

The telecommunications facility at Matchless Body Works, Inc. on Rt.7: Developer faces opposing views on the proposed Vienna-Great Falls area telecommunications facility.

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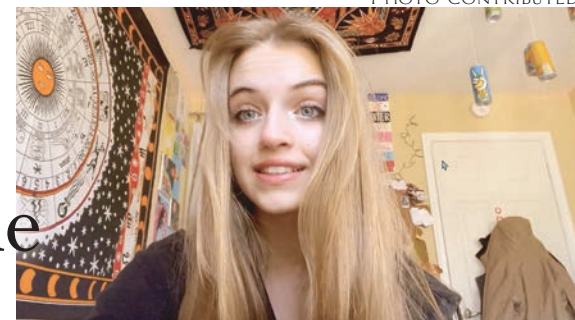
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NEWS

Honest, Moving Stories of Our Time

BY ELLIOT BAIRD
LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY SCHOOL



Catherine Knecht

“What separates us?” asked the opening line of Langley High School’s “Long Division.” This was the question the show grappled with, and it led to answers both evocative and troublesome, as well as hopeful and uplifting.

“Long Division” was conceived by Langley’s theatre class as a reaction to the storming of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. It is a work of devised theatre, meaning the show was conceived, written, and performed collaboratively by an ensemble. It centered on themes of unity and division during the pandemic and our tense political climate.

The student-produced script told honest, moving stories that were incredibly pertinent to our time. They were relatable and spoke very true to the experience of today’s American teen, but also to a broader human experience of the balance between division and connection.

The show was held up by a series of earnest, truthful performances from the large ensemble. Every cast member gave dedicated, polished performances. One

notable performance was that of Conard Racich in his voice-over work, using a droning monotone that spoke perfectly to the endless tediousness of online school. Another was Elizabeth Tippens and Devran Johnson’s chemistry, which made the distance of acting virtually between them seem nonexistent.

What really brought the piece to life was its flawless editing by Conard Racich, Elizabeth Tippens, and Celeste Deale. They used stock footage and clips of news broadcasts to illustrate the events the script discussed, and created a sleek, professional-looking product that was also deeply emotional and moving. They also manipulated the actors’ voices and added sounds and music to incredible dramatic effect. Their work truly took advantage of the recorded form, using it to make a show completely unlike what could be performed live.

Langley High School’s “Long Division” shined a light on the problems facing our society today, but also provided a hopeful look at how we can move forward from here.

The performance can be watched at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmNpfnYQr0o>

CAPPIES REVIEW

Winners of the STEM Essay Contest are shown here with members of the AAUW McLean Area Branch at the March 16 recognition event: top row, from left, Judy Page, STEM Chair; Carol Mournighan, Co-President, and Brendan Li, Honorable Mention; second row, from left, Zoe Robell, 1st Place; Michelle Liu, 2nd Place; and Carter Kunz, Honorable Mention; third row, Naz Basit, Co-President.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

STEM Essay Contest Winners Honored

The winners of the 2021 STEM Essay Contest sponsored by the McLean Area Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) were announced and recognized during a Branch event held via Zoom on March 16. The contest was open to seventh and eighth grade students (girls and boys) at local public and private schools. The students were asked to discover and publicize women who made a difference in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields, but who did not receive recognition for their contributions while alive and whose contributions are not well known even today. Each essay described one woman’s contribution and its impact, as well as why the student selected the woman.

The winners of the contest are:

- ❖ 1st Place: Zoe Robell, Longfellow Middle School (Grade 7)
- ❖ 2nd Place: Michelle Liu, Longfellow Middle School (Grade 7)
- ❖ Honorable Mention: Carter Kunz, The Langley School (Grade 7)
- ❖ Honorable Mention: Brendan Li, Cooper Middle School (Grade 7)

As part of the March 16 awards ceremony, the first

place winner, Zoe Robell, read her essay on Grace Hopper, computer scientist and United States Navy rear admiral who was an early developer of high-level programming languages. Other women who were the subjects of the winning essays are Chien-Shiung Wu, a Chinese American physicist who worked on the Manhattan project and has been nicknamed the “Chinese Madame Curie,” and June Almeida, a Scottish virologist who discovered a group of viruses in 1966 that were later named the coronavirus. The students are receiving Certificates of Recognition and a monetary award by mail.

Fourteen volunteers from the McLean Area Branch served as judges: Pam Bacher, Marie Briones-Jones, Marlene Chivavibul, Dorothy Hassan, Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales, Sherry Joslin, Nina McVeigh, Tom McVeigh, Ruth Nowjack-Raymer, Judy Page, Caroline Pickens, Betsy Schroeder, Barbara Sipe, and Adarsh Trehan. The essay contest was managed by a steering committee, consisting of Marlene Chivavibul, Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales, and Betsy Schroeder, together with Judy Page, STEM Chair.

For more information on the McLean Area Branch, visit the branch website at <http://mclean-va.aauw.net>.

Possible Tower of Trouble Ahead for Wireless Developer

Sides clash over Rt. 7 Vienna-Great Falls area proposed telecommunications facility.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

How best for everyone concerned to correct cellular coverage holes in the Vienna-Great Falls Route 7 area is one issue. A second rising issue that may dictate the means to enhance residents' and travelers' connectivity is a purported County commitment not to use a specified Fairfax County Board of Supervisors-owned property in an R-2 residential district for a commercial operation. Intertwined is the possibility of settling for now at least "less than the very best," in 5G technology.

No one at the Great Falls Citizens Association's March 15 Webinar featuring a presentation by Milestone Towers and a community-wide call-in about a proposed 114-foot height monopole at Fire Station #42-Wolf Trap at 1315 Beulah Road, Vienna at the intersection of Leesburg Pike (Rt. 7) denied the need to fill in coverage holes between existing Verizon towers in the area.

Caller Lon Waters of the Spring Ridge subdivision in Vienna said he supported the tower since he could not make or receive reliable calls. "That's a problem when we're trying to work from home," he said. Glenn Rosenbluth is a resident of the Wolftrap Meadows subdivision in Vienna, a neighborhood south of the proposed tower. According to LinkedIn, he is Director of Construction and Property Management at Milestone. Rosenbluth said he was paying, "God knows what for wireless; it's three, four hundred dollars ...I completely support this project." Naod Desta, Radio Frequency Design Engineer at Verizon Wireless, confirmed rolling terrain and tree density negatively impact cellular coverage.

Many callers voiced common wireless woes over aesthetics, residential property values, radio frequency (RF) emissions exposure levels, macro vs. small cell technology, and 5G preference, knowing other infrastructure would be required beyond the proposed monopole to handle the high-band spectrum of 5G. A few callers, though, brought forth information that could threaten approval of the Special Exception required for the project.

Applicant Milestone Tower Limited Partnership IV and the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County filed in the fall of 2020 a Proffered Condition Amendment to amend RZ 78D060 for modifications and development conditions to allow telecommunications facilities. Since the proposed site, public property Fire Station #42 is in an R-2 Residential District, per Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance, monopole structures require a Special Exception approval.

LEESBURG PIKE is considered the gateway to Great Falls, according to Jennifer Falcone
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

of GFC. Vienna and Great Falls residences face Station #42, each on different sides of the pike according to MapQuest. The Planning Commission hearing on the Special Exception is May 5 and the Board of Supervisors' hearing with the tentative final vote on the matter is on June 8.

According to Chris Harold, Vice President of Milestone Towers beyond the monopole, Milestone plans to install a 50 by 50-foot fenced compound, remove five trees and plant fifteen to twenty trees and install an access road. The tower will initially hold Verizon antennas but likely AT&T and T-Mobile as well. 5G technology will not be on the tower now, according to Harold.

Harold said "macros" is what Milestone calls towers typically 100 to 200 feet in height. They have a range of one to two miles and are meant to overlay coverage in an area. On the other hand, small cells are shorter structures. They are generally positioned in more dense urban areas—a canister on top of a light pole, traffic light, or on the side of a building. Each has a coverage range of approximately 300 to a 500-foot radius and enhances the macro site, offloading its traffic. "(A small cell) fills in spots where the macro site is unable to reach," said Harold.

Desta added that when Verizon identifies coverage holes in its capacity, it deploys a small cell to offload traffic. "At this time, we do not have any proposal or request for funding to deploy small systems in this area," Desta said.

Harold disputed most caller concerns, citing data and endeavoring to mollify residents opposed to the tower. When he did not, Milestone consultants and callers on the line affiliated with Milestone weighed in.

Caller John Callahan, a resident of A Country Place, the neighborhood south and adjoining adjacent Fire Station #42, said a proposed telecommunications tower at Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church on Rt. 7 received a rejection a few years ago by the Board of Supervisors. "Why should it not be rejected now?" "We're not trying to kick this pole down the road to the next community, which was what was done to us here," he said. Callahan asked, "How can this



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Fire Station #42- Wolf Trap at 1315 Beulah Road, Vienna is in an R-2 Residential District, and the proposed site for a 114-foot height monopole, part of a telecommunications facility. Since a monopole is not permitted in an R-2 District Applicant Milestone Tower Limited Partnership IV and the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County filed for a Special Exception.

"How can this (monopole) not impact and crush property values in our small community?"

— John Callahan,
a resident of A Country Place

(monopole) not impact and crush property values in our small community?"

Harold acknowledged studies citing antennas as problematic to buyers. He rebutted, saying, "There are conflicting studies that say there are no effects on property values." Harold cited his informal study as a licensed broker. Harold said he pulled home sales data near Matchless Body Works, Inc. on Rt.7 where a tower is located. According to Fairfax County, the zoning description for the Matchless site is I-5 industrial-general.

"Sixty-two transactions have happened from 2007 until today...Property values have increased...by 29 percent," Harold said. Meanwhile, a one-third mile away near Sta-

tion #42, 96 homes sold in the same timeframe and property values decreased 16 percent, according to Harold.

John Nelson, President of Ciara Estates Homeowners Association, said, "This (seeing an image of the monopole superimposed on a photo of the neighborhood) is an eyesore...visible from most of the homes in our homeowners' association." Harold proposed an alternative to the planned 114-foot telecommunications monopole tower, a 122-foot-tall tree pole monopine tower, with its additional 8 feet of faux tree branches "to make it with a crown, not a flat top toilet brush style."

Som Venkatanarayan of Vienna said, "This is industrial power, not (appropriate) in an R-2 zone. It is a huge health hazard." Caller Paul Dougan responded. He is a telecommunications consultant for Milestone and a Registered Professional Engineer in Virginia specializing in RF safety electromagnetic energy FCC compliance. "No areas at ground level will exceed or approach 1 percent of the federal safety standard, which contains a substantial margin of safety," he said.

CALLER Katherine Chalmers questioned Verizon not deploying 5G technology on the proposed tower. Harold answered, "At some point, they will...as all towers will be."

The Federal Trade Commission voted unanimously on March 17 to open the mid-range, 3.45 GHz for 5G flexibility making it available for auction and deployment in next-generation 5G networks. The FCC is planning to start the auction in October.

One of the final callers, Doug Lovejoy, is a resident of A Country Place. He said in 1989 when the fire station was first proposed, the County said there would be no commercial development on the fire station's acreage. In 1995, a similar cell power company proposed similar power, with citizens voicing the same concerns. With the session videotaped, Lovejoy said he filed a Freedom of Information Act request and received a copy of the tape in which there's an eight-minute segment that described "the County's commitments to our community."

"That cell phone tower was defeated for a number of purposes but also because that commitment did not provide access to that site to commercial ventures," Lovejoy said.

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Perhaps you are more concerned about schools, teachers, students and holding elected officials accountable for your children's education, teacher safety and returning to the classroom. Recent story on schools: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/03/-person-and-home-class-one-community-reston/>

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— MARY KIMM

Protecting McLean Against Runaway Redevelopment

BY KARL VON SCHRITZ

It has been widely reported that Fairfax County has revised its comprehensive plan to redevelop the McLean Community Business Center in response to public feedback, primarily delivered at a community meeting on Feb. 20 where county officials shared details of the plan. At the meeting, however, county officials presented the plan as fait accompli. Many of the supposed “revisions” made to the plan, allegedly in response to the meeting, were actually presented as features of the plan during the meeting. None of the plan's shortcomings, which threaten major disruptions to our community, have been addressed.

Far from soliciting public feedback at the meeting, Supervisor Foust repeatedly insisted that the comprehensive plan, as drafted, enjoys community support based on public “participation” in the planning process and the “transparency” of the process. But in general, developers and landowners play a disproportionate role in urban planning because their interests are concentrated and motivated by the economic windfall offered by such plans. By contrast, most of my neighbors in Dominion Woods, just outside the CBC, have been disengaged until recently. Nor was any representative of the PTA invited to join the planning meetings, though the comprehensive plan will clearly have an adverse impact on local schools. If more McLean residents were aware of the particulars of the comprehensive plan, including the substantial burdens the plan will impose on them, I doubt there would be much community support for the plan.

Among the burdens that the plan would impose are more crowded schools and longer commutes. Since we moved to McLean nine years ago, largely attracted by the schools and

commute, the quality of the schools, particularly McLean High School and Longfellow Middle School, has deteriorated, largely due to overcrowding. Our neighbors have few kind words for McLean High. By adding 6,000 to 8,000 new residents, the comprehensive plan could only worsen the school overcrowding problem, and the plan's promise to conduct a study of overcrowding after half of the new units have been constructed is mere window dressing. There is apparently no money or political will to alleviate school overcrowding now, so conducting a study of the problem after it has been worsened by an influx of new students is no solution.

Adding 6,000 to 8,000 new residents, and two new hotels, is also sure to extend commutes to and from DC, given that the slightest hiccup on I-495 already causes a five to ten minute delay at the major intersection of Birch, Old Dominion, and Linway Terrace (next to St. John the Beloved Church) as additional traffic is diverted through McLean. Yet, the traffic studies conducted for the comprehensive plan did not consider this intersection or propose any real solutions to increased traffic, other than closing a portion of Elm Street, adding two or three traffic lights, and proposing “ideas” for alleviating traffic on Dolley Madison Boulevard. Before the pandemic, rampant development in Tysons had paralyzed traffic during rush hour. The comprehensive plan now risks wreaking the same havoc on McLean roads, and every minute that commuters spend stuck in traffic is a minute taken away from their families.

When I proposed a moratorium on the construction of residential high-rises overlooking the playground at Franklin Sherman Elementary School, Supervisor Foust made his priorities clear. He responded that any effort to stop such construction would be a “taking” in violation of

the rights of landowners. As a parent with one child at Franklin Sherman and another poised to attend Franklin Sherman, I was disappointed by Supervisor Foust's insensitivity to our legitimate concerns over the prospect of hundreds of strangers with birds-eye views of our children playing during recess. Property rights did not prevent Supervisor Foust from protesting the opening of a gun store next to Franklin Sherman.

In contrast to the burdens likely to be imposed on current residents by the comprehensive plan, there would appear to be little upside. County officials at the community meeting emphasized that the plan does not foresee additional restaurant or shopping options in McLean. It is about building multiple five, six, seven, and ten story residential high rises in exchange for some tiny parks, a paved meeting place, and beautified streets, largely aimed at the new residents. Residents who believe that the comprehensive development plan will transform McLean into a Mosaic District or Clarendon in their backyards are destined to be sorely disappointed.

If the quality of life enjoyed by current McLean residents is to be preserved, major changes must be made to the comprehensive plan. First and foremost, the plan should permit the construction of no more than 960 residential units over the next ten years, not the 2,500 additional units envisioned under the current plan. A study conducted by Streetsense, a consultant to the county, concluded that the McLean CBC could reasonably accommodate no more than 960 new units. Adhering to this limit would go a long way towards mitigating the worst effects of development on schools and traffic. In addition, residential high rises should not be permitted next to Franklin Sherman, and additional

SEE SUPPORT, PAGE 7

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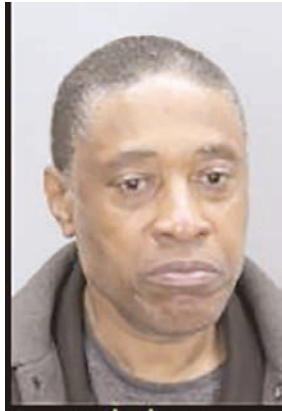
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The stolen jewelry and other property recovered.



Linwood Massie Jr.

Town of Vienna Police Arrests Burglary Suspect

On Monday, March 15, at approximately 10:30 p.m., the Vienna Police Department started receiving calls about a male pulling on doors, possibly trying to enter businesses in the area. Officers began their search of the area, when around 11:25 p.m., they were dispatched to the Christ Church Vienna for a man who entered the building through a window. The man fled the area before police arrived. Officers kept checking the area and found open doors to two other businesses, but nothing appeared missing.

Officers continued their investigation and tracking the suspect when, at approximately 1 a.m., a citizen called 911 to report that an unknown African-American male had entered their home and bedroom while sleeping. The husband confronted the suspect, who fled the house and headed in an eastbound direction toward the W&OD trail.

Officers immediately saturated the area and tracked the suspect on the trail, where he refused to stop and

hid in the woods and thick grass. The suspect eventually made his way across the street to the Navy Federal Headquarters' parking garage, where Vienna Officers apprehended him.

The arrested was identified as Linwood Massie Jr., 58, of no fixed address. Linwood was charged with two counts of Unlawful Entry and two counts of Burglary With Intent To Commit Larceny. Through the officers' diligent work that night and the continuing investigation into the next day, officers were also able to connect a BB&T credit/debit card he had stolen from one of the businesses and was on his person at the time of the arrest.

The Town of Vienna Police wanted to thank citizens who called that night and provided information on the suspect. Vienna Police are also asking the public assistance in identifying any of the attached recovered property. If you believe you have information about this case, contact Vienna Police at 703-255-7845.

Seven Displaced After Vienna House Fire

On Tuesday, March 16, at 6:04 p.m., units from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department were dispatched for a reported house fire in the 9700 Meadowlark Road in Vienna.

Units arrived on scene of a large single-family home with heavy fire and smoke showing. A second alarm was requested. Crews worked diligently to get the fire under control. There were no civilian injuries. Unfortunately, one cat perished in the fire. One firefighter suffered minor injuries and was transported to a local hospital where they were later released.

Three occupants were home at the time of the fire. One of the occupants smelled smoke. Upon further investigation, the occupant saw smoke and fire coming from the basement. All occupants self-evacuated and called 9-1-1. Three dogs also escaped the fire unharmed.

Fire Investigators determined



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Damages as a result of the fire were approximately \$378,750.

that the fire was accidental in nature and started in the basement. The cause of the fire was combustible materials too close to the operating fireplace.

The Red Cross is assisting the seven occupants who were displaced because of the fire. Damages as a result of the fire were approximately \$378,750.

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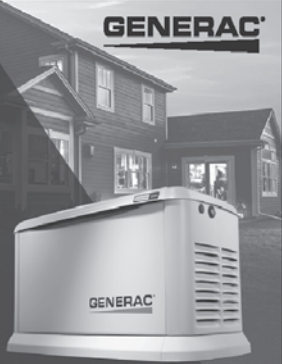
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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

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MMR Ventures LLC trading as Roots Provisions & Grocery, 8100E Old Dominion Dr, McLean, VA 22102. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a (1) Wine and Beer On and Off Premises and (2) Mixed Beverage On Premises licenses to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Anne Alfano, Manager Roots Provisions & Grocery authorizing advertisement. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

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Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

Questions?

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CALENDAR

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.

George Washington's Mount Vernon, the home to America's first president, features four bountiful gardens to explore and enjoy. In addition, experience wide-open spaces, wooded landscapes, and a quarter-mile-long forest trail - not to mention the vast educational resources available on site.

MARCH 20-APRIL 17

The 2021 Vienna Photo Show will be on display at the Vienna Community Center March 20 through April 17. The exhibit will be open 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays. Applications to the annual photo show will be accepted 3-8 p.m. Thursday, March 18, and 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, March 19. The entrance fee is \$5. Assigned drop-off times will be staged in 10-minute intervals to allow for social distancing and to keep the number of people in the Vienna Community Center at one time to a minimum. Due to space limitations, only 62 photographers will be accepted into this year's competition, and each photographer will be limited to one photo in the exhibit. Applications to the annual photo show will be accepted 3-8 p.m. Thursday, March 18, and 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, March 19. The entrance fee is \$5. Assigned drop-off times will be staged in 10-minute intervals to allow for social distancing and to keep the number of people in the Vienna Community Center at one time to a minimum. All participants are asked to wear a face covering and practice social distancing at all times when in the community center. Ribbons will be awarded in seven categories: animals, architecture, nature, pictorial, photojournalism, portraiture, and scenic. Visit viennava.gov/photo to register and for additional instructions and details.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 24

The Unruly Theatre Project's Virtual Improv Show. 7 p.m. Sponsored by The Alden. Join us for (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 online at www.aldentheatre.org. <call>Wednesday/March 24

Spring Art for Adults. 12 - 1:15 p.m. Instructor Carol Zeitlin, drawing, watercolor, Chinese Brush and portfolio development. Visit www.czartlessons.com for more. Call 703-250-6930.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 24

Green Festival. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Via Zoom. Presented by Northern Virginia Community College. The theme for this year's event is "Restore the Earth: A Discussion of the Interconnections and Relationships Between Humans and Natural Processes." The festival will be a combination of presentations and panel discussions. Ideally, it will help the audience recognize ways they can conserve resources, promote change, and make a difference as individuals. More information and Zoom registration links at www.nvcc.edu/green-festival/2021

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 24

NVCC 2021 Green Festival. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Via Zoom. The theme for this year's event is "Restore the Earth: A Discussion of the Interconnections and Relationships Between Humans and Natural Processes." The purpose of NOVA's Annual Green Festival is to increase awareness of regional, national, and global environmental issues and provide information regarding ways that individuals can help preserve the environment. The festival will be a combination of presentations and panel discussions. Visit www.nvcc.edu/green-festival/2021

THURSDAY/MARCH 25

Monticello's African-American History. 7-8 p.m. Via Reston Regional Zoom. Public historian Niya Bates for a talk about her work on Monticello's Getting Word African American Oral History Project. Ms. Bates will share research and photographs from Monticello and answer questions after her talk. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/7510799>

MARCH 26-APRIL 3

"Dear Elizabeth." Presented by The Vienna Theatre Company. The play by Sarah Ruhl is drawn from one of the greatest correspondences in literary history between two of the 20th century's most brilliant American poets, Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell. Sarah Ruhl adapts more than 400 published letters spanning decades, continents and political eras, tells the tale of an unconventional friendship and intimacy both platonic and romantic, and brings it all to life on the stage. This moving, innovative play starts in 1947, ends in 1977 and describes a love that resists easy definition. The performance will be filmed live and aired online as follows: Friday and Saturday - March 26 and 27, April 2 and 3 evenings at 7:30 p.m. Ticket Prices: \$15. Purchase online at <https://vtc.booktix.com>.

FRIDAY/MARCH 26

Old Firehouse Family Event. 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! To register, visit: www.oldfirehouse.org or call 703-448-8336, TTY: 711.

Support Right Size McLean

FROM PAGE 4

traffic studies must be conducted on the impact of the plan on traffic choke points beyond the CBC.

I would urge everyone concerned about the comprehensive plan to e-mail Supervisor Foust and Chairman McKay, and to

support Right Size McLean, a coalition of neighborhood associations opposed to the current plan. Our political representatives need to do a better job balancing the interests of current residents, who support sensible redevelopment, against the interests of developers hellbent on transforming McLean into an urbanized dystopia.

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Time Will Tell



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Ordinarily I'd be writing this column this weekend - after this week's events. Events, and I use that term loosely, that will either sustain my good fortune - or change it for the worse. What I'm referring to are results from my bi-monthly/quarterly diagnostic scans. This week I'll be CT-scanned from the pelvis to the neck and will have had my bones' scanned as well. The associated lab work and blood pressure check required pale in comparison to the significance of the findings from these two scans. Scan results which will tell me how I feel, a day or two later when I will receive electronically the radiologist's assessment/interpretation of the scans. But since I'll be out of town, with limited computer access and only a "stupid" phone (no internet capability), not a smart phone to use, I'll be left to my own devices - literally, until I return home Sunday afternoon.

Since I'll likely not receive any results before we leave on Friday, and moreover, not have the time to write a column this coming weekend (last weekend when the paper publishes on the 24th), I am minding my own business six days earlier than usual in hopes that what I don't know now won't hurt me later. And given that I take my avocation/column writing seriously, rather than reprint an old column, I am writing a new/current column in advance to continue to lead you regular readers down my garden's path.

The path to which I refer hopefully will be a path of least resistance that will enable me to assimilate all my forthcoming medical data into some coherent assessment of where I am, healthwise. Will I be able to maintain my status quo: 10 MG of levamisole or will I have to change protocols and no longer stay on the horse that brought me? I have to hope I can continue on at my present pace because the 14 MG and 24 MG doses each had unpleasant side effects which lead to the reductions in the first place. And to complicate the dose possibilities, each of the higher doses lead to stable/some shrinkage on the CT scan and a significant reduction as well in my cancer markers, down from 200 to 4. This will be my first scan since I've taken the smaller dose. To say I'm somewhat invested in the outcome of this week's scans would be the understatement of the universe.

Unfortunately, none of this information will likely have been emailed to me - at home before we leave town, and I'll not have time and place to write a column this weekend while out of town. Therefore, I am submitting this column, written six days ahead of my typical deadline, with the best of intentions. In effect, today becomes just another day ("the daze of my life") of a person undergoing treatment for an incurable form of cancer; that type being papillary thyroid cancer stage IV versus the original/indisputable diagnosis: non small cell lung cancer, stage IV.

It will definitely be awkward knowing that diagnostic information about my health/presumptive welfare is in an inbox waiting for my log-in information. It's hardly ideal, but as a long-time cancer survivor, I have been here before and have done that. I'm not thrilled about being away when my life might possibly be hanging in the balance. I guess that's what cell phones are for: reaching out and sort of touching someone. If my doctors really need to talk with me, they are welcome to call. You can be sure my phone will be fully charged and with me at all times. After all, it might be good news, too. I mean, stranger things have happened: being diagnosed with "terminal" lung cancer after never having smoked cigarettes. Granted, upwards of 25% of new lung cancer cases are never-smokers, but still, with no history of cancer in my family and never having been a smoker, I kind of figured I had a fighting chance to avoid this disease. I guess my reward is 12+ years after my initial "13 month to two year" prognosis, I'm still alive and writing.

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



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1566 Great Falls Street, McLean
**FABULOUS* 4BR/4.5 BA colonial home on 3 levels with a loft in sought-after Hunting Ridge location! This beautiful home includes wonderful gourmet kitchen with brand new stainless steel appliances; freshly painted; refinished hardwood floors; lovely deck off the kitchen - perfect for entertaining; large LL rec room with new carpeting, plus guest room, full bath and storage; gorgeous owner's suite with luxury bath featuring quartz counters, separate shower and soaking tub; upper level laundry; 2-car garage; super location - McLean HS pyramid!*

1276 Beverly Road, McLean
**BEAUTIFUL* and *EXPANSIVE* 4BR/2.5 BA colonial home on 3 fin levels in convenient McLean location! Dramatic 2-story foyer; hwd floors on main level; gourmet island kitchen w/ breakfast bar and nook; inviting family room off-kitchen w/ vaulted ceiling, stone hearth fireplace and French door walkout to covered patio; elegant living and formal dining rooms; main level library/office; huge owner's suite with vaulted ceiling and luxury bath; large additional bedrooms; finished lower level includes huge rec room plus office/den, built-ins, wet bar & full bath. Located in the heart of McLean! Langley HS pyramid!*

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