

Great Falls CONNECTION

HOMELIFESTYLE

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Great Falls Rotarians - from left: Sean Plunkett (organizer of this event), Eileen Curtis, Dan Lundeen, Roz Drayer and Stephen Clark - hosted a charity event that raised \$10,000 for Lift Me Up!

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NEWS

The Pandemic Election

Virginia voters support Biden, Warner and a new redistricting commission.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Twenty years ago, Virginia was a red state. Republicans scored Virginia's electoral votes in every presidential election since LBJ was reelected in 1964. Republicans held both U.S. Senate seats. The Grand Old Party had all the statewide offices, a majority of the congressional delegation and both chambers of the General Assembly. That was the environment when Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, both Democrats, ran for governor and lieutenant governor.

"Over the last 20 years, we've engineered the biggest political turnaround in the United States of any of the 50 states," said Sen. Tim Kaine as he watched voting totals on election night. "Partly it's our population. Partly it's Democrats in Virginia. We govern in a way that we're practical progressives. We're solving people's problems, and that's a good model."

The 2020 presidential election has yet to be resolved. But Virginia is now a solidly blue state, delivering 13 electoral votes to Joe Biden and handing Mark Warner a third term in the United States Senate. Election officials will continue receiving mail-in votes until Friday at noon, although the results of all the key races have already been determined. One result that is clear, though, is the success of a constitutional amendment creating a new 16-member redistricting commission to draw political boundaries for the General Assembly and Congress.

"Tonight is historic," declared FairMapsVA executive director Brian Cannon and campaign co-chairs Wyatt Durette and Bobby Vassar. "Virginia has now become the first state in the South to create a bipartisan redistricting commission to draw electoral district lines."

AT THE TOP of the ticket, Warner scored a solid victory against Republican Daniel Gade although Biden had more votes and a larger margin of victory. Appearing at his campaign headquarters in Del Ray, Warner called on Republicans and Democrats to put the divisive campaign in the past and look ahead to surviving the health risks posed by the pandemic and the economic uncertainty caused by the downturn.

"The only way we're going to be able to defeat that and truly build back better is if Americans become united," said Warner, speaking to a room of journalists and staffers. "That means ending the kind of attack rhetoric and mean-spiritedness that too often has infected our political discourse."

For now, though, the political discourse remains at a fever pitch. At press time, the presidential election is unresolved. Two hotly contested congressional seats in Virginia are too close to call. And lawyers are preparing for a season of legal challenges and trench warfare in the courts challenging state election laws on signature matches and late-arriving mail-in absentee ballots. Never-



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Democratic Party committee poll watchers offered a sample ballot card instead of hand-out information in a nod to Covid-19 safety, here at Pohick Precinct, and polling places throughout Fairfax County. Republican Party workers used the traditional written sample ballot method.

Fairfax County Unofficial Results

PRESIDENT

Joe Biden: 405,000 votes, 70 percent
Donald Trump: 162,000 votes, 28 percent
Jo Jorgensen: 7,000 votes, 1 percent

SENATE

Mark Warner (D): 401,000 votes, 70 percent
Daniel Gade: 172,000 votes, 30 percent

HOUSE DISTRICT 8

Don Beyer: 124,000 votes, 72 percent
Jeff Jordan: 48,000 votes, 28 percent

HOUSE DISTRICT 10

Jennifer Wexton: 70,000 votes, 60 percent
Alicia Andrews: 46,000 votes, 39 percent

HOUSE DISTRICT 11

Gerry Connolly (D), 198,889, 72 percent
Manga Anantatmula, 82,044, 28 percent

SOURCE: Votes cast in Fairfax County only. Congressional Districts include other jurisdictions. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/sites/elections/files/assets/result/resu1120.pdf

AMENDMENT 1 (REDISTRICTING)

Yes: 301,000 votes, 54 percent
No: 259,000 votes, 46 percent

AMENDMENT 2

Yes: 508,000, 77 percent
No: 156,000, 24 percent

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOND

Yes: 508,000 votes, 77 percent
No: 156,000 votes, 23 percent

PARKS BOND

Yes: 408,000 votes, 72 percent
No: 155,000 votes, 28 percent

LIBRARY BOND

Yes: 372,000 votes, 66 percent
No: 191,000 votes, 34 percent

TRANSPORTATION BONDS

Yes: 381,000 votes, 68 percent
No: 182,000 votes, 32 percent

theless, Republicans are facing an uncertain future in a state that has gone from ruby red to deep blue.

"They have to denounce Trumpism," said former Republican Del. David Ramadan (R-87), who is now at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. "They have to denounce white supremacy and go back to the basics of conservative principles versus winking at white supremacy and nationalism."

FOR VIRGINIA, the most important result of the election might end up being the amendment creating the new constitutional

amendment. It was an issue that split Democrats in Virginia, with Senate Democrats supporting the amendment and House Democrats mostly in opposition. FairMapsVA, which supported the amendment, raised more than \$2 million to support the ballot initiative. Fair Districts, which opposed the amendment, accused the campaign of using big money donors to tilt the outcome.

"Our campaign was truly a grassroots campaign that was outspent over 50 to 1 by out-of-state dark money groups and was fighting an uphill battle against biased language on the ballot meant to gain votes for

the measure," the statement said. "The people who pushed Amendment 1 know of its flaws, and it is now incumbent upon them to seek real solutions to fix those flaws, not just lip-service efforts like 'consideration' of Virginia's diversity."

Now that voters have approved of the new Virginia Redistricting Commission, retired circuit court judges from across Virginia will be sending resumes to the Virginia Supreme Court. The chief judge of the court has until Nov. 15 to select a list of 10 judges to submit to the General Assembly, where Democrats in the House and Senate get to pick two judges and Republicans in the House and Senate get to pick two judges. Those four judges will select a fifth judge to complete the panel, and they will select citizen members from a list submitted by the General Assembly. The deadline for candidates to file for office is March 25, which means maps must be finished by then.

"The only way we're going to be able to defeat that and truly build back better is if Americans become united. That means ending the kind of attack rhetoric and mean-spiritedness that too often has infected our political discourse."

— Sen. Mark Warner

"The legislators cannot control or override the citizen voices as six of the eight citizen members must vote for any map for it to be approved," said state Sen. George Barker (D-39), who was one of the leading voices in support of the amendment. "Additionally, the voting rules also preclude the types of outcomes we have had previously because the maps cannot unduly favor either political party."

The redistricting amendment was not the only successful ballot initiative on the ballot. Voters across Virginia also approved an amendment creating tax breaks for veterans. Voters in Fairfax approved bonds for transportation, libraries, parks and health and human services. In Norfolk, voters approved a new waterfront resort and casino, which will be built by the Pamunkey Indian Tribe on the Elizabeth River next to Harbor Park.

Hail to the Chief-Elect

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



COMMENTARY

Tears welled up in my eyes last Saturday evening as the President-elect Joe Biden and the Vice President-elect Kamala Harris addressed their supporters and the nation for the first time after having been declared the winners of the presidential election. The words they said, the message they delivered, and the tone they set struck the chords that have been so vitally important to me and to many others throughout our lifetimes. If we seemed ravenous in listening to their words, it was because we have not heard them for too long and were hungering for inspirational and positive leadership.

The President-elect made his approach to governance clear: "I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide, but to unify—who doesn't see red and blue states, but a United States, and who will work with all my heart to win the confidence of the whole people." Start-

ing with that kind of attitude will go a long way toward his success in being a unifier.

My interest in politics goes back to my teenage years and has been influenced by the great speeches I have heard, not simply for the words that were said but because of the hope they offered

and the vision for greatness for our country they inspired. I stood in the foot-deep snow at the United States Capitol on January 20, 1961 and heard a leader I revered, the new President John F. Kennedy, say in his inaugural speech, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

Another inspirational moment came for me on my birthday, November 3, 2008, when Jane and I stood for hours in a crowd estimated at 80,000 people at the Prince William County Fairgrounds waiting for candidate Barack Obama who arrived at 10:30 p.m. for the final appearance of his campaign to be president. In

his usual inspiring way he told us, "I come away with an unyielding belief that if we only had a government as responsible as all of you, as compassionate as the American people, that there is no obstacle that we can't overcome. There is no destiny that we cannot fulfill."

In an echo of President Kennedy's words, former President Obama this fall challenged the country with his words, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." And just as President-elect Biden reminded us of the unity of America, Barack Obama at the Democratic Convention in 2004 in a speech that brought him to the attention of political leaders had reminded us that, "There's not a liberal America and a conservative America—there's the United States of America."

While these quotes are words, they reflect attitudes and beliefs that can stir us to positive action to realize the potential for an honest and decent America that is open and inclusive and where the American dream can become a reality for all.

Dogs To Return To the People's House

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

With the Biden presidential victory, an engaging tradition will be restored to the White House - occupancy by a pet dog. President-elect Joe Biden and Dr Jill Biden have two German Shepherds in their family: Champ and Major. Biden's election will see Champ and Major elevated to the unofficial status of the nation's first dogs. Champ has visited the White House in the past with Biden; Major has not. President Donald Trump will leave office, likely to become the first president in 120 years, who has been without a dog during his entire term.

President's dogs have been followed closely by the public for decades. George H.W. and Barbara Bush's English Springer Spaniel, Millie, achieved celebrity status with her best selling book, which outsold both the President's and the First Lady's memoirs. Then came the Clinton's Buddy, a Labrador; the Bush's Barney and Miss Beasley, Scottish Terriers; followed by the Obama's Bo and later Sunny, Portuguese Water-dogs. Popularity of those breeds increased with their presidential link; children wrote letters to them; and first dogs sent autographed pictures to constituents.

Most U.S. presidents, 30 of 45 presidents, starting with President George Washington, have had pets, including at least one dog. Our first president is well-known as the founder of the American Foxhound breed. They were among the 17 dogs of various breeds with Washington during his two terms.

The first dogs to physically reside in the White House came with its first occupants, John and Abigail Adams. They were mixed breed pups named Juno and Satan. Abraham



Biden dogs Major (left) and Champ, set to become unofficial "First Dogs", here with Dr Jill Biden in this photo published around the world

Lincoln had two mixed breed dogs with him when he was elected, Jip and Fido. Only Jip accompanied him to Washington due to Fido's health, but Lincoln left detailed instructions for beloved Fido's care and comfort in Springfield. Fido has been a name linked to dogs ever since the public heard stories of Fido loyally following Lincoln in his travels around his home State of Illinois.

In 1901, Theodore Roosevelt's menagerie of 40 pets made the White House home, including six dogs. Rollo, a St Bernard, and Blackjack, a Manchester Terrier, were favorites. In 1933, Franklin Roosevelt, like Biden, had a German Shepherd, Majora, one of 12 dogs; though his most well known was a Scottish Terrier, Fala.

Harry Truman didn't want a dog and when gifted a puppy, he later gave it away, prompting thousands of letters from angry dog owners. Surprised by the response, Truman famously said,

"If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog."

After that, nearly every president has had at least one dog while in office. When Trump was asked why he was one of the exceptions, why he didn't have a dog, he responded that "the idea seems phony" that he had no time for a dog, saying, "How would I look walking a dog on the White House lawn."

Though Trump was reluctant to take on dog ownership, the Biden campaign perhaps recognized the public's continuing love for presidential dogs. They organized the Barks for Biden event at the South Run Dog Park in Springfield on Saturday Oct. 31, just prior to election day. Both as a celebration of dogs and as a reminder to vote. Dog ownership may not be the thing about Biden that convinced people to vote for him, but one is reminded of the quote, "You can usually tell that a man is good if he has a dog who loves him." - W. Bruce Cameron





Some of the 37 artists participating in the Great Falls Virtual Studio Tour include, clockwise from upper left, Cindy Grisdela – fiber, Jill Banks – painter, Walt Lawrence – photographer, Begona Morton – painter, Jennifer Duncan – mixed media, Laura Nichols – potter, Joyce Lee – painter, Mike McDermott – photographer, Lochini Johnston – painter, Parinaz Bahadori – painter, Vad Moskowicz – fiber and Robin Smith – potter.

Venture Virtually into Great Falls Artists' Creative Spaces

Artists of Great Falls Studios welcome community for the 18th Annual Art Studio Tour.

Things are a little different this year, and in this case, in a good way. Instead of the self-guided physical tour visits throughout Great Falls, guests can venture into artists' creative spaces without climbing into their cars. Starting on Nov. 14 at 10 a.m. – the “doors” of the Great Falls Virtual Studio Tour open to video tours from 24 artists and the Arts of Great Falls, more art from the rest of the 37 artists participating plus 20+ online studio shops offering hundreds of pieces of original art – created by your neighbors. Those shops offer you the potential of being a 5-star gift giver, whether the present is for yourself or others, with the offerings handmade by an artist you know. Every piece has a story of maker and its making. Your ticket to Studio Tour is free. Just type www.GreatFallsStudios.com into your browser and let the journey begin.

The mainly home-grown videos are a labor of love with artists operating well outside of their comfort zones filling the shoes of producers with the help of spouses, grandkids, kids, volunteers and friends. They condense hours and sometimes months into this newly created view of the quieter, gentler, simpler and awesome world artists occupy. The lengths and content vary wildly ... as do the individuals who made them. There are some real gems here that will open your eyes to the time, talent and dedication that go into creating something magical out of clay, paint, wood, yarn, fabric, paper and camera.

HOW, WHERE AND WHEN

Enjoy the tour from the comfort of your own home, wherever that is with the “show” arriving via your computer from www.GreatFallsStudios.com. No software, skills, apps
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

or vehicles needed for the main event. Visit now to catch a preview. For those interested in purchasing and picking up art, at least one day will be set for easy pick up in the Great Falls Village Centre. You can shop for art, easily connect with the artists and replay most content through November 30.

CONNECTING ART AND COMMUNITY

“Studio Tour has always been this great gathering, with people coming together from all over the region to be a part of the magic of art,” says Jill Banks, Great Falls Virtual Studio Tour Chair and award-winning Impressionist oil painter who’s been an artist participant since 2004.

The event is hosted by Great Falls Studios, a consortium of artists who work and/or live in Great Falls producing art in a variety of mediums. Studio Tour has been this organization’s Signature event since its founding in 2003.

Helping support and promote the event are Celebrate Great Falls as the Community Sponsor and the Arts of Great Falls as Community Partner. A regular part of tours past has

been pointing the way to the neighborhood restaurants offering you a break from absorbing all that art inspiration. This year, you’ll find even more of those great dining spots featured on our Community page with info about how they are celebrating the artful, wonderful town of Great Falls. Everyone has had to scramble to survive and find connections in these pandemic-ridden times. None of these connections, partnerships or sponsorships are paid – but instead the community joining together helping make sure you find your way to this window into a different world starting Nov. 14. You can follow @greatfallsstudios on Facebook and Instagram and subscribe at www.GreatFallsStudios.com to get reminders of the event opening.

For more general information about the tour, contact Jill@JillBanks.com.

Let us know about an upcoming event
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Off To The Races in Great Falls

BY EILEEN CURTIS

Great Falls recently staged a pandemic version of a Derby: ladies in big hats, a sunny sky, six races with thirteen horses apiece, and big prizes for the winners. The occasion was a charity event for Lift Me Up! (LMU), the oldest philanthropic organization in Great Falls, catering to children and adults with special needs. The fundraiser was staged by the Rotary of Great Falls, generating \$10,000 for Lift Me Up!

The races took place in LMU's spacious indoor barn, home to 13 horses of various breeds with fabulous backgrounds. Delfinia is a Norwegian Fjord, dun-colored pony with a signature stripe running from crown to tail. The breed is over 4,000 years old. The U.S. only has six, and LMU has three of them. A few were former fox hunters, another a retired international show jumper, and a third a stately draft horse. Director Georgia Bay, her staff and her horses welcomed us all.

The race itself did not take place in the large indoor rink, however, nor did it run those horses. Rather, thirteen numbered hobby horses were entered in six lists. Each backer's contribution afforded them the opportunity to name their horse, and that was its own source of entertainment. Some hearkened back to the great racehorses of the past: War Admiral, Seabiscuit, and of course, Secretariat. Some riffed on musical themes, like Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do and Market Doodle. Rotarian favorites included Dark Journey, Real Client, TruStar and Mysterious, and Rotary Rampage. The families whose lives had been impacted by the good

work of LMU honored the stable tenants' Rocky, Jax, Mirabelle, Jewel, Shimmy, Snuffy, and Giraffe. Organizer Sean Plunkett staged the races with a deck of cards and a die. Each card's number attached to one of the racers, who were then moved by the Interactors according to the throw of the die. Special spaces carried prizes donated from sponsors Brx Pizza Oven, Scout and Molly's, and Classic Wines. Winners of the first six races were then entered in the Race Finale. First place, carrying a \$1000 prize, went to Isabella, owned by Ashwani Ahluwalia. Second place went to Jaz, owned by Louise Schmidt-Eisenlohr; and third place went to Redding, owned by Beverly Harris. MBM National Harbor supplied the winner prizes, a mix of overnight stays and dinners.

As in other pandemic events, the audience for the races had options. Interactors and some Rotarians gathered at the barns, others repaired to Brx Oven Pizza to chow down while watching the races on big screen tv, and still more were able to watch it on Zoom.

Roz Drayer, President of Lift Me Up!, was deeply appreciative of the event. "We are so grateful that the Great Falls Rotary has stepped up to help us. The work we do is so meaningful to those with great need." Rotary Foundation Chair Dan Lundeen, who got to present a check for \$10,000 to LMU, added his thought. "The Rotary Club and Foundation are thankful to all the folks that contributed to this great cause, as well as our sponsors. Kudos to the Rotary of Great Falls for such an imaginative fundraiser." Lift Me Up! is one of only a few facilities in Northern Virginia offering therapeutic riding. For more information, visit www.liftmeup.org.



The fundraiser was staged by the Rotary of Great Falls, generating \$10,000 for Lift Me Up!

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



As in other pandemic events, the audience for the races had options. Interactors and some Rotarians gathered at the barns, others repaired to Brx Oven Pizza to chow down while watching the races on big screen tv, and still more were able to watch it on Zoom.

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County Police Chief Resigns

Praised by many, Roessler also faced criticism and calls for resignation.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. announced his resignation last week, effective February 2021.

His resignation drew praise from many for his 30-plus years of service to the county through his work in the Fairfax County Police Department.

But the announcement came after police officers say their morale is the lowest it has ever been, and after calls for his resignation from some officers.

Hired in 1989 as a police recruit, Roessler served as interim Chief of Police in early 2013 before his appointment as Chief of Police in July of 2013.

“Chief Roessler has dedicated his life to protecting our community for over 30 years, as a new hire, patrol officer, interim chief, and eventually chief for the past 8 years,” said Jeffrey McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

“His efforts, along with officers and our community, have made us the safest jurisdiction of our size in the nation. The Chief has worked with the Board on reforms that have solidified the police department as a leader in transparency and community trust.”



Edwin C. Roessler Jr.
FCPD

“Chief Roessler has dedicated his life to protecting our community for over 30 years.”

— Jeffrey McKay,
Chairman of the Fairfax
County Board of Supervisors

ROESSLER LED the department to national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, while also maintaining state accredited status. The FCPD has been re-accredited by both entities during Chief Roessler’s tenure.

Roessler led the department through outside review of its use of force policies and community review by the independent Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission in 2015. Reforms led to enhancing diversity recruitment; increasing transparency; implementation of a body-worn camera program; establishment of a Civilian Review Panel and Independent Police Auditor’s office; and significant modifications to use of force policies, including de-escalation, duty to intervene, prohibition of choke holds, crisis intervention training and diversion programs.

FCPD training now begins with focus on the sanctity of human life.

Chief Roessler formed the Chief’s Diversity Council and partnered with community leaders to help form the Communities of Trust Committee.

During his tenure he prioritized wellness in the community and in the FCPD. Roessler worked to advance mental health support and resources in the FCPD. He also welcomed the addition of an officer-driven, post-traumatic K-9 therapy program and he and his wife raised K-9 Indy, who is now in therapy service with the FCPD Peer Team.

“Chief Ed Roessler is one of the greats in the history of the Fairfax County Police Department,” said Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw. “His efforts were key in helping make FCPD a national leader in transparency and accountability while maintaining our status as one of the safest large jurisdictions in the country.”

ROESSLER THANKED his staff and county residents and leadership for contributing to the department’s success.

“The FCPD is blessed with women and men, past and present, who understand their noble calling in life and are dedicated to serving and protecting others,” Roessler said. “I’ve worked alongside progressive law enforcement professionals, amazing forward-thinking strategic county leaders and great community advocates who have truly embraced the concepts of One Fairfax to ensure equity for all. Our county leaders, community and its great police department are positioned to continue to serve as a model for the next generation of policing in America.”

Supervisor James Walkinshaw (Braddock) said, “The men and women of the FCPD are some of the best-trained, most committed public servants in our community and the next Chief will have the honor of leading them into the future. That future requires a leader willing to acknowledge the inequities in the law enforcement and criminal justice systems and take bold action -- action that will sometimes face political resistance from defenders of the status quo -- to address them. I’ll be looking for someone with a track record and commitment to doing just that,” Walkinshaw said.

A recent meeting of the Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee mentioned low morale in the police force.

“I’ve met with hundreds of Fairfax County police officers in recent months, in group settings and individually,” said Public Safety Chairman Rodney Lusk (Lee) at a committee meeting before Roessler’s announced retirement, “and to a person they have told me morale within the police department is the lowest that it has ever been.”

“This is a public safety issue that must be addressed in order to ensure that our officers are per-

forming at the highest level possible, and that we are retaining the highly skilled law enforcement professionals that we have invested so much time and resources in training,” said Lusk.

The Fraternal Order of Police called for Roessler to resign after he condemned the actions of an officer who was charged with three counts of misdemeanor assault and battery after tasing a man in the Mount Vernon District.

“Bolster The Blue,” a self-described conservative grassroots organization, held a press conference with Fairfax County GOP to say that their efforts helped lead to Roessler’s retirement.

Supervisor Pat Herrity said, “I want to start by thanking the Chief for his many years of service to the residents of Fairfax County. It has been a difficult time to serve in law enforcement. As we begin a new chapter in the history of our Police Department, we will need to find a leader that will address the needs of our officers, build on our legacy as a nationally respected and recognized department and keep at the forefront their primary mission — to protect and serve all residents of the county and keep us the safest jurisdiction of our size in the country. There is a lot of work still to be done and I am committed to working with the Board to address the many issues facing our officers and the department.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Scouts BSA Venture Crew 673 October Food Drive, with help from a few Pack 673 Cub Scouts, collected 526 lbs for SHARE in McLean.

Scouting for Food Nov. 14

Things have changed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Roberta Gosling, co-founder of the South Lakes High School Food Pantry said, “Since COVID -19, the SLHS PTSA Food pantry has pivoted to a contact-free distribution system. We pack 20-25 pound bags of food and distribute that along with many other items to approximately 140 families each week at South Lakes High School. This number continues to grow every week. Many have told us that these groceries and other products have been a life-saver for them.”

Although the local BSA Scouts have also moved most of their regular meetings to virtual formats, they have not stopped answering the needs of their communities.

Many families have lost their jobs in the pandemic and food is an increasing need. Scouts of the Powhatan District’s Venture Crew 673 have answered the call and have held monthly food drives since May. In total, they collected and donated 2125 lbs of food to SHARE in McLean. Also, Ethan from the district’s Troop 158 held a Food Drive for his Eagle Scout service project.

As usual, the BSA and its National Capital Area Council, will have their annual food drive in November. Last year, more than 800 Scouts and 600 adult leaders collected 34,700 pounds of food in the Powhatan District covering Great Falls, Herndon, Reston, Oakton, and Chantilly. However, there is something unusual this year. In past years, Scouts have handed out bags and information to doors and coming back to collect the foods on specific days. This year, every BSA unit must submit a plan for their Scouting for Food

events to keep Scouts safe when they reach out to help others. Operating the food drive safely during the pandemic is a primary concern for Scout Leaders. Some Scouts have contactless food collection points at their homes. Others will arrange contactless outdoor food gathering from neighbors while observing safety protocols and wearing gloves and masks.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, Scouts and their adult leaders from Troops and Packs all over Northern Virginia will be gathering food from their neighbors and bringing it to local charities in the annual Scouting for Food collection. The collected food will be sent to LINK, Community of Faith UMC Food Pantry, Cornerstones and South Lakes High School PTSA Food Pantry. Those who may be missed by the Scouts are welcome to drop off food at one of the collection sites on Nov. 14.

Where and When

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (LINK)
651 Dranesville Road, Herndon
10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UMC FOOD PANTRY
13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon
10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

CORNERSTONES
11484 Washington Plaza West, Reston.
10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH (SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL PTSA FOOD PANTRY)
1133 Reston Ave, Herndon
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

HOME LIFE STYLE

Thanksgiving Decor in the Era of Covid-19

Creating dining elegance
at a distance.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Naomi Patterson's Thanksgiving table is usually set with linen dinner napkins, cleaned and starched, and her wedding china, ecru with a platinum border. The guests include her 88-year old mother and a host of cousins. This year, she's debating a change.

"My mother is healthy, but because of her age, I'm nervous about having her around other people, especially my cousins who are in college," said Patterson who lives in Bethesda. "I still want it to be nice and I want to maintain our traditions."

Like many families, Covid-19 and the resulting safety precautions have changed the way they will celebrate Thanksgiving. Elaborate feasts might be scaled down, moved outdoors or held virtually. Though the structure is different, style needn't be sacrificed.

"Shouldn't your dinner al fresco be just as lovely as the one you host in your formal dining room?"

— Anne Walker,
interior designer and owner of Farm and Feast

"Outdoor entertaining has been on the rise for a decade, but now more than ever outside is the place to be," said Potomac based designer Anne Walker of outdoor home accessories and design company Farm & Feast. "Whether you have a formal outdoor living room complete with stone fireplace and patio, or a balcony outside your apartment, or something in between, your Thanksgiving holiday will be most successful this year if you gather outside."

If the temperature is mild this year, a turkey dinner outdoors can allow one to achieve both elegance and safety.

"Shouldn't your dinner al fresco be just as lovely as the one you host in your formal dining room?" asks Walker. "What could be better than enjoying a cocktail and some wine and cheese en plein air?"

Durable and shatterproof serve wear is a must when dining outdoors, suggests Walker. "Enjoying hors d'oeuvres from a marble and wood rustic cheese board and wine from a silicone-wrapped outdoor wine glass will lift your spirits, as will wrapping yourself in an organic cotton throw to stave off the chill in the fall air," she said.

When setting an outdoor table, consider rustic accessories so that the design flows with the natural surroundings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER

An al fresco Thanksgiving dinner can maintain safety without sacrificing elegance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA QUEEN DESIGN

A traditional table setting can add warmth to virtual Thanksgiving celebration.

"Spray paint a fallen tree branch or tumbleweed in gold or a similar warm autumn tone and use it as a centerpiece, suggested Lisa Queen of Lisa Queen Design. "Nest it with candles, small pumpkins, and other soft decor to bring it to life."

Add warmth to a virtual celebration by using traditional table accessories. "We brought some additional character to our table by mixing antique brass napkin rings," said Queen. "Not everything needs to match, and this is one way to make a tablescape feel unique and curated."

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

NOW THRU THE HOLIDAYS

Santa at Springfield Town Center. Santa and his reindeer will be arriving at Springfield Town Center on Nov. 6 to kick-off the holiday season. In an effort to create touchless experiences and accommodate varying levels of visitor comfort, Santa will be available at Springfield Town Center via numerous experiences and offerings: Picture with Santa; Virtual Experience; Family Pet Photos on Mondays; Family Photos and Visits with Santa. Reservations are required for all Santa and photo offerings.

HAYFIELD HAWKS FUNDRAISER

The Hayfield Hawks football team is trying to raise money in order to provide players with new practice equipment and uniforms. Due to COVID, all of the fundraising is virtual this year. They have partnered with local businesses to create a discount card, which can be purchased for \$25 and entitles the cardholder to discounts and perks at a number of local restaurants. Delivery of the discount cards will be by mail / contactless and all proceeds will go directly to the program and helping the student athletes. Email Meredith Richard at EVHenderson@fcps.edu or call 703-408-4212.

NOV. 3 TO DEC. 6

Nature's Palette. At The Loft Gallery of Occoquan, 313 Mill Street, Occoquan. Featuring work by Patricia Hafkemeyer and wood artist, George Jones III. Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, Noon-5 p.m. Artist's Reception: See Facebook Live Reception on Saturday, November 7 at 3:30 p.m. at <https://www.facebook.com/loftgalleryoccoquan>

NOV. 11, 13, AND 14

Christmas Bazaar for Charity. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At 1025 Bellview Place, McLean. Sale of new and vintage Christmas items, including a huge collection of ornaments, tabletop decor, and kids' crafts, handmade wreaths and gift items. All proceeds donated to Jill's House and Operation Christmas Child.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Saluting Independence. 10 a.m. Virtual event. Join in Saluting Independence as they present the Col. E. David Woycik, Jr., Esq., USA (Ret.) and Lance Corporal Matias Ferreira, USMC (Ret.) Outstanding Service Award. The virtual event honors veterans and raises support and awareness for Canine Companions, a non-profit organization that provides highly trained assistance dogs to children, adults and veterans with disabilities at no cost to the recipient. Unable to attend the premier? The event will still be available for you to watch at your convenience. Registration is required to receive access to the event. Register now at www.cci.org/salutingindependence. A suggested donation of \$75 would be appreciated.

NOV. 13-15

Northern Virginia Christmas Market. Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Features 150 fine artisans from 20 states selling fine arts, pottery, jewelry, stained glass, wood, photography, fiber arts and more. Ad-

mission \$10/adults; \$5/children. Visit www.emgshows.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Music to My Ears. 2 p.m. Musical Direction; The Other Sound Designer. Artists Re-Imagine Their Lives in Theatre Post COVID-19. Part of the Virtual Round Table Discussion Series at 1st Stage in Tysons. Free. In these forums, they'll talk and share questions and thoughts with artists, actors, designers, musicians and directors about experiences they have faced as professional artists. Artists participating include Debra Kim Sivigny, Bob Barlett, Ron OJ Parsons, José Carrasquillo, Themi Duncan, and more. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Registration is available at www.1ststage.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Lesson Zero. 7:30-10:30 p.m. At P.J. Mulligans, 2310 Woodland Crossing Dr., Herndon. More information available on www.youtube.com/lessonzero or www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero.

NOV. 14 AND NOV. 18

Nuts About Felting. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Register for the "Nuts About Felting" program at Sully Historic Site and learn to create acorns using the wet felt technique. No needles are involved in this technique, and you'll take home three or four felted acorns that will never spoil. Cost is \$30 per family. Call 703-437-1794.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Burke Historical Society. The Fairfax County History Commission will present its 16th annual—and first virtual—Fairfax County History Conference. This year's conference has the theme, "The Passage of the 19th Amendment," and will be presented at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/live-video-stream>, on cable Channel 16, and HD Cox Channel 1016.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Scotch Whisky and Cheese Tasting. 4-6 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Few foods so perfectly complement Scotch whisky as cheese. Both have unique and wide-ranging flavor profiles, so there's a cheesy counterpart for each distinctive pour. Sample delicious pairings of cheese and single malts and learn how to savor the two separately and together. Cost is \$60 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Snack and Paint. 1-3 p.m. At The Old Firehouse. Snack and Paint is an instructor-led painting class. This event is great if your teen has been painting for years or has never painted before. Painting is a great way to express your creativity! Snack and Paint gives your teen an opportunity to socialize safely. Participants will be painting a fall-themed picture. \$35/\$30 MCC district residents; preregistration is required. Visit the website, www.mcleancenter.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 15

East German Youth. 2-3:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Sponsored by Cold War Museum of Warrenton. Did Youth Indoctrination in the Cold War

East Uniformly Produced Docile, Closed-Minded Adolescents? That's Not What the Research Shows. Ask an Expert on Socialization in the DDR. Cost is \$20. Visit the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-behind-the-wall-socialization-of-east-german-youth-in-the-cold-war-tickets-122096464813>

NOV. 16, 23

Family Fishing. 11 a.m. to noon. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Park staff will provide all the equipment and bait you need to start you on your way to creating your own fish tales. The program is designed for family members age 5 to adult. Cost is \$10 per person. Meet at Shelter Call 703-323-6600, or visit Burke Lake Park.

MONDAY/NOV. 16

Call of Duty: Warzone Challenge. 3:30-6:30 p.m. At the Old Firehouse. Calling all McLean warriors. Your help is needed on the battlefield! The OFC is hosting a Call of Duty: Warzone challenge where contestants will need to strategize their way to first place and a Call of Duty themed prize. Visit the website, www.mcleancenter.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 18

The Unruly Theatre Project's Virtual Improv Show. 7 p.m. Join us for (the) Unruly Theatre Project's virtual fall improv shows from the comfort of your couch! You can register for one show or as many as you like, but you need to register at least two hours in advance of a show to see it. A Zoom link and password for the show will only be emailed to participants. Visit the website, www.mcleancenter.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 20

Virtual Family Fun Trivia Night. 7-9 p.m. Gather the whole family around the computer or tablet and get ready for some socially distant trivia. Prizes for winning teams. \$5 per family; preregistration is required. Visit the website, www.mcleancenter.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 22

Trout Fishing in America. 3 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, CenterStage, Reston. Cost is \$10 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston. This Grammy-nominated music act returns to Reston to entertain audiences of all ages. Part of the Professional Touring Artist Series. Visit the website www.restoncommunitycenter.com/ptas.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Mark Brutsché is Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. 3 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, CenterStage, Reston. Cost is \$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston. Mark Brutsché brings his unique spin on this childhood favorite that will be fun for the whole family. Visit the website www.restoncommunitycenter.com/ptas.

THURSDAY/DEC. 17

Lúnasa, a Celtic Holiday. 8 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, CenterStage, Reston. Cost is \$25 Reston/\$50 Non-Reston. Irish band Lúnasa brings its holiday show to the CenterStage, along with Dublin-born bouzouki player Dáoirí Farrell and rising star Malinda. Part of the Professional Touring Artist Series. Visit the website www.restoncommunitycenter.com/ptas.

BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Veterans Day Ceremony Cancelled. At Great Falls Freedom Memorial, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial will not be held due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Visit the website: gffreedom.org

NOV. 14-30

Great Falls Virtual Studio Tour. Online. 100s of Pieces of Original Art. Featuring 2-plus Studio Shops. Featuring Paintings, Photography, Furniture, Pottery, Fiber, Jewelry, Gifts, Mixed Media and More. You'll be able to pick up your purchases in the Great Falls Village Centre ... among other options. Things are a little different this year. Instead of the self-guided physical tour visits throughout Great Falls, guests can venture into artists' creative spaces without climbing into their cars. Visit www.greatfallsstudios.com.

VIENNA LAUNCHES 'SHOP & STROLL' CAMPAIGN

The Town of Vienna announced the launch of a new campaign to encourage visitors to explore the town's diverse shopping centers. The initiative titled Vienna Shop & Stroll will take place on Saturdays now through December. Each month, designated shopping centers will host safe and socially distant seasonal activities and in-store promotions for all to enjoy. Locals and visitors can get to know business owners and learn more about the history of each shopping center. Visit ViennaVA.gov/shopandstroll.

Schedule: Select Saturdays 12-4 p.m.

November 14 -- Cedar Park;

November 21 -- JadesShopping Center + Vienna Plaza;

November 28 -- Small Biz Saturday on Church Street and surrounding streets off Church;

December 5 -- Village Green;

December 12 -- Glyndon Plaza.

TUESDAY/NOV. 17

Just Breathe!...We've Got You! 9:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. Virtual via Zoom. A Program of the Shepherd's Center serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon (SC). 9:45 am - Noon Session #2. Join in a three-part webinar series to learn how to get started for your next chapter in life, or for your loved one. Each session is hosted by a professional and will allow time for Q & A. Series sponsored by Navy Federal Credit Union; AARP; Kensington Reston Senior Living. Register your name and email address by calling the SC Hotline: 703-281-0601. Reservations accepted for the November 17th session until Friday, November 13, 2020. A ZOOM Invitation will be emailed to you. Additional Session: Session 3 Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 9:45 am - Noon. Agenda TBA. Free.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 25

Thanksgiving Eve Service. 7-8 p.m. Online via Unity of Fairfax 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Tune in to the livestream at 7 p.m. to watch the service. Visit <https://www.unityoffairfax.org/content/sunday-streams>

NOV. 26-27

Virtual 5K/1K Walk/Run/Roll. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Venue: Anywhere you like. Run your own race, at your own pace, and time yourself. T-shirts included with registration. Cost: \$10-25. Visit the website: <https://unity-turkey-trot-virtual-5k1k-2020-11-26.eventbrite.com/?aff=cnnews>

VIENNA'S TREASURE ORNAMENT

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department is offering Vienna's treasure, the 1946 Maxim Fire Engine that will be featured on a beautifully crafted ornament. Limited quantity available, delivery expected early December. Don't miss out, order yours now for \$20 at <http://vovfd.org/store.html>.

NOW THRU DEC. 8

Just Breathe!...We've Got You! Tuesdays 9:45 to 12 p.m. Via Zoom. A Program of the Shepherd's Center serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon (SC). Three-part webinar series to learn how to get started for your next chapter in life. Each session is hosted by a professional and will allow time for Q & A. Series sponsored by Navy Federal Credit Union; AARP; Kensington Reston Senior Living. Just Breathe! - A breath and meditation break- Katie Courlander, Katie Courlander Yoga. Call 703-281-0601.

JOIN CUB SCOUTS

K-5 students are invited to join Cub Scout Pack 55 of Great Falls for fun, community service, hiking, campfires, and more! Children from Forestville Elementary, other area schools, and home school are welcome. The pack meets virtually once a month, for an optional masked, socially distanced outdoor activity, and the dens meet at least once a month. Contact Cubmaster Darius Sarraf at cubmasterpack55@outlook.com.

NOW THRU DEC. 1

White House Ornaments. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Assistance League of Northern Virginia. P.O. Box 209, Herndon. 2020 White House Ornaments available for purchase. This year's ornament features John F. Kennedy's official posthumous White House portrait. Cost is \$22 per ornament plus shipping if applicable. To view the ornament and information on ordering, visit www.alnv.org. Proceeds support community-based programs for local Children.

OLD FIREHOUSE CENTER OFFERS DISTANCE LEARNING

The Old Firehouse Center (OFC) is offering a new program to provide support to families doing distance learning due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Learning Connection is a supervised e-learning program held at OFC and supervised by staff, designed for students in 5th through 10th grades. The program will provide a supervised environment for students to complete their individual, school-led virtual instruction. In addition, staff will provide limited socially distant recreation opportunities for students during their breaks. A division of the McLean Community Center, OFC is located at 1440 Chain Bridge Rd. The program meets Tuesdays through Fridays and parents can drop off students as early as 7 a.m. and pick them up as late as 5 p.m. Open for registration: Session 4 will meet Tuesday, Dec. 1, through Friday, Dec. 18. Each, four-week session costs \$400. Session 4, costs \$300. Program participants must reside in Dranesville Small District 1A to participate. For more information or to register, call 703-448-8336, TTY: 711 or visit, <https://bit.ly/33TSii4>.

FLU SHOTS AT SAFEWAY

Local Safeway pharmacies will be giving flu shots at 112 Eastern Division stores in the region. Flu vaccines can be administered on a "walk-in" basis and are offered on a daily basis. The flu shot is free with most insurance, so there is no co-payment unless required by the plan. Visit the website www.safeway.com/flu

FLU SHOTS AT GIANT FOOD

Flu shots are now available at all Giant Food store pharmacies for both adults and children. The vaccinations will be administered by Giant's pharmacists, require no appointment and are often covered in-full by most insurance plans. No appointment is needed and insurance companies, including Medicare, are billed directly, often at \$0 copays. Standard flu shots as well as the high dose flu vaccine for customers over the age of 64 are available. For more information, or to schedule an onsite flu clinic for your office, call 800-950-4678.

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As Second Opinions Go ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... it was first rate. A confirmation - of sorts that I have (and have had in all likelihood) thyroid cancer and not non small cell lung cancer. And I say 'sorts' because the medical records transferred did not include the original pathologist's report on the tissue sample taken in 2009 and not all the scans from the nearly 12 years of treatment either. Nevertheless, this second oncologist summarized my cancer as being thyroid; partially because I'm still alive. Generally speaking, lung cancer patients don't survive years beyond their prognosis. Addition by subtraction you might say. Unfortunately, lung cancer does what it does: grows, and when it doesn't, it's reason to consider another diagnosis. My primary oncologist had often said that the tumors in my lungs never acted as he had anticipated.

Good news then. Great news. I don't have the "terminal" cancer with which I was originally diagnosed. I guess that explains why I have lived so many years past the "13 month to two year" prognosis that I was initially given in late Feb., 2009. Rather than having an incurable disease: non small cell lung cancer stage IV, I now have papillary thyroid cancer stage IV. Hopefully, I will be able to live with it much as I had lived with the apparent lung cancer" day by day, scan to scan. However, the day to day stress may be less because the worst case is not necessarily a scenario that I have to anticipate. Granted, it's still cancer, and from what I was told, still incurable, but for the moment, very treatable. Surgery is likewise not an option and there is still medication - with side effects, that will remain part of my life, but there is life that remains. Moreover, there also remains regularly scheduled CT scans and lab work that will monitor my condition. And it is not until I receive the results from these diagnostic procedures that I can truly appreciate the change in my diagnosis.

It's not that I don't trust this second opinion, it's more that I've spent the last nearly 12 years thinking one way and changing how I think now after one 45-minute appointment is not quite how I can roll.

Besides, my thyroid cancer has metastasized to the lung. And though it has been slow moving, it has moved. And it is rare. At present, it is responding to the medication but there are no guarantees in the cancer business, and I will continue to live from one scan to the next. I am grateful to be out from underneath, apparently, this terrible weight of fear and inevitability. However, as a long-time cancer patient, I can't simply presume that life resumes as per usual, with per-usual being a pre-cancer-type life. Regardless of now being a thyroid cancer patient and not a non small cell lung cancer patient, I still am a cancer patient. As such, I still retain all the feelings and anxieties. I will still attend all the meetings, if you know what I mean? I can't simply disconnect or forget all that I've endured these past 11-plus years

And lo and behold, I have a CT scan this Wednesday. By the end of the week, I will likely learn if my newly diagnosed thyroid cancer is still responding to treatment or whether there is something rotten in Denmark (me being Denmark). Even though I have a new working diagnosis - thyroid cancer, which on the face of it, is much less serious, I can't approach my life any differently than I did before. Cancer is in charge, and until it tells me, so to speak, via scans and lab work, that it's OKAY to breath normally, I won't be able to. Now more than ever, almost, even with this new information, I can't forget where I've been and what I've been told. It was lung cancer once. Perhaps, it can be again. For the moment, I'm going to try and enjoy my new-found status. But with the incomplete medical records painting a less-than-definitive picture, I will go along with the second oncologist's assessment, but only from a distance. Unfortunately, having been told one thing before, and now being told another very different thing, doesn't change the facts on my ground. I still have cancer.

And it's still incurable. That problem remains.

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



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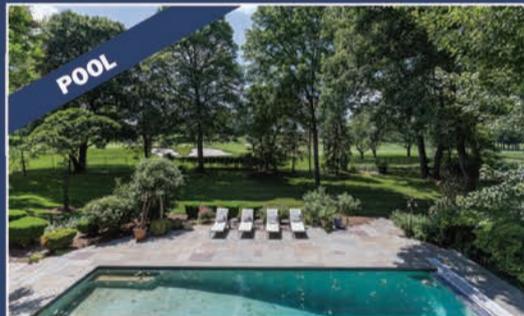
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