be several lunch forums held for our students to discuss issues directly relating to the African American experience," said Davis. "Many teachers will incorporate historical facts and references in their curriculum."

"We study seminal figures in American History, many of whom are African American, so it's just a given that we're studying it throughout the year."

—Linda F. Maher, The Heights School

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SPORTS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JILL GALLAGHER

From left -Tara Stewart (Senior, McLean HS); Kerry Gallagher. Senior, Herndon High) and Grace Chen (Sophomore, Washington & Liberty High, Arlington) at the gymnastics State Championship last Saturday, Feb. 22.

Area Gymnasts Shine at State

McLean High senior Tara Stewart won Individual Stated Open Championship on beam; Herndon High Senior Kerry Gallagher - regional all around winner - medaled on floor and placed seventh all around and

Grace Chen (Sophomore, Washington & Liberty High, Arlington) competed all around. The three girls have gotten to know one another through high school competitions including state championships before.



2020 Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Career Building Workshops

Woodson High School Saturday, March 7th 10 am to 12 pm	Mount Vernon High School Saturday, March 21st 10 am to 12 pm
South County High School Saturday, March 7th 2 pm to 4 pm	West Springfield High School Saturday, March 28th 10 am to 12 pm
Chantilly High School Saturday, March 14th 2 pm to 4 pm	Full-time employment Part-time employment Seasonal positions Internships Volunteer Positions and More

Businesses, Nonprofits & Students
 Register Free here:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfairs>

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Hogwart'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/

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

Playdate Meetup. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Toys and play space for children. Birth-5 with adult.

Ash Wednesday Services. 12 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church will hold two services of worship for Ash Wednesday: a Service of Worship at noon with imposition of ashes and a Service of Worship at 7:30 p.m. with imposition of ashes and communion. The Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey will preach. Call 703-356-7200. Visit the website: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/ash-wednesday-services/>

Ash Wednesday Service. 12:10 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. At Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Ash Wednesday represents the first day of Lent as some Christian faiths seek to prepare their hearts for the solemn remembrance of Jesus' death and the joyous celebration of his resurrection. Visit www.HolyComforter.com.

"Black Orpheus" Film (1959). 1 p.m. At The Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Can't make it to Brazil for Carnaval this year? Join The Alden for this film that retells the Orpheus and Eurydice myth, set during the time of the Carnaval in Rio de Janeiro. Free admission. Come enjoy foreign films selected by the Alden's staff. All movies are shown in the original language with English subtitles.

Healthy Comfort Food. 7-10 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Comfort food can be healthy! Join Chef John Bauhs and learn to prepare these healthier options. Menu: Cauliflower Risotto • Turkey Meatballs with Quinoa • Zucchini Lasagna Roll-Ups • Skillet Chicken Parmesan • Salted Caramel Bread Pudding. Instructor: Chef John Bauhs. Cost is 1 lesson @ 3 hrs, \$80/\$65 MCC district residents.

FEB. 26 TO APRIL 12

21st Lenten Devotional. At The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. The church is publishing its 21st annual Devotions for Lent. The publication will be available on the church's website at www.GoodShepherdVA.com, beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, through Easter on April 12. The church also will post each day's devotion on its Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/goodshepherdvienna. Printed copies will be mailed to neighborhoods surrounding the church, and a limited number of copies will be available at the church. Additionally, the church plans to hold weekly gatherings in members' homes to discuss the devotionals. Free. Visit the website: www.GoodShepherdVA.com

FEB. 27, 28, 29

"Sweat" by Lynn Nottage. Thursday at 7 p.m.;



Reston Chorale

Reston Chorale presents Mendelssohn's "Elijah" on Sunday, March 8 at St. Luke Catholic Church in McLean.

SUNDAY/MARCH 8

Reston Chorale. 4-6 p.m. At St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Reston Chorale presents Mendelssohn's "Elijah" featuring Baritone James Martin and Organ Virtuoso Adam Brakel. Cost: \$0-\$30. Tickets/information at restonchorale.org.



The "Cheers of Joy" film will be part of the ReelAbilities Film Festival from now to March 1, 2020.

NOW THRU 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 and Saturday at 8 p.m. At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. New Glasshouse Theater will present "Sweat," the Pulitzer Prize winning play by Lynn Nottage. "Sweat" is set in a bar in Reading, PA, and is about a group of friends who find their livelihoods and relationships threatened as rumors of layoffs start to swirl at the factory where they work. Cost is \$20. Proceeds from a night of "Sweat" benefit OAR-NOVA and Phoenix House. Visit the website: uucf.org/events/sweat

THURSDAY/FEB. 27

Pet Therapy for Teens. 6:30 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Hang out with therapy dogs. Pets have been proven to benefit mental health and they're pretty cute. Teens.

FRIDAY/FEB. 28

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Anya Getter, a member

of the Arlington Artist's Alliance, will be the featured presenter at the meeting of the McLean Art Society. Ms. Getter does whimsical paintings using collage and mixed media and inspired by special quotes or sayings. Guests are welcome. Call 703-790-0123.

Little Explorer's Playgroup. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Join us for an adventurous STEAM centered playgroup that engages the senses. Come dressed for mess! Age 2-5 with adult.

SATURDAY/FEB. 29

Make Pinecone Birdfeeders. 10-11 a.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Help feed your feathered friends this winter with the "Make Your Own Pinecone Birdfeeders!" program at Riverbend Park. Find out what birds stick around through the winter and make and take home a pinecone bird feeder to help them get through the cold. Learn about the common birds that may visit your feeder. Cost is \$10 per person. Sessions are designed for participants ages 4 to adult. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Teen Tech: One-on-One Technology Help. 1 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Bring your devices and have teens answer questions and help with one-on-one tech advice, training and support.

Heet Harry Brinton, Author of City of Peace. 2-3 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Henry Brinton, will talk about his book City of Peace, set in Occoquan VA, where a murder heightens the tensions among faith groups in the small town community. Free. Email joyce.fitzpatrick@fairfaxcounty.gov.

FEB. 29 TO APRIL 4

Finding God in Your Body. 9:30-10:45 a.m. At Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Five Saturdays: 2/29, 3/7, 3/14, 3/28, 4/4. Lent is a season to look within, to go deeper with God. Join the Rev. Ann Gillespie for five Saturday mornings of her signature brand of Finding God in Your Body class. Through a combination of yoga, meditation, and God, we will make more space in our bodies, minds, and hearts for the divine—the better to hear God's still small voice within us. All levels of physical ability are welcome, including those who have never tried yoga. Wear comfortable clothes you can move in and bring a yoga mat and a journal to write in. Visit www.HolyComforter.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 1

The Breakfast Club: Interior Designers, Brunch and You. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Ethan Allen, 1622 Boro Place, McLean. Let the Washington Metro Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) jump start your plans. Come join us for "Breakfast Club," and meet professional Interior Designers to learn how they work their magic, and how they can work with you. Free. Email: administrator@dcmetro.asid.org

Blacksmithing Demo. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Come to the mill and watch as the blacksmith fires up his forge and works with hammer and tongs to make iron tools and utensils. This free program is suitable for all ages and runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. No reservations are required. Blacksmithing is weather and temperature dependent, so please call ahead to confirm there will be a demonstration. These demonstrations are held at the mill on select dates throughout the spring, summer and fall. Call 703-759-2771.

Maple Syrup Boil-Down. 12 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. Sample the delicious maple syrup served over cornbread that's made from Colvin Run Mill's own cornmeal. Cost is \$8 per person. No reservations are required. Call 703-759-2771 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill>.

Holy Comforter Concert Series. 1-4 p.m. At Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Rd, NE, Vienna. Trio Omnia - The internationally acclaimed Trio Omnia brings together pianist Anna Nizhegorodtseva (Russia), violinist Enrique Reynosa (Mexico), and cellist Dorotea Racz (Croatia), who will play works by Mendelssohn and Dvorak. Visit www.HolyComforter.com.

SUNDAYS: 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5

Discover Who You Are with LifeKeys. 12:30-2:30 p.m. At Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. LifeKeys is a program designed to assist you in exploring the gifts God has given you—life gifts, spiritual gifts, personality, values, and passions. Different tools illuminate the ways in which you are unique and wonderfully made, encouraging you to go deeper as you seek to discover what God may be calling you to do. All can benefit from this journey of exploration. Register by February 23. The materials fee is \$30. Light snacks provided. Bring a bag lunch. For more information and to register, email wellspring@holycomforter.com. Visit www.HolyComforter.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

MONDAY/MARCH 2

Ukrainian Eggs—Handcraft Club. 7 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. A Ukrainian Egg is an egg decorated with traditional Ukrainian folk designs using a wax-resist method. The designs are not painted on but written (inscribed) with beeswax. Adults.

MONDAY/MARCH 2, 9 AND 16

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 adult.

MONDAY'S 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6

Centering Prayer with the Rev. Jon Strand. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Rd, NE, Vienna in the new Contemplative Prayer room on the third floor. Contemplative prayer is a form of prayer in which one may experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a personal relationship and a discipline to deeper foster one's relationship with God. Visit www.HolyComforter.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

Picture This: What to do With all of Those

Photographs. 10:30 a.m. to noon. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. From the earliest unsmiling photographs, to the instamatics and today's digital collections, this fun, engaging and informative talk will share information on the various types of photographs found in family collections, what they can tell us about the past, and how best to care for our photographs, whether we have them in boxes, frames or scrapbooks. Presented by: Terri Blanchette, Heritage Preservation Specialist, Owner of TimeSorters. Cost is 1 lesson @ 1.5 hrs, \$7/\$5 MCC district residents.

Winter Sunshine Cooking Class. 7-10 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Treat each day in winter as if it is summer. Learn to make these tasty summer favorites to keep yourself happy this winter. Menu: Bison Sliders • Chicken Buffalo Wings • Potato Salad • Baked Beans • Apple Pie and Ice Cream. Instructor: Chef John Bauhs. Cost is 1 lesson @ 3 hrs, \$80/\$65 MCC district residents.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3, 10, 17 AND 31

Toddler Tales. 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 18 months-3 years with adult.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3, 10, 17 AND 31

Canasta Group. 12:30 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Enjoy socializing while you play Canasta. Beginners welcome. Adults.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4, 11 AND 18

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.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

Chair Yoga. 3 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn relaxation and exercise techniques through Chair Yoga. Adults.

Best Spring Brunch. 7-10 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Enjoy timeless brunch classics, including eggs, sausage, home fries, fruit salad and coffee cake. Instructor: Chef John Bauhs. Cost is 1 lesson @ 3 hrs, \$80/\$65 MCC district residents.

THURSDAY/MARCH 5

Teen Advisory Board (TAB). 6 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Gain leadership experience and discuss what the library can do for you. Grades 7-12.

FRIDAY/MARCH 6

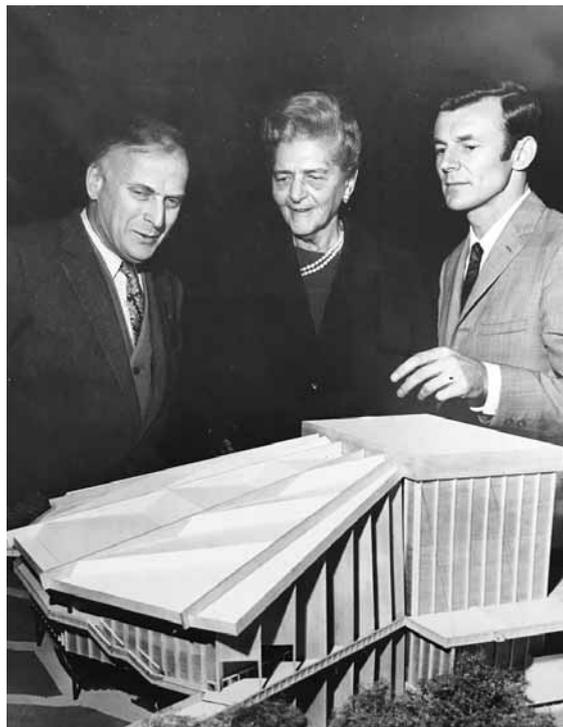
Free Bird-Watching Class. 8-10 a.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Birding is a hobby that can last a lifetime, and Riverbend Park is a great place to get some of the basics down as you start your adventure. The park is offering a free class that covers information a beginning birder should know. Pick up tips on how to use binoculars for bird watching. Learn the importance of having a field guide and discover other ways to identify different types of birds. The class is designed for participants age 14 to adult. Be an early bird and head to the park. The program runs from 8 to 10 a.m. Call 703-759-9018 or visit Riverbend Park.



Al Petteway and Amy White will perform at The Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls on Sunday, March 1.

SUNDAY/MARCH 1

Old Brogue Concert. 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 Al Petteway and Amy White. There are 2 sittings for each concert: 5 and 7:15 p.m. A third will be added at 3 p.m. if the regular sittings are sold out. Tickets must be purchased in advance at oldbrogue.com: \$20 general admission/\$15 children under 12. Visit oldbrogue.com or call the Old Brogue at 703-759-3309.



Celebrate Catherine Filene Shouse, the founder of Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.

SUNDAY/MARCH 1

Celebrate Catherine Filene Shouse. 1-3 p.m. At 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Join National Park Service staff and Friends of Wolf Trap volunteers for a celebration of the park's founder and leading lady Mrs. Catherine Filene Shouse. Mrs. Shouse was a philanthropist, advocate, and trailblazer who founded Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. The National Park Service presents an opportunity to learn about Mrs. Shouse's life, education and career, which culminated in her gift of Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts to the American people. Explore the history of Wolf Trap as a world-renowned sanctuary for the performing arts and a unique public-private partnership. From 2-3 p.m., visitors will take a backstage tour of the Filene Center.

Bilingual Storytime. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Bilingual Storytime in English and Hindi. Enjoy stories, songs and activities. Birth-5 with adult.

Singer Gina Chavez. 7 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Visit GinaChavez.com.

MARCH 6-8

Tyson's Library Book Sale. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Tyson's Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Hours are Friday, March 6, 2020, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, March 7, 2020, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday, March 8, 2020, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Half Price / \$10 per Bag Sale. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Email: tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com, or call 703-790-4031 or 703-338-3307.



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Fill Us In!

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2022 Programs

Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

The governing board and staff of the McLean Community Center seek **input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at a Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2022 (which runs July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022).

This is an opportunity for residents to suggest class offerings, community events, theater programs, art exhibits, youth events and teen activities that are meaningful to the community.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You may also submit comments to holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Now you can join the conversation remotely on GoToWebinar!

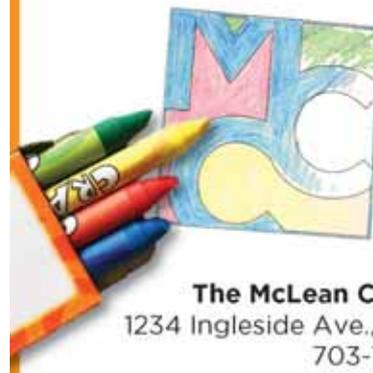
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OPINION

Climate Change at Our Doorstep

How Virginia is taking the high road.

BY ROHAN MANI

Crowing up in a world in which scientists predict we only have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe is understandably unnerving for an 18-year old. And the most worrisome concern is that we are doing almost nothing about what is looming over the horizon.

For decades, our planet has experienced consistent increases in temperature, changing rainfall patterns, increasing frequency of floods, droughts, melting of glaciers and more. While cutting back greenhouse gas emissions responsible for global warming is the only way forward, limited progress has been made on this front. Coal and oil continue to dominate as major energy sources despite the availability of relatively cheap and abundant solar and wind energy. What then are realistic and sustainable solutions that we should pursue in order to leave a thriving planet for our children and grandchildren?

According to the Fourth National Assessment Report, the impacts of global climate change are already being felt in the United States and are projected to intensify in the future. But the severity of future impacts will depend largely on actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the changes that will occur. This report draws a direct connection between the warming atmosphere and the resulting changes that affect Americans' lives, communities, and livelihoods, now and in the future. Multiple studies have now projected that the climate of our region will turn more southern over

the coming decades. The unusually warm winter of this year may not be an exception but a norm for coming years. That means, less need for jackets, gloves, hats, scarves etc.

Many communities are attempting to answer this question in different ways. And it's been fascinating to see how some are gearing up to cope with immediate problems through advocacy and the support of local governments. It's obvious that communities need to adapt to a changing climate irrespective of what happens globally to reduce greenhouse gases.

There is, however, a ray of hope. The Virginia lawmakers passed an unprecedented climate legislation last week that will significantly alter use of clean energy in our power generation. The measure, called the Clean Economy Act, lays out a plan to get Virginia to 100 percent renewable generation by 2050. The legislation will significantly alter our generation energy capacity with solar and offshore wind taking the lead. That will not only reduce our dependence on fossil fuel-based energy generation but will put Virginia among the top US states in terms of dealing with climate change.

Climate change has the potential to significantly transform every aspect of our lives, ranging from where we live to what we eat and the stories we tell. It is an existential crisis for our generation and generations to come. I believe this is the time to act now to save the planet and it begins at our doorstep. We can do our own bit by driving less, switching to cleaner energy sources, using energy efficient appliances and reducing usage of water. As activist Greta Thunberg put it aptly, "the climate crisis has already been solved. We already have the facts and solutions. All we have to do is to wake up and change."

Rohan Mani is a Senior and a student journalist at McLean Highlander.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 4

matically bring down the cost of prescription drugs. Mike would ban drug company payments to the people who make decisions at pharmacies so drug makers compete on the value of their products — not on the amount of money they pay to get preferential treatment. As a businessman, Mike would also work to increase competition in the marketplace, giving consumers more options at lower costs.

Mike Bloomberg is a trained engineer, a businessman, and a philanthropist who has spent his life solving the big problems facing Americans and I know that if he is elected, he will work tirelessly to reverse the rising cost of

healthcare in the United States.

Marjorie Brennan
MD MPH Pediatric Physician
McLean

Targeted by Scammers

To the Editor:

Recently, I was stuck at home and unable to go to work for a few weeks due to health reasons. While to some people that may seem like a welcome respite from the drudgery of commuting to a 9 to 5 job, let me tell you it was not.

While Week 1 wasn't too bad, one can only watch so many episodes of Law and Order: Special Victim's Unit! What I would like to share with everyone is just how many calls we all get on our house landlines each day. When we're at work and don't answer, most callers don't leave messages so we have no idea of the volume of these calls each day.

I can honestly say that 99 percent of these calls are cold calling sales people or scammers! Yes,

there is the occasional call from Giant Food that "a prescription is due for pickup," but for the most part they are from strangers trying to separate you from your hard-earned cash.

Social Security scams, lower credit card interest rates, police benevolent association donations, hail damage inspection teams that are in my neighborhood and countless free vacations I've won where I only have to sit through a short two hour presentation, are just some of the calls I get every day!

Boredom forced me to pick up the phone and actually speak with these people. Civic duty caused me to engage in as long a conversation as I could so they would have less time to rip off my neighbors. They target the young and the old. Their metrics must show they succeed enough to make it profitable. And our number is registered with the "Do Not Call" list! Something must be done.

Bill Byrne
Oak Hill

Write

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
editors@connectionnewspapers.com

FROM PAGE 2

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

Resident Curator Proposal for Lahey Lost Valley. 7 p.m. The Resident Curator Evaluation Team for the Lahey Lost Valley property will hold a public meeting at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place in Oakton. This meeting provides an opportunity for the applicant to present a proposal to the evaluation team in a public forum. This will be the evaluation team's opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback to the applicant, and to receive public comment on each proposal. The Lahey Lost Valley House is a mid-18th-century brick hall-parlor house with a 1940s brick addition. The house is located on land granted to William Gunnell in 1730. His son Henry Gunnell, together with Henry's wife, Catherine, built a working plantation on the site by 1760. The Gunnell family were leaders in Fairfax County throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. The family continued to own the property through the 1930s. Call 703-324-8791.

SATURDAY/MARCH 7

Recycling Day. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Town of Vienna's first 2020 Quarterly Recycling Day takes place at the Northside Property Yard, 600 Mill Street NE, Vienna. Load up electronics, used motor oil, antifreeze, and discarded car batteries. Televisions and hazardous waste products, such as insecticides, paint, and other chemicals, are not accepted. As a reminder, to ensure that glass products get recycled, the best option is to dispose of clean jars and bottles in one of Fairfax County's new, large, purple glass recycling dumpsters; one is located in the Town of Vienna on Mill Street NE next to Capitol Building Supply. Fairfax County picks up the glass weekly and recycles it for use as a substitute for stone in county projects.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL COMPLETE

A new traffic signal aimed at improving safety for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians is complete at Westpark Drive and Westbranch Drive in Tysons, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation. The project's other safety improvements include:

- ❖ Four Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) crossings (expected to be active in the coming weeks);
- ❖ Bicycle detection;
- ❖ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramp upgrades;
- ❖ Pavement markings;
- ❖ Signage.

DEMENTIA CONSULTATIONS

Caring for a person with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia is a life-encompassing experience that spans generations. Everyone has a role: spouses, siblings, children of all ages, and friends each play a part on the care team. It requires thought, strategy and, most importantly, a plan. Care consultations with the Alzheimer's Association are a free Chapter service that offers in-depth, personalized care planning, education and support. A consultation is more than just a meeting with a dementia expert. Highly trained staff help to develop a road map to navigate through the thoughts, emotions and questions that family members, care partners and the diagnosed person may have, including:

- ❖ Assessment of the functional status of the person with dementia;
- ❖ Navigating difficult caregiving decisions and role changes in the family;
- ❖ Information and resources to assist with legal and financial matters;
- ❖ Available community resources;
- ❖ Partnering with the physician and/or health care provider;
- ❖ Safety concerns.

To schedule a consultation, call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaalrea@aol.com.

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Useless Is As Useless Doesn't Have To Do



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It began years ago when technology enabled many public bathrooms to change to hands-free. Other than the obvious hands-on responsibilities, many of the other elements no longer required any touching. Be it the paper-towel dispenser, the hand dryer, the hot and cold/on and off functions in the sinks, and of course, the urinal and toilet flushing functions. All providing a convenience never before possible. Other than an automatic entry/exit function for the bathroom door, and one as well on the inside for the stalls themselves, using many public bathrooms has become much less involved, shall we say, than ever before. And it has not stopped there. It has gone public in a very big way.

Driving, specifically through tolls, that is. Thanks to EZ-Pass, tolls or rather interacting with them by having to hand money over to a "toll collector," (or even to stop and toss money into a basket) has nearly been eliminated. Due to a device (transponder) attached to my licence plate, as me and my car approach the toll booth, I simply go about my normal driving business with nary a worry in the world. I steer into the dedicated EZ-Pass lane at a bit less than the posted speed, and ding!, as I drive through the toll booth, the toll is paid. No fuss, no muss, no window roll-down and no scrambling for change or digging for dollars. What's done is done so long as the yellow light illuminates and "paid" appears. (Although if what's done isn't done, you'll soon receive a paper bill in the mail at the address on file.)

Metro, our local public conveyer, also provides a hands-free or very nearly hands-free experience. If you have a plastic "Metro card" linked into their system, all you need do as you enter the turnstile is tap your card and go. No more standing in line at the "Fare"/"Add Fare" kiosks to load your card with money to start or end your journey. As with your EZ-Pass, once you sign up and link your Metro card to a credit/debit card, you are "In Like Flint," as some of us from a certain generation might say. Henceforth, your card is automatically updated to always provide sufficient dollars for this trip and any subsequent trips to make sense.

Now imagine if I had a "smart phone." How many more functions/people-free interactions might I enjoy with a tap, a scan or a wave? Unfortunately, I have what my wife, Dina calls a "stupid phone." That's a flip phone with no internet access. As such, I am cut off from an evolving world. A world in which I'll likely not have to interact with anybody or reach into my pocket for anything resembling money. All I'll have to reach for is my "smart phone." I've seen its functionality at the airport in lieu of a paper ticket, on Amtrak, at concert venues and of course sports venues. It seems to help speed up the entry process.

I don't really don't want to be the last flip-phone-holding man standing. But neither do I want to get into a life-accident while negotiating the learning curve. At the moment, the road ahead seems full of twists and turns with more curves than I can possibly imagine. How do I negotiate something I can't see? Moreover, how do I negotiate the road less traveled, by me? Where will I draw the experience necessary to acclimate to these ever-changing signposts? I mean, the words may be familiar, but some of the context may be off putting and counterintuitive, to me.

I'm not a complete Bozo. I have partially integrated into this new world. I have had insurance and car payments automatically debited from my bank account for years. I have some over-the-counter medicines, supplements and a variety of cat-related care and feeding products automatically delivered to my home. However, sometimes I feel like a pinball (and I'm no wizard) without the bells and whistles banging around trying to stay on top of what product is debit/paid and when. Now that's a service I could use: an automated weekly reminder of what's happening when. And the beauty of it, I wouldn't need any new devices. I use what I always use: my home computer. Turn it on, click the email, open, read and then close. Even Bozo the clown could do that.

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



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1723 Chesterbrook Vale Ct, McLean

***ABSOLUTELY EXQUISITE* 5BR/4.5 BA brick colonial home** on 3 finished levels in cul-de-sac **CHESTERBROOK** location! Over 4000 finished square feet includes renovated kitchen; great room with skylights and gas fireplace; main level office; MBR with luxury en suite; lower level with big rec room, wet bar with kitchenette plus large bedroom and full bath! Lovely landscaped grounds! **Chesterbrook, Longfellow & McLean Schools!**



Offered for... \$1,599,000

1814 Solitaire Lane, McLean

***GORGEOUSLY RENOVATED* 5BR/4.5 BA brick colonial on 3 finished levels in sought-after Chesterbrook location!** Large, inviting entry foyer; sparkling gourmet kitchen with stone counters and new appliances plus breakfast area; main level den, plus fam room & mud room! Stunning owner's suite with luxury bath & 2 walk-ins; spacious walkout LL; fantastic .56/acre lot!



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***SPECTACULAR* 6BR/7.5 BA NEW construction by MR Custom Homes in sought-after Chesterbrook Woods!** Gourmet chef's kitchen; family room with coffered ceiling, dramatic stone fireplace and walkout to screened porch; fabulous owner's suite with spa-like luxury bath; sprawling lower level with recreation room, gym, media room, wet bar plus bedroom and bath! **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**



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