

Officially announced graduates, the Langley High School Class of 2021 throws their caps in the air, symbolically ending a chapter in the graduates' lives.

# A Rollercoaster Ride for Langley High Grads

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON / THE CONNECTION



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# Decision Time for Virginia Democrats

## Democratic Party Primary Tuesday, June 8: Initial voter turnout low but enthusiasm high.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**V**oters across Fairfax County headed to the polls Tuesday, June 8, to cast their votes in person at the Democratic Party Primary.

Initial voter turnout appeared low. Shortly after the polls opened at 6 a.m., Rebecca Burton stood outside Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2, located at the Herndon Community Center. With no voters in sight, she said, "I'm going to be catching up on a lot of reading." At Precinct 222 Reston No. 3, located at the Lake Anne Community Center, only a handful of voters had cast their ballots one hour into the election.

Precinct 304 McLean witnessed a similarly low turnout at Cooper Middle School. "This morning, as of 8:21, a very enthusiastic ten voters," said Stew Lingley, Chief Election Officer. He attributed the apparent decrease in primary voters to increased absentee/early voting and no excuse needed for eligible voters to cast an absentee/mail-in ballot.

Anne Whipple at Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library said election officials were all trying to figure out "how much early voting was the right amount." Greg Stolp, Precinct 214 Vienna No. 2 Vienna Community Center said early voting turnout there was "a little lighter." "It's understandable since there is only one party."

Voters who cast ballots on June 8 voiced various reasons for doing so. Teacher Jeanine Everett of Great Falls said she voted that day because it was important to show her students everyone needed to participate in government. "We've been cooped up too long and we're forgetting we are neighbors," she said.

Elena Lowe of Great Falls said she preferred voting in person. "This seems easier."



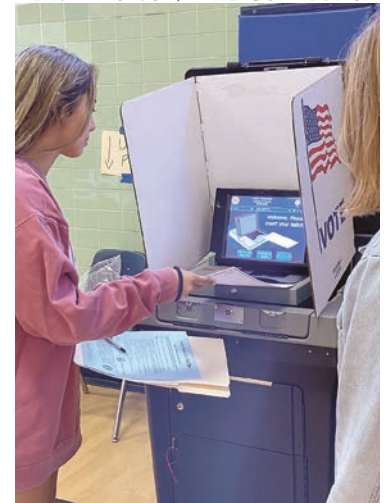
**Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2- Election Official volunteer Ashley Yea says, "I think it is important to be part of the democratic process."**



**Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2- Rebecca Burton says she has not voted yet but would be there all day volunteering. "Optimistically, I'm supporting Jennifer McClellan-super qualified; Sam Rasoul - a uniter, Mark Herring, and Irene Shinn."**



**Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2-Parents of Irene Shinn, Candidate for VA HD86 install her political signs outside the polling place. Asked why voters should cast their ballot for Shinn, Jenin Shinn said, "Because Irene will stand up for what is right."**



**Precinct No. 304 Cooper McLean-Caitlin Nguyen of McLean votes in her first Democratic Party Primary Election.**

For Carol Rieger of Great Falls, learning about the candidates proved vital and waiting for the June 8 primary gave her time to research them.

Caitlyn Nguyen of McLean said she was voting on June 8 because she had just learned about the primary, and it was her first time voting in one.

Whipple said she was glad the Democratic Party held a primary even though they "can be messy, confusing, and tempers short." "But after tonight, we'll all be united behind our candidates. We believe in a multitude of voices deciding who will represent us in the General Election [on November 2]," she said.

As reported by Election officials, the total number of votes cast June 8 at the polling places:

- ❖ Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2-110 at 11:20 a.m.
- ❖ Precinct 222 Reston No. 3-88 voters at 11:02 a.m.
- ❖ Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library - 74 voters at 11:36 a.m.
- ❖ Precinct No. 304 Cooper McLean-40 voters as of 11:36 a.m.
- ❖ No reply from Precinct 214 Vienna No. 2 Vienna Community Center



**Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library -- Great Falls voters (from left) Elena Lowe and Carol Rieger of Great Falls, prepare to cast their ballots at the County of Fairfax Democratic Party Primary Tuesday, June 8**



**Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library - Jeannine Everette of Great Falls votes to show her students it is important to participate in the democratic process.**



**Precinct No. 304 Cooper McLean - a voter shows her license before receiving her ballot.**



**Precinct 214 Vienna No. 2 Vienna Community Center- The polling place is empty 3.5 hours into the County of Fairfax Democratic Party Primary Tuesday, June 8**



**Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library - No lines early Tuesday morning at the County of Fairfax Democratic Party Primary Tuesday, June 8**



## Langley High Graduates Reflect on Graduating in Pandemic Time and the Next Chapter of Their Lives

As the Langley High School graduate candidates lined up for their Commencement Exercises at Jiffy Lube Live in Bristow, Va., on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, The Connection asked random groups of students three questions: How do you feel graduating in the pandemic time? Where do you go next? Where do you see yourself five years from now?

— MERCIA HOBSON

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION



**Lauren Ibarguen of Great Falls** said she felt good about graduating during the pandemic. She added, “I’m going to Virginia Tech.”



**Holden Smith of Great Falls:** “I feel exuberant and am so hyped to be finally done with school.” Holden said he is going to Kansas University.



**William Healey of McLean:** “Graduating from the pandemic has been tough, but we made it work. William will be attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Ariz. As for where he sees himself five years from now, William said, “I see myself in the United States Air Force.”



**Audry Anikeeff of McLean:** “I feel we accomplished a lot with a bad hand.” Audry plans on attending Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. From there, “in the [United States] Army.”



**Alden Miller of McLean:** “I’m super excited. It feels like I survived something big.” Alden will attend James Madison University in Harrisonburg. In five years, she sees herself “hopefully graduating JMU.”

## Abrar

BY CHARLES CHILDERS

*A poem in support of Fairfax County School Board member Abrar Omeish.*

She has given birth to an inspired generation of Virginians,  
And when they acquire this nation it requires no explanation,  
Their grit and determination,  
Was transpired from her dedication,

To lift and motivate,  
Work swift and advocate,

For a new gift to cultivate,  
A world in which all feel safe to celebrate,  
Speak of the state of change which changes our state.

She exists to demonstrate,  
That a hijab wearing Muslim can elevate and educate,  
People try to push down on her like a paperweight on a paper plate,  
But she refuses to fluctuate.

Hate holds no place in the hearts of Virginians.  
So no matter your biased, one-sided opinions,  
Hate not where three wise men once followed a star,  
Hate not Muslims, Jews, and Christians, and hate not Abrar.



## COMMENTARY

# June Is the Deadliest Month for Teen Drivers

Parental involvement urged to prevent underage drinking this summer.

Counting the facts that June is the single deadliest month of the year when it comes to teen driving and that summer's arrival also ushers in that contiguous period (May - August) when the greatest number of U.S. teen traffic deaths occur [i], a Washington-metropolitan area alcohol education group is urging parental involvement to combat both teen drinking and drunk driving this summer.

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is providing area parents of teens with "Ten Tips for Prevents to Prevent Underage Drinking" (which are available as a downloadable and or printable pdf at [wrap.org/tips2021.pdf](http://wrap.org/tips2021.pdf)). WRAP's ten annual summer tips, designed to inform Greater Washington parents on how best to deter teen drinking during the dangerous summer months, include:

**Understand the Dangers...** Drinking underage not only increases the chances of dependency later on in life but also leads to short and long-term consequences as well as leading to other risky behaviors.

**Know the Law...** The District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia all have zero-tolerance laws, making it illegal to consume, possess or purchase alcohol under the age of 21.

**Be a Role Model...** Parents should be role models to their teens and make sure their own behaviors are appropriate. Use alcohol moderately, serve as a responsible host and never drink and drive.

**Know your Liability...** In most cases, it's unlawful for parents to allow their children's friends to consume alcohol in their home. Parents or adults may face criminal charges later on if these same "friends" are involved in a crash.

"In 2019, an average of four-dozen teenagers died in U.S. motor vehicle crashes every single day during the summer months (May - August)," said WRAP President Kurt Erickson. "For too many parents, unfortunately, summer's unstructured time may also be a deadly time for their teenage children and their friends."

In 2018, 24-percent of young drivers (ages 15 to 20 years old) killed in U.S. crashes had been drinking (with a blood alcohol concentration [BAC] level of 0.01 grams/deciliter or higher according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). That same year, nearly one-in-five (19%) young drivers killed in U.S. traffic crashes has a BAC of 0.08 g/dL or higher.[ii]

According to the 2020 Monitoring the Future survey sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, alcohol remains the "substance most widely used by today's teenagers." In addition, the most recent national survey of adolescent drug use reports increases in binge drinking amongst all three surveyed age groups (8th, 10th and 12th grade students).[iii]

In addition to its tips for parents to deter underage and drunk driving this summer, WRAP also encourages parents to be aware of social networks which their children use. Party promoters often prey on youth via social media sites and by promising a good time and access to alcohol for a fee, according to WRAP.

"Make no mistake about it, parents play an integral role in when and if their children drink alcohol," said Erickson. "These tips are simply meant to reinforce their efforts to foster a healthy and safe summer for them and their teenage children."

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area.

Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization's popular free safe ride service for would-be drunk drivers, Sober-Ride®. For more information, visit WRAP's web site at [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org).

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Principal Kimberly Greer presents the Principal's Award to Brook Van Beuren.



James Sykes, Assistant Principal, Senior Class Administrator presents the Faculty Award to Lily Fowler.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION  
Senior line up for the Presentation of Diplomas.

# A Rollercoaster Ride for the Langley High Grads

Saxons learn life lessons during the pandemic.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Langley High School held its Commencement Exercises on June 2 at Jiffy Lube Live in Bristow, Va. Class of 2021 officers moderated the program beginning with Fatima Mahdi, who presented the welcome. Mahdi said she felt overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude because the Class of 2021 was there to celebrate their accomplishments in a year where commencement and celebration had been foreign.

"But we are here, sitting in person, one last time together...Our memories will remain with us forever," said Mahdi.

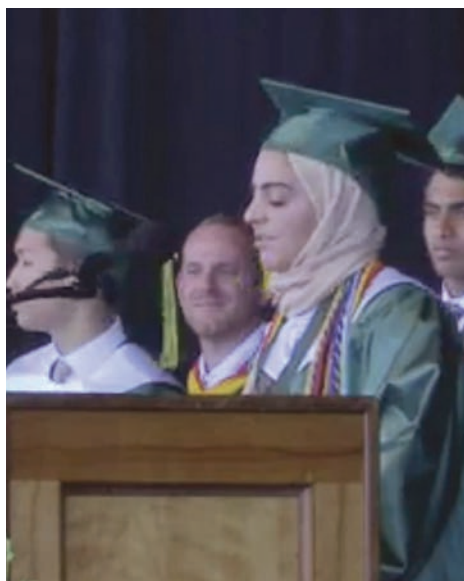
Ritvik Chennupati led all in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced the Langley High School Madrigals, Class of 2021, led by Dr. Mac L. Lamber, Choral Director.

In a moment of silence, Grant Kim remembered those who could not be there that day. He recognized two members of the Class of 2021 who had committed to defending our nation. "Vera Martinez...will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy, and Genevieve Middleton will be attending the U.S. Coast Guard Academy," Kim said.

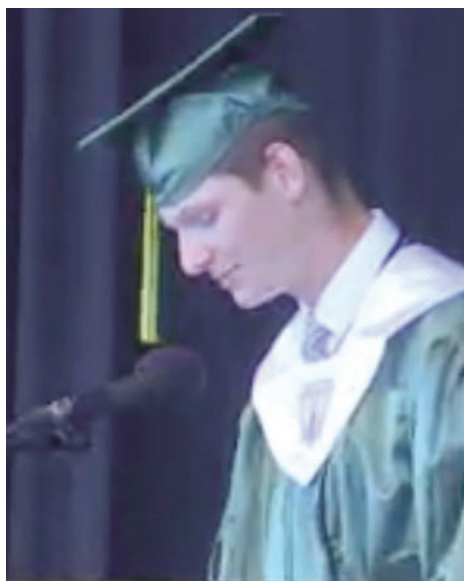
Holden Smith introduced his fellow Class officers and Class sponsors Michelle Huang and Jay O'Rourke. Ellison Soobert introduced honored guests, including Scott Brand, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools, and Elaine Tholen, Dranesville District School Board Member.

In her Student Address, Devron Johnson said there were 531 Langley graduates in the Class of 2021. All experienced the Saxon life differently, but everyone found that life was not always easy, and things would never be handed to them. "But it is worth the time and effort spent...We have never been told to shy away from a challenge but rather to embrace things that scare us."

In the Principal's Message, Kimberly Greer said the Class of 2021 achieved beyond anyone's wildest dreams, excelling in all areas of academia, on the stage, and fields. "You have made Saxon country proud. We thank you for the rich legacy that you are leaving behind...and have left very big shoes for suc-



Senior Fatima Mahdi gives the Welcome.



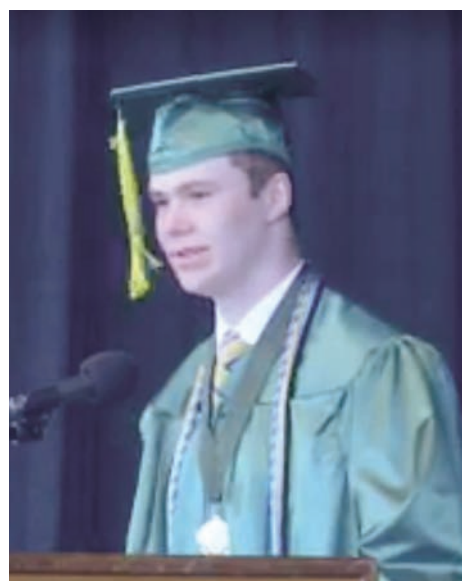
Senior Holden Smith introduces fellow Class of 2021 Officers.

ceeding classes to fill."

Greer presented the Principal's Award to Brook Van Beuren, a student who remained ready to give every task for broadcast journalism her best effort. "She loved being part of the team...and a natural in front of the camera...This student never broke a sweat.



Senior Ritvik Chennupati leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.



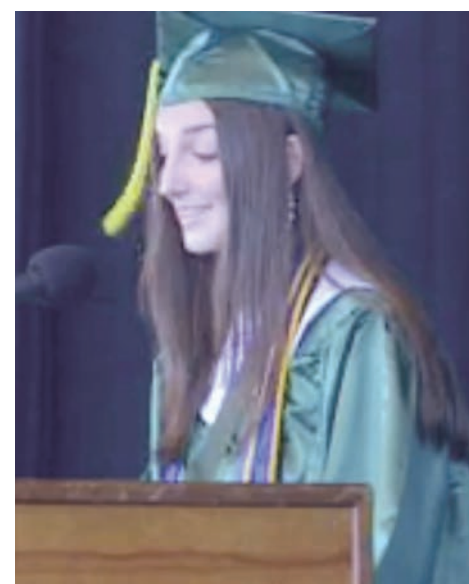
Ellison Soobert introduces honored guests.

She remained calm and confident and excited to bring the Langley community the top news of the day," Greer said.

James Sykes, Assistant Principal, Senior Class Administrator, presented the Faculty



Senior Ritvik Chennupati leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Senior Devron Johnson introduces Principal Kimberly Greer.

Award to Lily Fowler. Throughout her four years at Langley, Fowler modeled what it meant to be a team player both in and outside the classroom.

Finally, the moment everyone had been waiting for, the Presentation of Diplomas and Principal Greer's words, "I hereby confirm that the seniors of the Class of 2021, whose names have been presented to me, are now graduates. Congratulations."

The Langley High School Graduation on Livestream can be viewed online.



# 1st Stage Returns to Live Theatre with 'A New Brain'

PHOTOS COURTESY 1ST STAGE

Performance at a special outdoor location; The Boro at Tysons.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

After more than a year of limits on live indoor entertainment with live audiences, the award winning 1st Stage will return to live performance with a special concert edition of "A New Brain" by William Finn and James Lapine.

"The 1st Stage Board and I are very excited to be able to bring the joy of theater back to our communities. Storytelling around the fire is as old an art form as it gets and as indelibly a part of the human experience as it gets," said Jack Wilbern, Board President, 1st Stage. "Come see us in the real world - or streaming - for this reawakening of theater in Tysons."

"We've been looking forward to bringing live theatre back to our beloved audiences," said Alex Levy, Artistic Director, 1st Stage. This live performance will be the first since February 2020, when performing arts venues shuttered themselves due to health and safety concerns due to the pandemic.



Boro Park, Tysons, site of the 1st Stage performance of "A New Brain."

## Where and When

1st Stage presents concert reading of "A New Brain" on June 27, 2021 at 5 p.m. Through a partnership with The Meridian Group, this special event will be performed outdoors at Boro Park, 8350 Broad Street (in The Boro development), Tysons. This location is down the street from the 1st Stage physical theatre venue. Free livestream tickets and sponsorships with in-person tickets are available. Individual in-person tickets are also available. 1st Stage will be following CDC, State and Fairfax County health and safety requirements. Tickets and information at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org). Note: In the instance of rain, this event will move to livestream only.

The 1st Stage celebration will center on the concert reading of "A New Brain." It is a musical about hope, recovery, and finding

the light even under the threat of illness. The story focuses on a lyricist and musician, career in the doldrums, who discovers, through his recovery from a life-threatening brain disease, how sweet his life has been.



Alex Levy, Artistic Director, First Stage



Jack Wilbern, Board President, First Stage

Asked what audiences can expect at the concert reading of "A New Brain," Levy indicated an "immensely talented cast telling the story of overcoming health fears and returning to life with a new understanding of love, community and connection...I am so proud to share it with our community as we remerge and remember the power of art and shared experience."

Founded in 2009, 1st Stage has received multiple Helen Hayes Awards (HHA) for outstanding theatre excellence in the DC metropolitan area. In the fall of 2020, 1st Stage received four HHA awards for its pre-pandemic production of "The Brothers Size" and one for its co-production of "The Royale" with Maryland's Olney Theater Center.

Celebrate the return of safe live theatre at 1st Stage with "A New Brain."

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### FRIDAY/JUNE 11

Blood Drive. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Heart of Gold Foundation Closing the Sickle Cell Gap Blood Drive. The Sickle Cell Foundation of Northern Virginia and the Red Cross are recruiting people of color to register to donate blood at this special drive. Blood given to patients with rare blood types or conditions such as sickle cell disease must be matched closely with someone from the same race to avoid complications. Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor word: HEARTOFGOLD, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) Eligibility Questions: Call 1-866-236-3276.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 12

Join Cub Scouts. 12-2 p.m. At St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 VA-193, Great Falls. Children in grades K-5: bring your parents to learn about the adventure of Cub Scouts and be part of Pack 55! Cub Scouts is a year-round family program. Visit the website: <https://www.gfvscouts.com/>

### SUNDAY/JUNE 13

2021 and Beyond. 2-4 p.m. Online. Humankind collectively experienced a "shutdown" during 2020 due to Covid-19. Change was thrust upon us, welcomed or not. From 2021-2029, humankind is due its spiritual assignment. All choices made in 2020 will bear fruit according to one's consciousness. Cost is \$10. Visit the website: <https://www.meetup.com/IANDS-Northern-Virginia/events/278256864/>

### SUNDAY/JUNE 13

Concert on the Green. 6-8 p.m. At the Village Green, behind the Old Brogue, Great Falls. Featuring The Mike Terpak Blues Explosion. Sponsored by the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 19

Liberty Amendments Kick-Off. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 450 Orchard Street, NW, Vienna. The 2021 June-teenth Celebration will include the Inaugural Liberty Amendments Month Ceremony at 11 a.m., live music, kids' performers, vendors featuring black owned businesses and craft vendors, civic organizations, food trucks, and a book give away for kids. The event will be live-streamed on Town and First Baptist social media. First Baptist Church will be holding a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic during the event.

### WEDNESDAY/JUNE 23

Build Back-Dream Forward. 8:30-10 a.m. Zoom webinar. Build Back - Dream Forward: Strengthening Minority-Owned Businesses in Northern Virginia. This upcoming report offers key findings and concrete recommendations for an equitable recovery across our region. Visit the website: <https://www.cfnova.org/register/bbdf-minority-owned-businesses>

### GREAT FALLS SUMMER ART CAMP

WEEK 1 — June 14-18  
Photography for Middle & High Schoolers with Joe Willmore Ages 12-18; Session 1a — 9:30am-

12:30pm details/ register  
Comic Strips with Bud Little Ages 8-14; Session 1b — 1:30-4:30pm details/ register  
WEEK 2 — June 21-25  
Manga [Japanese Anime] with Michela Mansuino Ages 8-12; Session 2a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register  
Manga [Japanese Anime] with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 2b — 1:30-12:30pm details/ register  
WEEK 3 — June 28-July 2  
Paper Mache Sculpture and Mask Painting with Michela Mansuino Ages 8-14; Session 3a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register  
Paper Mache Sculpture and Mask Painting with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 3b — 1:30-12:30pm details/ register  
WEEK 4 — July 6-9  
Color Study in Oil Paints with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 4a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register  
Color Study in Oil Paints with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 4b — 1:30-4:30pm details/ register  
WEEK 5 — July 12-16  
Cartooning with Bud Little Ages 8-14; Session 5a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register  
Photography for Middle & High Schoolers with Joe Willmore Ages 12-18; Session 5b — 1:30-4:30pm details/ register  
WEEK 6 — July 19-23  
Classical Drawing with Michela Mansuino Ages 8-12; Session 6a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register



PHOTO BY CAROL WRIGHT

From left: Leslie Brown, Carolyn See and Noelle Brown.

## Great Falls United Methodist Church Recognizes 39 Years of Service

On Sunday, June 6, during the worship service, Great Falls United Methodist Church acknowledged Carolyn See for her time of faithful service to their preschool, church, and community. Carolyn is retiring after serving as Director of Great Falls United Methodist Preschool for thirty-nine faithful years. A retirement prayer and blessing were shared by the congregation. Many of the past and present teachers were present. Carolyn's daughter, Leslie Brown and granddaughter Noelle Brown had both been past students and teachers at Great Falls United Methodist Preschool.





PHOTO BY DIEGO VALDEZ

This space for a McLean home, created by architect Rolando Valdez of Bethesda firm GMT Architects, boasts a floor to ceiling fireplace.



PHOTO BY JACKIE ROBBINS

Throw pillows in vibrant shades of blue add a burst of color to this front porch designed by Maria Fanjul of Cabin John, Md. firm Anthony Wilder Design/Build.

## Style for the Great Outdoors

Designers see uptick requests for porches and other outdoor spaces.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**A**longing to spend more time outside after a year-and-a-half spent inside is driving a trend in home design, including an uptick in requests for projects like screened porches and patios.

"This past year, homeowners were interested in creating gathering spaces that offered opportunities to be outside, said designer Susan Matus. "I think that we will continue to see the interest in screen porches grow as many spent more time outdoors during the pandemic."

When owners of Cabin John, Maryland residence decided to update their front porch, they tasked designer Maria Fanjul of Cabin John, Md. firm Anthony Wilder Design/Build with the job.

"Because it was an older home, we had to stay within the existing porch's footprint," she said. "In order to draw the eye up, we centered the porch's stairs to align with the front door, raised the porch's roof to allow more natural light into the space and the home, and curved the wood along the gable of the porch's roof."

The space's crisp white columns contrast with the home's deep blue tone, outfitted with neutral furniture. Throw pillows and a rug in bold shades of indigo and yellow add another burst of color. The overall look is clean and calming. "The owners now have a brighter porch to enjoy," said Fanjul.

While designing a new, custom home in McLean, Va., architect Rolando Valdez created a back porch that offers a seamless transition from the home's interior to its natural surroundings. "There are arched openings that mimic those found inside [and] provide a clear look at the pool and pa-



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

This backyard porch by Susan Matus of Case Design/Remodeling offers a view of the home's wooded backyard.

tio beyond," said Valdez of Bethesda firm GMT Architects.

The space is consistent with the overall style of the home which was inspired by those found along the New England coast. "The porch embraces the colors of the home's pastel blue shingles and white trim," said Valdez. The space is outfitted with vaulted ceilings, a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace and flagstone floor that leads to the deck with built-in grill.

When adding a porch to an existing home, Matus and architect Vicente Neto, both of Case Design/Remodeling, worked to create a space that was compatible with the style of the home's interior while also offering views of the wooded backyard.

"We wanted the porch to be accessible but also not block views from the dining room, kitchen or bedrooms on the second floor,"

said Matus. "The porch can be entered directly from the family room."

"Homeowners now realize how valuable and special the additional gathering space of a porch really is."

**"This past year, homeowners were interested in creating gathering spaces that offered opportunities to be outside."**

— Susan Matus



Residents can bring their garbage and recycling to the parking lot of Great Falls Elementary School on Saturdays between 8 a.m. and noon.

PHOTO  
CONTRIBUTED

## That Thing We Do in Great Falls: Hauling the Trash

BY DOUG HARBRECHT

**C**an you guess the oldest community tradition in Great Falls? Annual Fourth of July parade? Farmer's market at the Village Green? Lighting of the Christmas Tree?

Nope. It's the weekly ritual where residents can bring their garbage and recycling to the parking lot of Great Falls Elementary School on Saturdays between 8 a.m. and noon. Known as the "parkout," this low-cost garbage disposal service has been around since the 1930s, when Great Falls was nothing but farms, a firehouse, and Buck's general store. In 2003, Fairfax County transferred operations to a local non-profit, run by unpaid community volunteers.

Still here and going strong. And now is a great time to sign up for a one-year permit, which runs from July 1 until June 30, 2022. Visit [greatfallsparkout.com](http://greatfallsparkout.com) for details.

What's in it for you? Plenty.

❖ **Good for Your Wallet:** Annual service costs only \$330—half of what most commercial curbside pickup services charge. You don't need a pickup truck. Plenty of folks pack the backs of their SUVs and sedans (Make as many trips as you need). I raised three kids hauling them along with the trash to the parkout every Saturday morning, followed by a visit to the 7-11 for a treat. Even the dog knew the routine, and always insisted on coming along in for the ride.

❖ **Good for Your Community:** Much of Great Falls and McLean remains a bucolic tangle of narrow, twisting byways and privately maintained roads—nightmares for big trash trucks to navigate. This has sparked tensions in many neighborhoods and discouraged some

private carriers, driving up prices and complaints about spotty service. Hauling yourself cuts down on road wear and tear and unsightly curbside garbage heaps. The parkout trucks are onsite every Saturday, rain or shine. The only time they're not available is when county schools are closed Friday the day before because of bad weather.

❖ **Good for the Environment:** Yes, the parkout recycles. There are two American Disposal Services trucks—one for trash and one for metal, cardboard, paper and plastic—with a friendly crew of collectors who will do the heavy lifting for you and will try to accommodate most everything, except paint and hazardous materials. Fairfax County has stopped recycling glass, but there are still glass drop-off centers at the Great Falls library and in Baron Cameron Park in Reston.

Membership in the parkout peaked at around 800 residences in the 1980s. Today it stands at 260, more than enough to keep the service going. Why the decline? One reason appears to be a lack of awareness by newcomers. When Carolyn Albert-Garvey, a former school principal, moved to Great Falls two years ago, she was so frustrated by poor commercial service that she kept bringing her trash to her second Arlington home every week for pickup. "I didn't know the parkout existed," she said. Now she's the new president of Dranesville Trash & Recycling Inc., hoping to keep this community tradition going for many more years to come.

*Harbrecht, a retired journalist and 39-year resident of Great Falls, has volunteered as a non paid board member of the parkout for 2021-22.*



# Influencer Marketing is the Next Thing for Products and Businesses

The outfits, dinner recipes, jewelry and selfies on Instagram are part of the process.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

Marketing via social media now has a face, or a bunch of faces in the form of “influencers,” who can get dolled up, sit back and take a selfie wearing the latest, put it out there for the world to see, and collect a paycheck. It’s called “influencer” marketing, and is defined as a form of social media marketing involving endorsements and product placement from influencers who have a purported expert level of knowledge or social influence in their field.

Alexandria resident Heather Mills found her niche with Aldi grocery stores and recipes she’s made and now has 56,000 followers.

“You need to have a passion,” she said, and her passion started with Aldi grocery stores, and then branched out to the food recipes she makes from her Aldi foods. It is a side gig for Mills, and she admits that the swag bags and free samples the companies send her is part of the fun too. Her passion for cooking, food photography and Instagram are enough to keep her at it, and the latest recipe she’s tried is Red Bag Chicken, and now it has “a cult following,” she said. She knows Aldi influencers from all over the country, including Ashley Williams, another Aldi fan who she knows through online contact. “I’ve made some online friends through it,” Mills said. Williams also promotes Aldi things, and they both get incentives through the commercial entities that make the products, not Aldi.

Williams is an influencer with several outlets in addition to Aldi’s including Sam’s Club, and Walmart. “It’s a fantastic way for brands to market their products,” she said. Williams builds an audience and gains their trust by putting out things on Instagram, and that became the basis of her job as an influencer. It’s grown from there. “When you build a relationship with your audience, they trust you when you recommend a product, which is why it is important to maintain their trust and put your word behind only products you really support,” she said via email. “I started Oh Hey Walmart in December 2020, I was already running @ohheysamsclub and @ohheyaldi and really enjoyed it. I felt like Walmart carries some good gems that could be dug up. I learned so much from starting the other two channels, I applied that experience to Oh Hey Walmart and it took off,” Williams said.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

One of the pictures off the Hey Influencers Instagram page.

CSS Innovations, works with the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce marketing department and has seen the influencer culture there too. The influencers have the name, and businesses like big names behind their products. “Social media influencers are not too different from pitch people or celebrities used in advertising or other promotional efforts,” Taylor said. Budgeting for social media influencer marketing would be very similar. “The difference with social media influencer marketing is that the influencer often uses his or her own platform and brand, rather than having the business budget for advertising costs, filming or design production, etc.” Could the influencer expense be a line item in the company’s marketing budget? Taylor has seen this work. “If the business can find a worthy influencer within their space it’s a logical budget item,” she said.

A marketing agency called “Hey Influencers” has a page on Instagram full of influencers doing their stuff. This includes a model with pouty lips and perfect hair showing off a new line of make-up, another taking a selfie in the mirror, and various hats and sunglasses shots at tropical locales. On the page are clips from text conversations: “Crazy how I planned a bunch of stuff to do today but now that it’s raining, I legally cannot” said one. “A parcel a day keeps the sadness away,” said another. This is a conversation of sorts to build familiarity with the reader.

Hey Influencers was started by Gretta van Riel, and used her 16 million combined followers on Instagram to learn how to leverage the power of social media influencers to build a successful brand, their website says. Some of her successes include companies like “SkinnyMe Tea,” “Drop Bottle,” “Skintox Co” and “The 5th Watches.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria influencer Heather Mills loves to share her cooking secrets on Instagram.



Alexandria influencer Heather Mills created this spicy chicken sandwich from Aldi’s ingredients and then posted it to her page, like she has with other recipes.

“When you build a relationship with your audience, they trust you when you recommend a product, which is why it is important to maintain their trust and put your word behind only products you really support.”

— Ashley Williams

## Influencers at the Chamber

Bonnie Taylor, the Chief Marketing Strategist at  
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**James Harvey Falk, Sr., 82**, of Reston, Virginia, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2021, surrounded by his children. He was born on August 17, 1938, in Tucson, Arizona, the youngest of seven children to George Falk and Elsie Laura Higgins Falk. He attended Tucson High School and attended the University of Arizona, graduated from the University of Arizona earning a B.A., where he was also a member of Phi Delta Theta. He received an LLB from the University of Arizona College of Law. He married Bobbie Jo Vest in 1960, whom he met when he was 5 years old. They lived on the same block and their families attended the same church. They later attended the same elementary school, high school, and college before marrying. In 1976, he built a family farm in Great Falls — Cornwell Farm — where the family lived for 40 years. Last year, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Bobbie Jo, the love of his life, passed earlier this year.

Jim was first admitted to the Arizona Bar Association in 1965 and was hired by El Paso Natural Gas. He worked for Senator Barry Goldwater at the 1964 Republican Convention and was an organizer of the Goldwater Girls. In 1966, he was named Assistant City Attorney in Tucson, Arizona, where he served before joining the law firm of Waterfall, Economides, Falk and Caldwell in 1969. He was elected as the first Chairman of the Tucson Transit Authority in 1970.

While chairing the Tucson Transit Authority he met with White House Counsel Ed Morgan, a city attorney and law school friend, and William H. Rehnquist, a Phoenix attorney and later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Morgan and Rehnquist—at the time working at the Justice Department as Counsel—were instrumental in Falk joining the Domestic Council for President Richard Nixon. In 1971, he began in that role working on welfare reform and revenue sharing and he was later promoted to Associate Director of the Domestic Council and Office of Intergovernmental Affairs working with governors and local officials.

Falk became a part of history when asked by President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to lead the Third American Delegation to the People's Republic of China, a bipartisan delegation of governors including Phillip Noel of Rhode Island, Daniel Evans of Washington, Calvin Rampton of Utah, Arch Moore of West Virginia, Robert Ray of Iowa, and Marvin Mandel of Maryland.

Falk served as a Legal and Policy Adviser to newly confirmed Vice President Gerald R. Ford, and later as a Legal and Policy Adviser to then President Ford and the newly appointed Vice President Nelson Rockefeller. In September 1975, Falk was standing with President Ford during two assassination attempts in California.

In 1976, after serving on the Bicentennial Commission, he resigned from his White House position. In a letter to Falk, President Ford said, "You have served with devotion and great distinction and I look forward to your future service." Falk praised President Ford "for restoring the faith of the American people in their government." He then joined the Washington office of international consulting and accounting firm Touche Ross. He later co-founded the law firm of Coffey, McGovern, Noel.

A highly respected and successful Federal Court lawyer, he founded the Falk Law Firm, working with sons James Jr. and John and his wife Bobbie Jo. Jim enjoyed an enviable list of domestic and international clients and was considered one of the top government contracts lawyers in the United States. He also served in advisory roles for the D.C. Bar and As a constitutional law expert for the Less-Than-Lethal Technology Panel of the National Institute of Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice. Falk was very proud of his service as an Adjunct Professor of Law at George Washington University School of Law for 20 years, where he taught along with his sons James Jr. and John. He was a member of the District of Columbia Bar Association, the U.S. Supreme Court Bar Association, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the International Association of Defense Counsel.

In addition to his distinguished professional career, Jim became an avid and winning thoroughbred racehorse breeder and owner, operating Cornwell Farm and Rosebud Racing Stables. He was a long-time member of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association and was awarded the Virginia Thoroughbred Association's Breeder of the Year award and was the proud breeder of, among others, Midwatch, Aix En Provence, Parisiana, Daylight, Daytime, King City, Copper Strike and Bear Down!

James Falk was a proud American Patriot and is survived by his son John M. Falk of Charleston, South Carolina and his daughter Kathryn Falk of Reston, Virginia, along with his grandchildren whom he deeply cherished, Jack M. Falk of San Francisco, California, Olivia G. Falk of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Grayson T. Falk of Vero Beach, Florida, and Julia T. Brandus, of Reston, Virginia, along with his son-in-law Paul Brandus. In addition to being preceded in death by his beloved wife, he is also preceded by his eldest son, James H. Falk, Jr.

A private family service to honor his life will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper-ville, Virginia and he will be laid to rest next to his wife Bobbie Jo and son James Jr. In lieu of Flowers, donations may be made in his memory to Trinity Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 127, 9108 John S. Mosby Highway, Upperville, Virginia 20184 and at <https://trinityuperville.org/give>.

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TEEN Classical Drawing with Michela Mansuino Ages 12-18; Session 6b — 1:30- 4:30pm details/ register

WEEK 7 — July 26-30

Paper Mache Sculpture and Mask Painting with Michela Mansuino Ages 8-12; Session 7a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register

Paper Mache Sculpture and Mask Painting with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 7b — 1:30-4:30pm details/ register

WEEK 8 — August 2-6

Cartooning with Bud Little Ages 8-14; Session 8a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register

New Theme Announced Soon

Session 8b — 1:30- 4:30pm

WEEK 9 — August 9-13

Color Study with Oil Paints with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 9a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register

Color Study with Oil Paints with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 9b — 1:30- 4:30pm details/ register

WEEK 10 — August 17-20

Week 10A: Manga [Japanese Anime] with Michela Mansuino Ages 8-18; Session 10a: 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register

Week 10B: Manga [Japanese Anime] with Michela Mansuino Ages 8-18; Session 10b: 1:30-4:30pm details/ register.

Tuition is \$275 per session plus a supply fee payable to the instructor on the first day. Questions? Contact Director of School Julie Casso at [school@greatfallsart.org](mailto:school@greatfallsart.org)

**TUESDAY/JUNE 15**

Caregivers Support Group. Tuesdays. Virtual via Zoom. Sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia (SCNOVA). SC hosts a support group for caregivers of adult family members with dementia the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Their virtual, facilitated meetings are from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, at [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net) for details on joining the meeting via zoom or to see the SC web site flyer: <https://www.scnova.org/caregivers-support-group>.

**NOW THRU JUNE 10**

Adventures in Learning Mini Semester - a Program of the Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia. Thursday Virtual via Zoom. Shepherd's Center is launching a new mini version of their Adventures in Learning Spring semester. Cost for this 4-week semester is \$30. Upcoming topics include How to Successfully Age in Place, Screening for Diseases, Hiking in Switzerland, Retirement Wellness Checkup, The Unraveling of Syria, and Balancing Federal Labor Relations and Efficient Government. To learn more, please visit <https://www.scnova.org/ail>. Or, call 703-281-0601 to register and provide credit card information.

**TEXT FOR FOOD**

No Kid Hungry Virginia encourages families to text FOOD or COMIDA to 877-877 to find free summer food sites organized by school districts and community organizations. Meal sites are offering a variety of distribution models to help safely connect students with meals and promote social distancing, including "Grab and Go" service and food delivery along bus routes while passing out multiple days' worth of meals at one-time.



# CALENDAR

## FREE SUMMER CONCERTS IN RESTON

Reston Community Center is pleased to announce that free summer concerts will return to venues around Reston beginning in June. Lunchtime with the Arts at Mason – Thursdays in June, Reston Town Square Park. 12:30-1:30 p.m.  
Take a Break – Thursdays, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Lake Anne Plaza  
Summerbration Fab Fridays – 7 – 9 p.m., Reston Station  
Family Fun Entertainment Series – Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., Reston Town Square Park  
Sunday Art in the Park with the Shenandoah Conservatory – Sundays, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m., Reston Town Square Park

## OUR SPECIAL HARBOR OPENS

The Fairfax County Park Authority's Our Special Harbor spray park is now opened. This fully accessible Chesapeake-Bay-themed spray-ground has water features such as a spraying osprey nest, Chessie the sea serpent, misting sunflowers and a lighthouse. The beach area allows for quieter play with softer bubblers and interactive water tables while the computerized water maze and dumping crab basket provide more lively activity. Located at Lee District Park at 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter/lee-district/family-recreation-area>.

## GOLF CAMPS

Join the nationwide resurgence of the classic, lifelong game of golf. Laurel Hill Golf Club and Twin Lakes Golf Course are offering weeklong summer camps taught by professionals from The Eisman Golf Academy. Junior golfers ages 8-14 will learn and improve on golf fundamentals in a fun environment. Class sizes are limited for personalized instruction and camp includes on-course play. Also included are swag bags, hat, games and prizes. Camps will take place at Laurel Hill June 14 -18 and July 12-16, 2021; and at Twin Lakes on June 21-25, July 19-23, and Aug. 9-13, 2021. All camps run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register, visit the Junior Golf Fairfax website.

Laurel Hill Golf Club is located at 8701 Laurel Hill Crest Drive in Lorton. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road in Clifton.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 10

Courtney King. 7-9 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. King's 4-piece rock band will play songs from her latest release, *Feel Good Swiller*, as well as works she co-wrote from her St. Louis band, *Slow Down Scarlett*. King, a classically trained flutist from Chicago, always infuses flute into her performances utilizing guitar pedals and a style similar to that of Jethro Tull.

## JUNE 8 TO JULY 4

Paintings by Rich Moore. At the Loft Gallery, 33 Mill Street, Second Floor, Occoquan. "The skies proclaim the work of His hands." Psalm 19:1 showcases the artistry of versatile landscape oil painter, Rich Moore as he endeavors to reveal a unique glimpse into the magnificence and wonder of the "handiwork of God." Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, Noon-5 p.m. Online Facebook Live Artist's Reception: Friday, June 11, 2021 7:00 pm <https://www.facebook.com/loftgalleryoccoquan>.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 10

Searching for Sully's Enslaved. 7-9 p.m. Zoom. Sully is much more complex than simply the home of the Lee family. Join author Beth Sansbury as she discusses her book, *Searching for Sully's Enslaved*. Contact [PaulHancq@aol.com](mailto:PaulHancq@aol.com) to register. Visit the website: <https://www.historiccentrevilleva.org/historic-centre-ville-society/>

## JUNE 13-JULY 25, SUNDAYS

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. 5 p.m. At McLean Central Park Gazebo  
1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean.  
Sunday, June 13 -- Josh Lovelace;  
Sunday, June 20 -- Lucy Kalantari & the Jazz Cats;

## TUESDAY/JUNE 15

"Duck Harbor" Web Series. 8 p.m. Episode Three. Sponsored by 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. Duck Harbor is a web series about a long-distance love in later life. The piece is brought to audiences through a creative series of short scenes in which the actors, just like the characters, are meeting for the first time. Audiences will get to experience the magic of the theater and the excitement of new love between these two lonely hearts reaching out from charming small towns on opposite sides of the country. Every week, each of the two actors, who live on opposite coasts, will be given only their half of the script and will experience the other side of the story with a sincere and genuine freshness, "on stage," in front of our audience. Performances will take place every Tuesday, beginning on June 1 and ending on August 17. Get your tickets today at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 18

Golf Exhibition. 6 p.m. at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Hill Crest Drive, Lorton. Josh Koch and Justin James, two of the fastest swingers in the world, go head-to-head in a golf hitting exhibition. Watch Koch and James tee off on hole one with club speeds over 150 mph, ball speeds over 225 mph, and balls carrying up to 400 yards. Activities include a long drive contest, swing demonstrations, trick shots, and even crowd participation! You may be selected to pair up with Josh and Justin, so be ready.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 19

The Destruction of Slavery in the Civil War. 3 p.m. Via Zoom. When the Civil War began, African Americans wasted no time fleeing their enslavers and rushing to the Union lines. Their great struggle would end with the destruction of American slavery and the passage of the 13th Amendment. Scholar and author Dr. Richard Bell will touch on these topics during his talk in honor of Juneteenth. This talk will be offered via Zoom. For more information, call Sully Historic Site at 703-437-1794. The talk is sponsored by the Sully Foundation Ltd. Visit: <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/juneteenth>.

## SUMMERFEST AT TYSONS CORNER CENTER

Tysons Corner Center announced its line-up of this season's socially distant happenings. 'SummerFest 2021,' which kicked off this month and will run through October 2021, is filled with six months of activations and events, such as live music, art, fitness, festivals, and more.

Movie Nights, in partnership with AMC Theatre Tysons Corner

First Saturday, Monthly at Sundown

Bingo Night - presented by DC Fray and Barrel and Bushel

Third Thursday Monthly, 6 - 8 p.m.

Art on the Plaza

Final Thursday, Monthly -- Join Tysons Corner Center, Barrel & Bushel, and AR Workshop for a monthly crafting event. Each event will feature seasonal art projects along with applicable retailer pop-ups and an extended happy hour.

The Plaza Live

Thursday-Sunday Weekly starting May 6; 4-7 p.m, Thursday & Friday;

2-7 p.m. Saturday & Sunday. Each week on The Plaza the center will welcome local musicians to perform as well as other live entertainment such as caricature and balloon artists, face painters, etc.

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## The Masks are Off ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... and I suppose life is back on, especially for those of us who have been vaccinated. No more hiding your emotions and expressions behind your face-covering as you once again start interacting with the general public. They can see you and of course, you can see them - and you can hear/understand them, too. Conversations will flow more evenly now that they won't be interrupted by an "Excuse me, I can't understand you," or a "Could you please repeat that?" Conversations that were previously affected by fits and starts will revert back to questions and answers and what abouts. For me, the mask was an impediment to normal conversation. Necessary and prudent during a once-in-a-lifetime, public health emergency, but apparently, the time has come. Previous directives: masks, social distancing, contact tracing, quarantining and vaccinations were all most of us ever talked about. Now with vaccinations getting into more arms, our lives are expanding. From our living room to just plain living.

Though there are still mask-on requirements: in schools, on public conveyances, and in airports, train stations and the like and while obtaining healthcare services, we are now, especially those of us vaccinated, free to return to our previous life, mostly. Soon capacity restrictions will be lifted as our lives, so far as the activities which involve large crowds, both inside and out, can open back up in their entirety. Moreover, social distancing will likewise become a thing of the past. Now, all those round stickers marking six feet of distance as well as the plexiglas dividers will disappear as well. However, individual businesses retain the right to require visitors to mask up. As Bobby Brown used to sing: "That is my prerogative," and so too will businesses have their own prerogative to require patrons - or not, to abide by their mask-wearing requirements.

All of that being said and understood, even though I'm fully vaccinated, I still feel like I should mask-up. From the national vaccination statistics, there are plenty of people who have not yet been vaccinated and/or are unwilling/unconvinced they need to comply. I can't quite understand the "vaccine hesitancy" or the disinterest in following these most recent public health advisories. It seems like such a small, relatively risk-free/preventing risk step to take. I mean, whatever temporary side effects/discomfort one might experience a day or two after the injection pales in comparison to the effect on your body and/or life expectancy contacting the virus might have. I'll take a definite over a maybe anytime.

Besides, I don't want to be responsible for my own demise, or any others for that matter. In this situation, I'm happy/proud to conform to the public health directives. The virus is bigger - and badder, than any one of us; so to be bigger and badder than the virus, literally and figuratively, the more of us who receive the vaccine, the more of us will be able to survive this pandemic and safely embrace our former lives while not fearing the consequences of our inactions.

The other day at my local Giant, I happened to walk by the customer service desk where I heard a customer bragging to an employee about not planning on getting a vaccination, like he was proud of it. What a disconnect! I'm proud to have gotten my vaccination, and I'm equally proud to have participated in a national effort to try and combat the greatest health crisis this country has suffered since the Spanish Flu first infected Americans over 100 years ago.

I just wish more people would put the country ahead of themselves. For all that we're given here, it really doesn't seem too much to ask. In this circumstance, paybacks are not hell, they're heaven.

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





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