

Great Falls CONNECTION

Noreen Allard is the first in line to vote in the Great Falls Citizens Association Election held on March 6, 2021, in the parking lot of the Great Falls Library.

Great Falls
Citizens Association
Board Election
Ballot Box

Drive-in-person Special Election Held In Great Falls

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Supervisors Foust and Alcorn on Years 1 and 2: COVID-19

Changing the pandemic's course through the lens of an equitable recovery.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Year 1: Covid-19 comes to a close on March 10, 2021. In an interview with the Connection Newspapers on March 3, Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville District) and Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill District) discussed the County's testing/vaccines and economics responses in Year 1 with lessons learned. The discussion that followed centered on County plans in Year 2: COVID-19 for equitable adaptive outreach and recovery institutions, assuming a reduction in cases.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "We are deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity and by the alarming levels of inaction. We cannot say this loudly enough or clearly enough, or often enough. All countries can still change the course of this pandemic."

Foust said the single most aggressive action the County took to change the course of the pandemic was an economic response, beginning with backing off from making new investments in the budget. The County put \$52 million into a small business grant program (Fairfax RISE Grants). Next, tens of millions of dollars in federal funding helped people with their rent, utilities, and food (CARES Act). Foust said, "We invested in temporary housing for homeless people and people who needed to be isolated but didn't have that opportunity given their crowded living situations." The Fairfax County program is called the SF6 Mass Care Health and Human Services to provide Quarantine, Protection, Isolation/Decompression.

Alcorn said that these things would not have happened if Foust had not pushed the way he did. "Foust deserves the credit for exercising leadership on the board," he said.

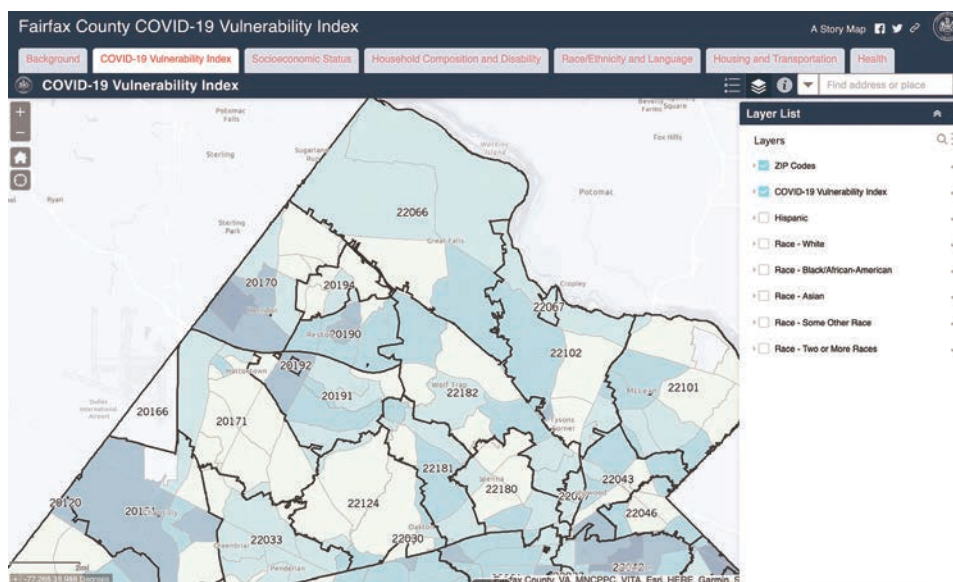
Alcorn called for ongoing and future pandemic course corrections via Board Matters to update the current ones or present new ones. He referenced the need for improved transparency in real-time information for vaccines related to his Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Foust presented on Feb. 9, 2021.

Meanwhile, the staff had been directed to send registrants weekly texts and email updates to confirm their placement in the queue, progress made, and how many registrants were ahead. Alcorn said, "Not all of those items have been implemented."

Alcorn said the County chose not to go with the statewide vaccination registration system because the County's system was "demonstrated and proven." He said no change to the state system should occur



(From left) Fairfax County Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill District) and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville District) at the March 3 interview.



The Fairfax County Story Map on March 7, 2021, shows the Covid-19 Vulnerability Index by Zip Codes. The COVID Vulnerability Index shows five domains individually and as a composite index: Socioeconomic Status, Household Composition and Disability, Race/Ethnicity and Language, Housing and Transportation, and Health. Individual indicators were ranked into 5 classes using natural breaks and given a score of 1 - 5, with 5 being the most vulnerable (shown in dark blue).



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

At the height of the spring 2020 COVID-19 shut down, many small businesses and workers struggled to survive financially.

during the pandemic. The County might consider implementing it down the road, but it would have to provide functionality beyond what the County currently offered.

Foust added the County had a great Department of Information Technology, very consumer-friendly and easy to get hold of if there was a problem. Turning it over to the State of Virginia would have created a "somewhat impersonal arrangement." "Knowing who to call is an awesome thing

when you're in an emergency," Foust said.

Asked what had been most disruptive to them during the pandemic, Foust said going virtual in everything. The ability to interact live with people and bounce ideas off each other was gone. "We're managing, but it's better when we're not virtual," Foust said.

Alcorn flagged the limitations on face-to-face community meetings and discussions. In some ways going virtual made meetings more accessible, but it wasn't the same. Vir-

tual meetings needed to be deliberative, and there were fewer opportunities for an informal discussion.

The Fairfax County COVID-19 Vulnerability Index underscored how best to target interventions and resources in Year 2: COVID. The pandemic did not impact all individuals and districts in the County equally, nor neighborhoods within those districts equally. While COVID-19 is a health crisis, vulnerability is tied to individual characteristics such as age and race/ethnicity. That is considered against social and economic conditions in the community, such as employment, housing, transportation, and the like.

THE SUPERVISORS' DISCUSSION centered on vulnerable individuals, the elderly and people of color, and job losses in vulnerable industries, like retail and food services, where most workers were people of color.

As for recovery from the pandemic's economic fallout, Foust said that during the early months of the pandemic, the aim was to get small businesses through it, "almost a life support effort." The economic fallout of the pandemic hit disadvantaged communities the hardest. Foust pointed out that 80 percent of small businesses supported were women, minority, and veteran-owned.

In late Year 1: Covid, the County had turned its attention toward developing an economic recovery strategy that fostered an equitable, inclusive framework enabling everyone to succeed. The County engaged a consultant, HR & A, to develop the plan and present it on March 16, 2021, with proposals.

"(It includes) spending up to \$15 million. I think that was the number we chose from our economic reserve fund to start stimulating our recovery effort and to focus, especially on those industries that were most impacted, which are hospitality, restaurant, and retail," Foust said.

Alcorn concluded the discussion by focusing on how best the County can get vaccines out to everyone. The County engaged faith-based communities with minority members who were vulnerable and had reason to be suspicious of mass vaccination programs. Alcorn said they learned by experience when rolling out testing that it wasn't good enough to set up sites and expect people to get there.

"We got to the point of sending out mobile testing centers...micro-targeted to do the testing in communities where there were outbreaks underway... We're moving down a similar path with vaccinations," Alcorn said. The County also learned people trust their doctors, so they would be pushing vaccines there.

THE LAST THING Alcorn learned from the Health Department he called "fascinating."

"It's not good enough to just have 75 percent of the overall population inoculated to get herd immunity. You really have to get 75 percent of each community inoculated. Otherwise, we'll still have hotspots and clusters of cases that will keep the pandemic going... I know we'll be pushing from the Board for all sorts of creative strategies to get in there."

What is 'Fair'?

BY RICSHAWN ADKINS ROANE

If Black people had a dollar for every individual, organization, and company that publicly professed a commitment to anti-racism and racial equity while holding up progress in the name of "fairness," we could have closed the racial wealth gap ten times over. These performative professions have been decried as "feel-good gestures that cost nothing and shift no power."

When people talk about fairness in this context, they usually are not motivated by a desire to ensure groups have equal resources, but by an immoral mandate to prevent certain groups from getting resources they don't "deserve." It's particularly shocking when people of faith champion fairness in this way since grace - unmerited and unearned favor - is a foundational principle of many spiritual traditions.

Since before inception, our nation has preached a false moral narrative of fairness while enshrining discrimination in our founding documents and utilizing the forced removal and genocide of Indigenous peoples and the forced enslavement and brutalization of African peoples as building blocks. Fairness is what folks cry when they want to profess racial justice but not practice it, when they want to perform equity and not pay for it.

We need to get over this collective preoccu-

About the Author

Ricshawn Adkins Roane is an African-American daughter, sister, wife, and mother living in Great Falls. Ms. Roane works at the intersection of philanthropy, policy, and advocacy for economic, racial, and gender justice. She writes, tells stories, and leads philanthropic grantmaking at a national education-focused foundation based in Northern Virginia.

pation with fairness which, at best, is a national myth, and at worse, prompts calls for inaction or gradualism when swift and unprecedented action is needed.

The policies and practices that got us to 140 million poor and low-wealth people (including 3.5 million right here in the Commonwealth), unequal education, health, and socioeconomic outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and LatinX folks, and disproportionate impacts of covid-19 on communities of color weren't "fair," and the remedies that fix these inequalities won't be either. Justice may not be fair, it is right.

Virginia's gubernatorial candidates and state legislators will offer up a number of policies over the coming weeks and months, some of which will be designed to address these systemic inequities. The next time you feel compelled to ask if a proposal is fair, ask yourself whether the policies that led to the need for the proposal were fair. Need some practice?

Equity costs - and paying that price will not be fair, but it will be just.

Q: Is it fair to make the admission process for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology more equitable?

A: Was it fair for "hard working, deserving children" to be deprived of a spot at TJ because their parents were unable to pay for expensive test preparation or a \$100 application fee? Was it fair that some middle schools appeared to be feeders to TJ and others never had students admitted?

Q: Is it fair to cancel federal student loan debt and reduce the racial-wealth gap?

A: Was it fair for African Americans to be excluded from traditional means of wealth accumulation that enable white borrowers to take out fewer loans at lower dollar amounts? Is it fair for African Americans to be hindered in repaying these student loans by labor market racial discrimination?

Q: Is a Marshall Plan for Moms fair?

A: Was it fair that this country built free labor into its economic model from the beginning and has never valued caregiving for the essential work that it is? Is it fair that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted women?

Q: Is it fair for "Black Women Best" to be the guidepost of our national economic reset?

A: Was it fair that for far too long, Black women have been the least, the last, and the lowest? Equity costs - and paying that price will not be fair, but it will be just.

And They Are Off!

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

COMMENTARY

Inevitably someone is going to refer to the nominating contests for candidates for the Virginia statewide offices and the House of Delegates as horse races—not because of the characteristics of any of the candidates but because of the crowded field of persons who are offering themselves for public office. Space limitations on this column will not permit me to list all the candidates for they are numerous. For whatever the reason, Virginia voters have more choices than ever. That is a good thing. Democracy has broken out in the Commonwealth.

Virginia election cycles do not parallel those of other states except for New Jersey where state elections are held in years other than those in which federal elections are held. This November Virginia will be electing a governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and all one hundred members of the House of Delegates.

That is the schedule for the general election. Before we get there, however, candidates must be chosen by the political parties. Democrats pick their candidates in primary elections this year on June 8,

and Republicans use conventions to pick their candidates. What is amazing is the number of people who have shown up seeking the nominations. For the names of all persons who have declared themselves at the time of the writing of this column, go to <https://www.vpap.org/elections/>.

For governor, there will be five Democrats on the June 8 primary ballot from which voters can choose their candidate. Republicans will have seven candidates from which to choose in a convention-like process adapted for the pandemic to determine their candidate for governor to be on the ballot for the General Election on November 2.

At the same time and as part of the same process, the major political parties will pick their candidates for lieutenant governor and attorney general. For lieutenant governor there are five Republicans and eight Democrats seeking their party's nomination. For attorney general there are three Republicans and two Democrats seeking their party's nomination. There may be independent candidates on the ballot in November, but they must qualify through another process.

COUNTY ROUNDUPS

Honoring Women on Front Lines of Pandemic

The Fairfax County Commission For Women celebrates Women's History Month 2021. This year, the Commission is holding a Facebook Live Forum on March 15, 2021 at 7 p.m., "Honoring Women Warriors on the Front Lines of the Pandemic" for their leadership, courage, and commitment to service during this Coronavirus pandemic. Join the Fairfax County Commission For Women in honoring the highest ranking women in the county's health, police and fire departments. You may submit questions to the panelists in Facebook Live comments section before or during the Forum. Check the website for more information soon: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/boards-authorities-commissions/commission-for-women>.

For those interested in learning more about the Fairfax County Commission For Women and Women's History Month Forum, you can also check Twitter@fairfaxcfw and Facebook and Instagram as @commissionforwomen.

In the House of Delegates races there are more challenges to incumbents and to open seats than I can remember. For Democrats who have a slight majority in the House of Delegates and who have been realizing amazing success in getting their legislative agenda passed, there are fourteen challenges to incumbents with many of them being to Democratic progressives in Northern Virginia. On the Republican side there are contests for the House nominations in seven districts with a couple of the most conservative members being

challenged for their nomination.

In the past two legislative sessions the General Assembly passed and the Governor has signed many pieces of legislation to make voting easier and more accessible. There will be early voting this year with no-excuse absentee voting, curbside voting, drop-boxes for ballot delivery, longer voting times. Voter registration is for life. There is no excuse for not voting. And for this year in particular, there is no lack of choice. The candidates are off, and you get to decide who wins!

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Planning Commission Recommends Denial of Flag Limitations

It's not a done deal.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Planning Commission voted 11-0 to recommend denial to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to replace the current zoning ordinance establishing specific regulations for flags and flagpoles in the New and Modernized Zoning Ordinance (zMOD Updates) countywide. Mason District Commissioner Julie M. Strandlie was absent from the March 3 vote. The proposed regulations would include different standards appropriate to lots with single-family dwellings or manufactured homes and lots developed for multi-family or non-residential.

Commissioner Timothy Sargeant, Member-at-Large, introduced the motion regarding flags and flagpoles. He said the proposed regulations were intended to establish "reasonable limits" on the size and number of flags and flagpoles' height. Sargeant recognized that the United States Supreme Court ruling of Reed versus Town of Gilbert, Arizona prevented regulation based on content and prohibited exempting the United States flag while regulating other types of flags.

Sargeant said, "There has been an exceptional number of public comments with concerns about this amendment, suggesting that at the least additional time is needed for consideration." The current zoning regulation on flags and flagpoles is a maximum of three per lot. Sargeant recommended retaining the limit and not the adoption of additional limitations as recommended by Fairfax County staff.

The proposal limited flagpole height to 25 feet on single-family lots and 60 feet on all other lots. It limited single-family lots to no more than two flags.

"I felt it was a solution looking for a problem," Commissioner John Ulfelder, Dranesville District, said. "I suspect, based on a lot of comments we've received,



**Dranesville District
Commissioner John C. Ulfelder,
Vice Chairman Fairfax County
Planning Commission**



**At Large Commissioner
Timothy J. Sargeant,
Secretary Fairfax County
Planning Commission**

"I will heartily recommend denial for this proposal."

— John C. Ulfelder, Vice Chairman
Fairfax County Planning Commission

a lot of other people perceived it in the same way...If it ain't broken, don't fix it. I will heartily recommend denial for this proposal."

Opponents of the measure came together in recent weeks to voice their concerns. The Fairfax County GOP organized a petition to the Fairfax County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on Change.org to tell Fairfax County, no. "The American flag should never be restricted," said Katherine Morgan of Fairfax, according to Change.org.

The Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) board expressed concerns about the regulations. In a Feb. 18 letter to Fairfax Planning Commission Chairman Peter Murphy, GFCA President Bill Canis wrote that the GFCA Board believed that the measure was overly restrictive in its scope.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield District) said in The Herrity Report, his weekly newsletter, "I will strongly oppose it if it comes before the Board of Supervisors."

The March 3, 2021 Planning Commission Video with Linked Agenda can be found on the County website. Changes to regulations on flags and flagpoles will be considered part of the public hearing for zMOD before the Board of Supervisors on March 9, 2021.

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Drive-in-person Special Election Held in Great Falls

Citizens Association members endorse two special questions.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Members of the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA), voting in the special drive-in-person election of the Executive Board and Officers held March 6, 2021, unanimously re-elected eight candidates and one new candidate. More than 90 percent of the voters endorsed two special questions. The GFCA Nominating Committee/Board and GFCA membership proposed the ballot of candidates. Ed Phillips, outgoing GFCA Vice President said that a quorum was required to make the results official.

James M. Trent, GFCA Treasurer and Chair of the Nominations Committee managed the election held in the Great Falls Library parking lot and reported the official outcomes.

Elected for one-year terms (3/21-6/22), Bill Canis won the President's seat, Peter Falcone, the Vice President's seat, and James Trent, the Treasurer's seat.

Elected to fill her first two-year Director term (3/21-6/23) is Suzanne Black. Re-elected Directors for two-year terms (3/21-6/23) are Ruth Carver, Jennifer Falcone, Gordon Harris, Scott Knight, and Ed Phillips.

GFCA members voted on two special questions on the March 6 election ballot. Voting members endorsed 91 percent to 9 percent, Question 1, the requirement for in-person voting for the Executive Board and Officers be removed (from Article 5.1.5 of the By-Laws) by striking the words: "The annual Executive Board and Officers election is excluded from electronic voting."

Voting members endorsed Question 2, 96 percent to 4 percent, agreeing that the GFCA annual budget is maintained at its 2019/20 level of \$25,400 until



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A driver pulls up in her vehicle to the ballot box installed for the Great Falls Citizens Association drive-in-person election held March 6 in the Great Falls Library parking lot.

in-person town hall membership meetings resume or as otherwise agreed by a membership vote.

Trent said that the new drive-in-person voting process for the election proved very successful, more than double the usual turnout.

According to the GFCA website, the association canceled its usual June 2020 in-person election due to the Covid-19 pandemic. To move forward as the pandemic continued, GFCA developed the new drive-in-person voting procedure that replicated its usual in-person voting procedure and satisfied its Bylaws requirement for in-person voting and protected the health of members.

The Great Falls Citizens Association is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)4 organization that advocates solutions and government actions that benefit Great Falls. Their charter calls for GFCA to "serve as a community organization to promote all aspects of community interest accruing to a common good and, in general, to preserve the historic, low density, semi-rural character of Great Falls and its natural resources."

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Niamh DiOria, a member of the Great Falls Citizens Association votes at the special drive-in-person election held Saturday, March 6, in the Great Falls Library parking lot. "This is our village," she said.



Members of Great Falls Citizens Association, Michael Barclay, Transportation Co-Chair, Ed Phillips, outgoing Vice President, and James Trent Treasurer, Chair of Nomination erect the drive-in-person ballot box in the parking lot of the Great Falls Library for the organization's 2021 Election held on March 6.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Great Falls Community Farmers Market drew customers to its location at 778 Walker Road, Great Falls, on March 6.

Open in the Winter

Shoppers make Great Falls Community Farmers Market a weekly event.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Even though winter continues in the area, the Great Falls Community Farmers Market drew customers to its location at 778 Walker Road, Great Falls, on March 6.

Some of the vendors present that day included Rustiq Bakery & Cafe from Historic Savage Mill, Md. Market tables featured hand-made croissants, loaves of artisan bread, pie slices, and more. As they browsed Rustiq's offerings, Jonathan Steidel greeted customers looking to purchase as walk-up sales or add to their pre-order sales where full-size pies were available. "I've come nearly every (market) day," said Steidel.

David and Elizabeth Hunt of Great Falls arrived shortly after the 9 a.m. market opening and made their bakery selections. The couple said they come to market "just about every week."

Tyme Foods offered its 2020 olive oil harvest from South Lebanon/Upper Galilee region bottled in Great Falls for Saturday's market. According to the market website, "This year's harvest is exceptionally fruity with acidity tested at 0.19 percent."

Select Greek delicacies from local Our Mom Eugenia restau-



Elizabeth and David Hunt of Great Falls stop by the March 6 Great Falls Community Farmers Market and look over what to purchase from vendor Rustiq Bakery & Cafe of Historic Savage Mill, Md. Jonathan Steidel assists them with their selections.

"I've come nearly every (market) day."

— Jonathan Steidel

rant drew faithful followers, as did Liberty Farm Hill known for their pasture-raised turkeys, grass-fed beef, and woodland-raised pigs. Coolers lined the booth area, ready for market shoppers.

For more information about the Great Falls Community Farmers Market (open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays) visit the market online and click on hyperlinks to each week's vendors to assist with pre-orders.

The Langley School Holds Drive Against Hunger

Drive fills a school bus with more than 2,000 food items.

As part of The Langley School's culture of giving and commitment to service learning, the school typically hosts a Day of Giving each spring in which the entire school community comes together to pack meals for those in need. Although the pandemic has prevented an in-person Day of Giving this year, the Langley community found a new way to serve neighbors struggling with food insecurity.

For the past three weeks, Langley's students, parents, and faculty/staff have participated in the "Give S.O.M.E. Love" food drive benefiting So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E.), a

Washington, DC-based service organization that supports those experiencing homelessness and poverty. Together, the Langley community raised more than \$5,000 and collected more than 2,000 non-perishable food items to donate to S.O.M.E.

Donated items were loaded onto a Lang-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LANGLEY SCHOOL

In a recent food drive, The Langley School's community collected more than 2,000 non-perishable food items and raised more than \$5,000 to donate to So Others Might Eat.

ley school bus, providing students with a visual representation of the collective impact small contributions can make. In addition to learning about the value of serving others, students also gained a deeper understanding of how food insecurity impacts many in their community.

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Community Charity Champions Donates \$1,000 to Cornerstones

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Huckaby Briscoe Conroy (HBC) Group gives back to local charities.

Huckaby Briscoe Conroy (HBC) Group at Keller Williams McLean donated \$1,000 as part of their Community Charity Champions (CCC) program to give back to local charity groups. Karen Briscoe HBC Principal, HBC partner Lizzy Conroy, and Jenny McClintock, VP represented the Huckaby Briscoe Conroy Group for the check presentation. Receiving the donation for Cornerstones was Ted Lewis, VP of Business & Community Impact and Adrian Chadwell, Manager, Corporate and Institutional Relations.



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Group is 'Live Here, Work Here and Give Back Here!' So, having Community Charity Champions donate to Cornerstones is a natural opportunity for us to give back to a great cause and to help families, individuals and children with a little hope."

Cornerstones focuses on three key objectives: Stability, Empowerment, and Hope. For Stability they helped 186 households with eviction prevention; 770 individuals with emergency shelter and rapid re-housing; 85 households that were homeless moved into permanent housing; and 1,295



Check presentation - from left: Ted Lewis, Adrian Chadwell, Karen Briscoe, Jenny McClintock, and Lizzy Conroy.

families and 2,996 children with food and basic needs. Focused on Empowerment, Cornerstones has provided 70 households with housing and home ownership support; 108 affordable housing units maintained; 285 care management; and 221 children with Laurel Learning Center/Affordable

Childcare and Before-After School Programs. McClintock, a Reston resident shares this sentiment: "Giving back to the community that we live and work in is a huge priority for HBC Group. We are pleased to be a part of Cornerstones mission to reduce homelessness and fund affordable housing."

CALENDAR

NOW THRU MARCH 26

Learning Connection. Tuesdays. The Old Firehouse Learning Connection is a supervised e-learning program supervised by staff, for students in the 5th-10th grades. The program will provide a supervised environment for students to complete their school-led virtual instruction. Staff will provide limited socially distant recreation opportunities for students during their breaks. Program waivers, participant contracts and additional information will be sent to all registered participants prior to the start of the program. Cost is \$400. To register, visit: www.oldfirehouse.org or call 703-448-8336, TTY: 711.

NOW THRU MARCH 29

"Life in Historic Virginia." At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Part of the Park Authority's new series of "Field Trips for All" that are designed to supplement classroom and online lessons. Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom, and these field trips offer parents a unique opportunity to provide their kids with real experiences while applying the concepts required in the Virginia Standards of Learning. This history program is designed for students in grades one through six. Life in Historic Virginia is offered on Mondays, March 15,

22 and 29, 2021. The 45-minute programs at Sully Historic Site run at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., and the cost is \$40 per family. Call 703-437-1794.

SATURDAY/MARCH 13

Family Outdoor Exploration. Investigate topics, such as Stream Life, Pond Life, Historic Ice Cream, and much more. Once you register, staff from the park will reach out to you to plan the perfect outing for your family. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs on Saturday, March 13, and from 3 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. The cost is \$40 per family. Call 703-631-0013.

SATURDAY/MARCH 13

The Joshua Show. 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sponsored by The Alden, McLean. Joshua Holden is a modern-day Mr. Rogers with hipster appeal. When Mr. Nichols makes an unnerving self-discovery that causes him to spiral down a path of loneliness and hopeless despair, it's up to Joshua and his cast of characters, including Larry the Lint and the Wonderbook, to show his best friend the joy in being yourself. With live music, physical comedy and multiple styles of puppetry, this whimsical show is sure to bring out everyone's joyful side. Purchase tickets at www.aldentheatre.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 14

Birding for Beginners. 9-10:30 a.m. At Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake

Fairfax Drive, Reston. During this program you will learn about birds at Lake Fairfax Park and gain some basic identification skills to help you get started on birding. The program begins with a bird identification discussion. The cost is \$12 per person. This program is designed for bird-lovers age 12 to adult, but children age 12 to 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-471-5414.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 17

The Unruly Theatre Project's Virtual Improv Show. 7 p.m. Sponsored by The Alden. Join the Unruly Theatre Project's virtual improv shows from the comfort of your couch! Register online and a Zoom link and password for the show will be emailed to you. Participants must register two hours in advance of showtime. Register at www.aldentheatre.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 19

The Old Firehouse 5th and 6th Grader Party. Virtual: The Glow Party. 7-9 p.m. Gather your family and dance the night away with the Old Firehouse with our virtual dance party. Request some of your favorite songs, dance along with us and the music and stay for some games and surprises along the way. To register, visit: www.oldfirehouse.org or call 703-448-8336, TTY: 711.

MARCH 20 TO APRIL 11

Fairfax County's Festival Central at the Fairfax County Visitor Center.

The official Fairfax County Visitor Center in Tysons Corner Center (on 2nd level outside Nordstrom) is "Festival Central" in Fairfax County. The public is invited to stop in for free souvenirs, Festival schedules and the latest information on activities throughout the region. On March 27, the Center will host its annual National Cherry Blossom Festival Day with a special event from 1-3 p.m. with craft demonstrations, free gifts, and more. (<http://www.fxva.com/plan-your-trip/visitor-center>; 703-752-9500)

SATURDAY/MARCH 20

Maple Syrup Boil Down. 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. It's sugaring time at the mill, so bundle up, brave the weather and watch and learn as sap is boiled down into a sweet syrup over an open fire. While supplies last, sample some of this delicious syrup over cornbread baked with cornmeal ground at Colvin Run. Call 703-759-2771.

SATURDAY/MARCH 20

Fairfax Genealogical Society Spring Fair - "Power Up Your Family Research with DNA". Virtual meeting. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Genealogist Karen Stanbary will present this one-day program featuring tips and tools for using DNA data to aid your family research. Registration (\$50 for non-members; \$30 for members of FxGS) at <https://fxg-2021mar.eventbrite.com> or on the FxGS web page, www.fxgs.org/2021springfair. Details

of the program and other FxGS activities on the web site, www.fxgs.org or by calling 703-644-8185.

MARCH 20 TO APRIL 11

The Science Behind Flowers. Join the Children's Science Center virtually to explore the chemistry at work behind the petal and witness how capillary action can help flowers become acid-base indicators. Hear from a celebrity scientist to learn more about invasive and native plants, and the science of ecological restoration. Then, join in on the fun at home by trying out an experiment of your own. Program will be streamed online from March 20 - April 11. (<https://childsci.org/>; 703-648-3130)

In addition, visitors can plan self-guided tours of the region's splendid gardens, including these sites:

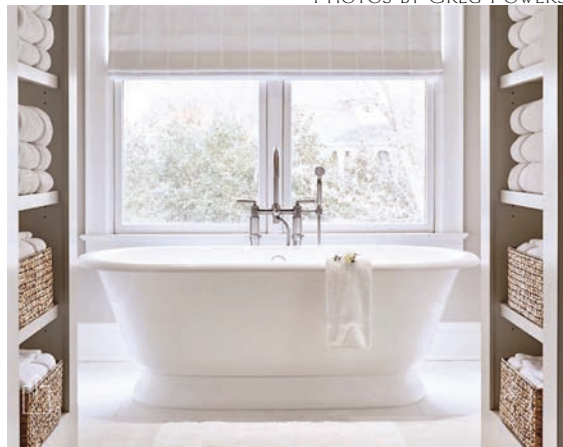
Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, a 90-acre oasis featuring more than 100 cherry trees surrounding a lovely lake, plus an extensive shade garden, native wildflowers, gazebos, birds, butterflies, seasonal blooms and the very unique Korean Bell Garden.

Green Spring Gardens, an outdoor classroom, national historic site, and museum featuring a wooded stream, a valley with ponds, a native plant garden, over 20 thematic demonstration gardens, and a greenhouse filled with tropical plants.

PHOTOS BY GREG POWERS



White cabinetry and marble counter tops combine with large windows to create a light and airy kitchen by designer Tracy Morris.



A free-standing tub was part of a McLean home remodel by interior designer Tracy Morris.

McLean Family Home

Sunny, free-flowing home created by removing walls and adding windows.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION



Some of the walls in this McLean home were removed to create free flowing spaces.

After relocating to McLean from the West Coast and purchasing a home, the family knew that major changes were needed to accommodate their family, which includes two children. The couple enlisted the help of McLean based interior designer Tracy Morris of Tracy Morris Design.

“The home had sharp angles that disrupted the flow and wasted space that could be used for storage,” said Morris.

One of the biggest priorities was to create a light-filled, family friendly kitchen. “Our main goal was to have an island to feed small children and a space where the family could eat dinner at the table,” said Morris.

“Our main goal was to have an island to feed small children and a space where the family could eat dinner at the table.”

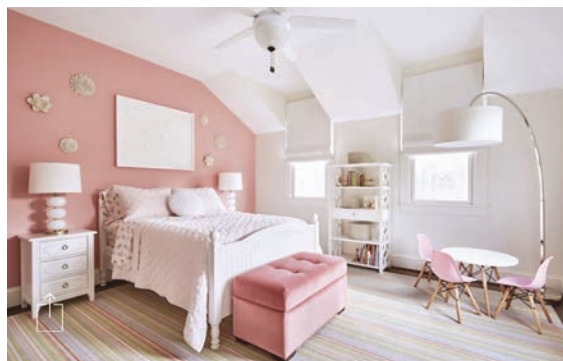
— Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design

An architectural overhaul was needed to accomplish that goal. The new design includes a butler’s pantry and mudroom which allow for additional storage.

“The kitchen was bizarre and had a weird layout,” said architect Sydney Davenport Katz of BarnesVanzee Architects Inc. “There was one large island with two different heights.

“We regularized the shape of some of the spaces,” she continued. “There were a lot of angled and sloping surfaces that we were able to eliminate”

Some of the kitchen cabinetry and part of a wall were removed. Floor to ceiling windows flood the room with sunlight. White cabinetry and marble countertops add to the space’s light and airy feel. Morris used a neutral color palette throughout the home, which now includes an



Interior designer Tracy Morris created bedrooms for each of the family’s two daughters.



A mudroom was created to provide additional storage space in this McLean home.

exercise room and playroom.

The second floor also called for a design overhaul, says Morris. “The master bathroom had a lot of chopped spaces. It was a bizarre design.”

The original master bathroom had what Morris described as excessive storage space. Some of the closets were eliminated and the drop-in tub was replaced with a free-standing tub.

The home has five full bathrooms, two powder rooms, six bedrooms, including two guest rooms. The laundry room is located on the second floor.

“That project had such good energy,” said Morris. “I’ll always have great memories of it. There are just some projects in life that fall into place and this is one of them.”

Fill Us In!

Virtual Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center’s FY 2023 Programs

Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 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 Virtual Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2023 (which runs July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023).

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.



www.zoom.us



ZOOM meeting ID: 817 619 39845

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

THURSDAY/MARCH 11
Shape of the Region Conference. 12:30-2 p.m. Virtual. The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is hosting its 2021 Shape of the Region Conference. The theme this year is: Co-Creating a New Northern Virginia: An Emerging Vision of a More Inclusive, Sustainable, and Equitable Region. This event will explore the collective efforts of Government, social, philanthropy, and private sector actors to bring more inclusivity, sustainability, and equity across our region. The event will feature brief stories and a panel discussion to highlight recent cross sector collaborations that have helped promote a more equitable and inclusive region. To register for this event, visit www.cfnova.org/shape-region.

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MCC GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS
The filing deadline for the McLean Community Center's (MCC) 2021 Governing Board elections is Friday, March 12, at 5 p.m. Residents of Dranesville Small Tax District 1A who are interested in running for a seat on the board can still enter the race. The all-volunteer Board sets policy and provides general oversight for MCC facilities, which include the Robert Ames Alden Theatre and the Old Firehouse Center. All residents of the Center's tax district are eligible to run for a seat on the 11-member board. Candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 (ten) tax district residents to have their names placed on the election ballot. Nominating petition forms are available at the Center, which is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave. Residents who would prefer to not enter the center can call 703-744-9348, to arrange for an MCC staff member to deliver a candidate packet to them in the MCC parking lot.

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Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Adult board members serve three-year terms. Youth members serve one-year terms. Adult candidates must be at least 18 years old as of McLean Day on Saturday, May 15. Youth candidates must be 15 to 17 years old as of McLean Day. One youth member who lives within the McLean High School boundary area will be elected; one youth member who lives within the Langley High School boundary area will be elected. Youth candidates are not required to attend either school; however, they must reside within the boundary areas served by one of the schools as defined by Fairfax County Public Schools. Visit the webpage: <https://bit.ly/2MYdJUN>, or contact Executive Assistant Holly Novak at 703-744-9348 or holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov.

MARCH 10-26
Passover Digital Cookbook. 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Time for Passover: A Unique All-Passover Digital Cookbook and Primer from the Women of Temple Rodef Shalom Over 120+ delicious original recipes; easy navigation; kid-friendly recipes. All proceeds to charity. Cost is \$10. Email to PassoverCookbook@templerodefshalom.org if you have questions or need more information. To order: <http://passovercookbookbywomenoftr.square.site>
Please note that you will be emailed the PDF version of the Cookbook.

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

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Obituary

Obituary

Herbert Lain Holt

March 25, 1934 – February 13, 2021



It is with great joy for the long and wonderful life he lived that we announce the passing of Herbert Lain Holt (86) on Saturday, February 13, 2021, at sundown in Carlsbad, California. Still on his feet until just 8 days prior to his passing, Herbert long battled Parkinson's Disease and never once complained. Our hero drew his last breath peacefully at home, surrounded by loved ones. We could not have asked for more for our beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, coach and friend.

Herbert was born in 1934 to Otis Eldridge Holt and Martha Louise Holt (nee McDaniel) in Gibson County, Tennessee. A proud son of Trenton, Herbert attended Trenton Elementary and Middle School, and played quarterback and was captain of the football team for Peabody High School. During his high school tenure, Herb won the distinction of being voted football captain of the "Big Ten" on all ten western Tennessee high school coaches' ballots. In basketball, Herb served as captain of the junior varsity and varsity basketball teams. Aside from sports, Herb exhibited leadership as the senior class president. Herb also played baseball for the Humboldt Tennessee American Legion. Because of Herb's outstanding sports performances, he was honored in 2006 to be inducted into the Gibson County Sports Hall of Fame. Known as Ol' Twinkletoes, he was honored in 2020 to be inducted into the Peabody High School Football Hall of Fame.

Herb graduated high school in 1952, and attended Murray State University in Kentucky on a football scholarship where he played quarterback for the Racers and was co-captain of the team. He was the student body vice president and president of the Methodist Student Union. At Murray, Herb met the love of his life, Celia Maurelle Kirksey of Paducah, Kentucky, and they married over the winter break of their senior year in 1955. They recently celebrated 65 years of happily ever after.

After graduating from Murray State in 1957, Herb then earned his Master's Degree in Secondary Education Administration over the summers while he worked as head football coach and head basketball coach for three years in McKenzie, Tennessee. Herb then accepted an offer to teach and coach in Alexandria, Northern Virginia. In Alexandria, Coach Holt drew out the best from students and players and touched the lives and hearts of hundreds of students and their parents for 40 years. Herb taught physical education and English at Francis C. Hammond High School in Alexandria, where he was also the assistant football coach and the junior varsity baseball coach. When T.C. Williams high school opened, he served as head football coach, and the junior varsity baseball coach. After three years, Herb was appointed athletic director, and later became assistant principal. Coach Holt was at T.C. Williams High School fostering goodness during the time of the story "Remember the Titans." Coach Holt also will be remembered for his dedication to students at George Washington Middle School. Upon retirement from T.C. Williams in 1997, he was named "MacDaddy of the Senior Class" by the seniors.

Herb and Maurelle raised their son and daughter in Springfield and West Springfield, Virginia. Herb continued to coach kids' baseball after retirement for the Springfield Babe Ruth League. He proudly served as the Membership Chairman, Vice President and President of the Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators, and Coaches Association (NVADACA).

A natural at sports, he turned his love of sports toward golf and enjoyed golf outings and trips with his son and friends. Herb never once met a stranger and was known for his get-up-and-go, tenacity and his fun-loving spirit. Genuinely interested in people, Herb never missed an opportunity to help someone or bring out the best in them, whether a family in need, or a kindred spirit hitchhiking a country lane. Herb also saved more than a few lives as a lifeguard on Kentucky Lake in his youth. He loved country music and dancing, and became a square dance caller in the 1970s. He gave his family lots of swim and beach days with bonfires and stories, trips to music festivals and county fairs, football and basketball games, amusement parks, long country drives and especially family and friends. He loved bluegrass, spaghetti Westerns, Burt Reynolds comedies, ice cream, and U.S. historical fiction novels in no particular order. He was cool, calm and collected and supported and loved us dearly, always encouraging our independence and best selves while also being available to catch us should we fall. Herb and Maurelle moved to Carlsbad, California to be with daughter and family and were able to enjoy lots of family celebrations together.

Predeceased by his parents and sister Charlotte Brown (Memphis, TN), Herbert is survived by his wife Celia Maurelle Holt, son John Lain Holt and daughter-in-law Martee Holt of Greensboro, NC, grandchildren Lauren Maurelle Holt (currently Poulsbo, WA, engaged to Darrin Cripe) and Alexander Lain Holt of Charlotte, NC, (engaged to Claire Kane); daughter Kristen Walker, son-in-law Justin D. Walker of Carlsbad, CA, and grandchildren Scarlett, Stella, Katherine and Audrey Walker; nephews Mike Brown (Carla), Pat Brown (Bethany) and Tim Brown; the late John David Kirksey (brother-in-law), sister-in-law Alice Kirksey, niece Diane De La O, nephews Samuel Kirksey (Olga), and Matthew Kirksey, extended family and countless friends. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and we are sure that over his 40 working years as tireless coach and teacher there will be many other stories to be shared about his kindness, support and generous spirit. Herbert made a difference in many lives and heaven is a better place for calling him home.

A celebration of life will be held when people can safely gather. Please sign the guest book and leave comments at www.accucarecremation.com/obituary. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a scholarship fund in Herb's name for young college-bound athletes at Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators, and Coaches Association (NVADACA) at www.nvadaca.org or P.O. Box 305, Burke, VA 22009.

The family wishes to thank his amazing caregiver, Sandy S.

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"Cancerversary"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I realize I'm cancer-centric, especially in these columns, but for some reason that centrality didn't acknowledge my February 27th cancer anniversary. That date, in 2009, is when I was originally diagnosed with stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, the "terminal" kind. I remember it well. It was a Thursday. It was the initial Team Lourie meeting with my soon-to-be new best friend: my oncologist. A week or so prior, I had received the first indication - from my primary care physician, that my life was about to change: the results from the previous surgical biopsy confirmed a malignancy. It's rather an awkward dynamic to meet someone - for the first time, who immediately becomes the person who will control, manage and in effect, be responsible for whether you live or die, and for how long. From then on, he becomes the most important person in your life; a person who is now entrusted with your most precious asset: your health.

It was not an unfamiliar experience for me meeting someone cold and attempting to build a rapport. As a long-time salesman, that was my modus operandi. Whether in person or over the telephone, I have regularly been engaged in this kind of pursuit: trying to create an environment of trust and honesty in order to reach a shared goal. Previously, it was about making a sale; now it was about understanding my options and agreeing on a course of treatment. However, the one major difference between these two pursuits, was control, or rather the lack thereof. Cancer was now in control as compared to my life as a salesman where I chose it because it allowed me to be in control: who I called, when I called, scheduling appointments, et cetera. Soon it became apparent, I was no longer in Kansas anymore. I was in the hands - figuratively speaking, of my oncologist - in Maryland: my new boss. If I wanted to live beyond the "13 month to two year" prognosis I was given, I would have to be as attentive and compliant as possible.

In spite of our shotgun-type of relationship, we have persevered together, which has enabled yours truly to acknowledge, albeit a week or so later, an amazing achievement: 12 years and still living. Not that my circumstances have become de rigueur, hardly; especially since the thyroid cancer diagnosis of late has put into question my original non-small cell lung cancer stage IV diagnosis. Apparently, after making a few inquiries, it appears unlikely that we can litigate the past any more than we can guarantee the future. It seems that cancer, whichever type, will be a part of my life and likely a part of my death as well.

I'm surprised how it's (my life) all turned out and grateful to whomever for what I'm not entirely sure. Nevertheless, somehow it's worked and here I am: alive and reasonably well. Not cancer free and never to be cured of my stage IV papillary thyroid cancer; still, it's a living and it sure beats a dying. Treatment and scans and all will continue, but so what. Originally it appeared my die was cast, but as it has happened, not nearly so fast.

All of which is nothing new, really. A cancer diagnosis is all about change, ceding control, and hanging on for dear life as you will be up and down and all-round, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Expecting a normal kind of pattern to your future life ended the moment a biopsy confirms a malignancy. Either you adjust to the vagaries of your cancer life or you will die having failed. I think I have succeeded beyond my wildest expectations. So much so that I didn't even acknowledge my "cancerversary" last week. I guess I needed the week off from worrying about it and didn't even realize it. I have to admit though, it felt good not focusing on it for a change. Almost like I was a "normal" person.

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



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