

# Vienna Cathedral Brass Debuts in Herndon

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# Vienna Cathedral Brass Debuts in Herndon

Vienna ensemble delivers versatility and virtuosity.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Cathedral Brass of Vienna Presbyterian Church performed a free outdoor concert titled “Americans We” at 7 p.m. on the Arts Herndon Lawn Stage, located adjacent to its arts center in the heart of the historic downtown district. Arts Herndon produced the program under its grant-funded World Music Series.

Conductor Dr. Dereck Scott brought the high-energy music of Cathedral Brass with guest artist Graham Breedlove to Herndon. Together, the brass and percussion ensemble performed classical, jazz, and popular favorites.

According to Joanna Ormesher, President and Chief Executive Officer of Arts Herndon, featured works included Breedlove’s New Orleans jazz arrangement of the gospel hymn “Precious Lord, Take My Hand,” Chicago’s “25 or 6 to 4,” Morton Gould’s “American Salute,” and John Williams’ “Swing, Swing, Swing” from the movie “1941.”

“The Cathedral Brass was thrilled to have the opportunity to perform in Herndon on Friday. It’s been fantastic to share live music with people again, and

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



The “Cathedral Brass of Vienna Presbyterian Church” performs on the Arts Herndon Lawn Stage, part of the Arts Herndon’s World Music Series.

we are eager to continue this partnership well into the future,” said Scott.

“Quin Tango - an Argentine Tango delight, Shepherd’s Pie Irish Ceili Band, and “Americans We” with Cathedral Brass of Vienna this past weekend have been delighting Herndon audiences on the Arts Herndon Lawn Stage for the past month. I’m thrilled with the response, and we are now looking to continuing the series on Saturday evenings during the summer,” said Ormesher.

Founded in 1983 by Ray and Sharyl Abell, the Cathedral Brass is under the direction of Dr. Dereck Scott. For more information, visit [www.cathedral-brass.org](http://www.cathedral-brass.org) or contact [the.cathedral.brass@gmail.com](mailto:the.cathedral.brass@gmail.com).



(Far right) Conductor Dr. Dereck Scott turns toward the ensemble asking them to stand and share the applause.



The audience enjoys a summer night’s performance by the “Cathedral Brass of Vienna Presbyterian Church” at the Arts Herndon Lawn Stage.

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# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Seen in TJ's Freshman Class

In 2021, the U.S. News Best High Schools report ranked TJ the number one school nationwide for the second year running.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION



Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology



Students in their lab coats set to learn at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.



Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools, describes the revised admission process for TJ.

— Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools

In 2021, the U.S. News Best High Schools report ranked TJ the number one school nationwide for the second year running. TJ offers a challenging, comprehensive college preparatory program, with research-based learning emphasizing STEM-related courses and activities. In addition, TJ offers a complete high school curriculum, fine arts and performing arts, and world languages. There are over 180 clubs and activities, according to FCPS.

Previously, attending one

of the top three middle schools in Fairfax County, Carson, Longfellow, and Rocky Run Middle Schools, seemed to give students a better chance of attending TJ. Operating under the newly revised 2020-21 Eligibility Requirements for the In TJ's merit-based admissions application process, students were allocated a number to be identified, making it race, ethnicity, and gender blind. For the first time in ten years, every middle school in the Fairfax County Public School division is represented at TJ as seats in the Class of 2025 were allocated for the top 1.5 percent of applicants from every middle school's eighth-grade student population. Students from historically underrepresented schools increased to 30.73 percent versus 5.56 percent (2020-21).

According to TJ Admissions Data, students in the Class of 2025 are "high performers and are well prepared for TJ's academic rigor." The average GPA [Grade Point Average] for applicants was at 3.9 on the scale between 1.0 and 4.0, slightly higher this year than in the past five years. The average reported GPA, 3.9539, remained high for those offered admissions, in line with previous years.

The new TJ admissions process also resulted in "a significant increase in access to teaching for groups who have faced barriers to entry, including special education students, students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and English Learners," said Brabrand.

FCPS staff increased outreach efforts to encourage students to apply, resulting in a 17 percent increase in enrollment applications, 3,034 applications versus 2,539 applications for SY2020-21.

**THE CLASS OF 2025** represents greater diversity and inclusivity. According to FCPS: Black students increased from 1.23 percent (2020-21) to 7.09 percent. Hispanic students increased from 3.29 percent (2020-21) to 11.27 percent. Female students increased from 41.80 percent (2020-21) to 46.00 percent. White students increased from 17.70 percent (2020-21) to 22.36 percent.

The most significant increases occurred in the number of economically disadvantaged students [those eligible to receive reduced-price or free meals at school] from slightly greater than 0.5 percent (0.62 in 2020-21) to 25.09 percent. In addition, 2.36 percent of accepted students are special education students, and 7.09 percent of accepted students are English Language Learners. Asian students continue to constitute a majority of the class at 54.36 percent.

"As usual, all newly admitted students will have access to comprehensive support from school staff to ensure a smooth transition and a successful experience for every student enrolling," said Brabrand. "We want to be sure we are providing them the support so that they can maximize their talents."

## Senior – Research Laboratories

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- Automation & Robotics
- Biotechnology & Life Sciences
- Chemical Analysis & Nanochemistry
- Computer Systems
- Energy Systems
- Engineering Design
- JUMP Lab
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- Mobile and Web Application Development
- Neuroscience
- Oceanography & Geographical Systems
- Prototyping & Engineering Materials
- Quantum Physics & Optics

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Possible course offerings senior year at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

**THE SITUATION** was not new. Nearly a decade ago, "across all four grades TJ in 2009-2010 school year, approximately 1.78 percent of students were black, 2.84 percent of students were Hispanic, and 1.74 percent were poor," the Connection reported on June 26, 2012. "Fully 25 percent of students in Fairfax County are poor enough to qualify for free-or-reduced price meals. Do we believe poor students are less talented than students from wealthier families?"

According to Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand in a June 23 news release, "Last year, Fairfax County Public Schools moved to ensure increased access and opportunity to TJ for students with an aptitude and passion for STEM. The data around TJ's prospective freshmen class speaks volumes to the fact that when we truly center our work on equity, all of our students have an opportunity to shine."

According to Regulation 3355.14 from the Superintendent's Office on TJ Admissions, TJ is annually designated by the Virginia Department of Education as an academic-year regional governor's school for science and technology. It is under the sole direction and control of the Fairfax County School Board. Existing in the very diverse County of Fairfax, it serves select students who meet the eligibility requirements not only from Fairfax, including the City of Fairfax but four other Northern Virginia school divisions-Arlington County, Falls Church City, Loudoun County, and Prince William County.



# Remembering Glenn Wiggs

Owner-Operator of McLean Hardware turned a store into a gathering place.

By Mercia Hobson  
The Connection

Glenn Kirby Wiggs, 71, the beloved owner and operator of McLean Hardware, passed away on June 5, 2021, at Med-star Washington Hospital Center. As the patriarch and owner of McLean Hardware for almost 40 years, his passing leaves a void within the McLean Hardware family and the community. Glenn purchased the store in 1984 from the previous owner Dick Hinkle. He moved it to its current location at 1445 Chain Bridge Road in September 2008, coinciding with the store's 60th anniversary.

"I feel as if we have lost a dear friend. Going to McLean Hardware is like going to see family, but if I didn't see Glenn, it was like missing seeing my dad, favorite uncle, granddad, best friend all rolled up into one," posted Chip and Barbara Comstock to Glenn's Tribute Wall at Stauffer Funeral Homes, P.A. "His gentle spirit, his subtle humor, his concern about how you were doing that day, was uplifting.... Glenn was a Great Man but came across as a regular good guy. We loved Glenn and what he did for the McLean community."

Even as his health declined, Glenn traveled from his residence in Frederick, Md. to McLean twice a week to make orders and greet the many customers he loved. The family-owned business is known for its customer service and community involvement, including its longtime sponsorship of Little League teams to high school football games.

**SUPERVISOR** John Foust (D), who represents McLean on the County Board of Supervisors, announced Glenn's passing during the June 22 Full Meeting of the Board. Foust said, "If you ever were a McLean resident, you knew Glenn as the owner of the McLean Hardware store. He loved his customers, and his customers loved him. Everyone goes to the McLean Hardware store. It's a place where you can still buy one nail, six inches of chain, or the latest history of McLean."

Glenn was a strong proponent of hiring young people to work at the hardware store, training them to help people individually, according to Foust. A post on the McLean Hardware Facebook page in 2018 by John Caruso reiterated such: "The local McLean Hardware is so much more than a convenient place to get replacement parts. Along with my son, they've hired hundreds (maybe thousands) of high school kids over the years and taught them 3 of the most important American values: service, respect, and earning a living...McLean Hardware, Glenn, you truly represent The Best of America."

"He did something unique with his life," said Foust. "He created a really special place, and we're going to miss him. I ask that everyone keep his family, includ-



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

In 2008, (from left) Glenn Wiggs, Chris Wiggs, Cyndee Cannon, Mike Cannon, and Danny McMahon celebrate the grand reopening at their then-new and now current location.



PHOTO COURTESY OF  
STAUFFER FUNERAL HOMES,  
P.A.

Glenn Kirby Wiggs  
(1949-2021)

**"If you ever were a McLean resident, you knew Glenn as the owner of the McLean Hardware store. He loved his customers, and his customers loved him."**

— Supervisor John Foust  
(D-Dranesville)

ing his wife Nancy, in their thoughts and prayers."

**GLENN** is survived by his wife Nancy Wiggs and their blended family: Christopher Wiggs, of Frederick, Justin Wiggs and his wife Tammy, of Baltimore, Andrew Rippeon and his wife Lisa, of Davidson, N.C. and Rebecca Russell and her husband Eric of Frederick. He also leaves behind his sister Sharon Spicknall and her husband Charles (Chuck) of Hagerstown. Finally, he is survived by his beloved grandchildren: Courtney Wiggs, Ellie Wiggs, Lizzy Wiggs, Eli Rippeon, Oakes Rippeon, and Cooper Russell. He was predeceased by his sister Barbara (Barbie) Wiggs.

Instead of flowers, memorial donations in Glenn's memory may be made to Community Living Inc., 620 B Research Drive, Frederick, MD 21703. Donations may also be made to an organization that Glenn's father was instrumental in founding, The Arc of Frederick County, 620 A Research Drive, Frederick, MD 21703.

A local memorial will be held in McLean in July to provide an opportunity for all who knew and loved Glenn to help celebrate his life. Further details will be posted at the McLean Hardware Store when plans are finalized.

## Area Roundups

### McLean Community Center 4th of July Celebration

The McLean Community Center (MCC) annual 4th of July Celebration is different this year. The center is holding a drive-thru celebration that will be safe and fun for families.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and features music played by a DJ, ice cream, and free giveaways.

Admission is free; registration is required.

Dranesville Small District 1 A residents can sign up for one of three convenient, hour-long timeslots:

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

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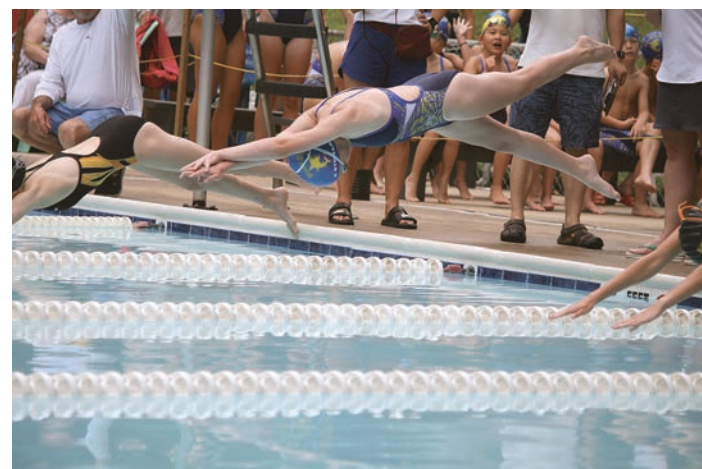


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Samantha Stewart in flight on her way to a 2nd place finish in the Girls 13-14 50 Freestyle against Kings Ridge.

### The Shouse Village Sharks Win in Fairfax

The Shouse Village Sharks had a big NVSL Division 13 win in Fairfax on Saturday, June 26. In their second NVSL duel meet of the season, the Sharks won against the Kings Ridge Water Wizards 256-155, giving them a divisional record of 1-1. Double winners for Shouse were Mia Franklin, Ben Phillips, Elliot Rhines, Grace Rihimaki, Ryan Sribar, Max Thompson, and Maeve Williams. Single winners for Shouse were Fay Amirullah, Kyle Armstrong, Williams Bouharoun, Edward Coleman, Emha Franklin, Nya Lewin, Declan Redfern, Tristan Redfern, Sam Rhines, Quinn Rihimaki, Trevor Sribar, and Stella Thompson.

\* On June 26, the Hunter Mill Sharks (0-2) lost to host Brandywine (265-155), in a division 5 meet. Double winners were Sydney DeLacy, Regan Hau, and Hunter Jenks. Single winners were Evan Chen, Adrienne Jenks, Cash Pecoraro, Andrew Rose, Madeline Ulen, and Julia Tysse. Hunter Mill Sharks winning relays were the 8 and under boys in the 100 meter free, the 9-10 girls in the 100 meter free, the 11-12 boys in the 100 meter free, the girls mixed age 200 meter relay, and the 15-18 girls in 200 meter medley relay.



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# High Hopes for McLean Downtown

Newly approved CBC Comprehensive Plan Amendment most aggressive residents could support.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved on June 22 Plan Amendment (PA) 2018-II-M1 that proposed new Comprehensive Plan guidance for the McLean Community Business Center (CBC). Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) said time and experience had demonstrated the 20-year-old plan did not have sufficient incentive for most downtown McLean property owners to justify the cost and lost rental income when considering redeveloping their revenue-producing properties. He added McLean residents told him they wanted a more pedestrian-friendly, vibrant downtown, one where they could celebrate a sense of place, gather, and participate in community-focused events.

“Doing nothing in McLean is not an option,” Foust said before the board vote. “Revitalize the business district, or it will continue to deteriorate and provide fewer and fewer community amenities to see year after year, going backward.”

**THE MCLEAN COMMUNITY BUSINESS CENTER** is located south of Dolley Madison Boulevard and centered around the intersection of Old Dominion Drive and Chain Bridge Road in the Dranesville District. The plan would foster opportunities to implement a vision developed for the area, focus redevelopment to the Center Zone of the CBC, increase the number of residential units, and incentivize a bonus density, additional story height to a developer in the Center Zone by providing an open space amenity, a park.

The plan included a “milestone analysis.” It noted that the impact of new development in the Center and General Zones be provided to the Dranesville District Supervisor as an annual update. The analysis would include a summary of development activity in the CBC, including projects in various stages of entitlement or construction, proffer mitigations, and public projects. It would also include the impact on schools, transportation, and environmental infrastructure.

According to David Stinson, Planner at Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development, the maximum residential development potential for the CBC was 3,850 residential units, which included existing units. Stinson said one of the components of the form-based approach was a ceiling on residential, set at 2,360 units, which included Center and General Zones of 1,660 and no change to Edge Zone at 700.

The Center Zone would be mixed-use, with structured parking recommended, active ground floor uses, and buildings up to seven stories, 92 feet. It included an exception

### Center Zone

- Mix of uses
- Activity throughout the day, active ground floor uses, and walkability
- Building heights up to seven stories (92 feet)\*
  - \*Bonus Height Area: One consolidation up to six acres may propose heights up to ten stories (128 feet) with provision of a central public park/open space
- Structured parking recommended with limited surface parking



Center Zone



Supervisor John W. Foust


“Doing nothing in McLean is not an option ... Revitalize the business district, or it will continue to deteriorate and provide fewer and fewer community amenities to see year after year, going backward.”

— Supervisor John W. Foust

### Building Heights

Maximum heights reflected in feet

- Center Zone: 92 feet (7 stories)
  - One-time bonus height project: 128 feet (10 stories)
- General Zone: 68 feet (5 stories)
- Edge Zone: No change proposed (existing Comp Plan)
- 40-foot height limit in portion of Land-Unit G-2 and Land-Unit E-5



Building heights in the three zones and Land-unit G-2 and Land-Unit E-5.

area, an incentivized Bonus Height Area of one consolidation of up to six acres eligible for heights up to ten stories, 128 feet if it provided a signature central park/open space of about two-thirds an acre. In addition, the plan recommended a network of high-rise, well-distributed, and connected, smaller parks.

The General Zone surrounded the Center Zone. It was planned as a transition to the Edge Zone with low and mid-rise development and building heights transitioning from up to five stories at 68 feet then down in scale. This would be typical neighborhood or retail uses with active ground-floor uses and accessed mostly from surface parking.

The Edge Zone would remain as currently planned with recommendations at three stories. In the adjacent General Zone: Land Unit G-2, around Franklin Sherman Elementary

School, height dropped to 40 feet, as would height in Land-Unit E-5. The environment section contained ecology, urban forestry and stormwater management, and green water practices and guidance recommendations.

**KIM DORGAN**, Chair of the McLean CBC Task Force, said they held 29 public meetings that “tackled every topic after much in-depth discussion and almost always concluded with a compromise solution. “I believe that this is likely the most aggressive plan that could be supported by our community. I really hope that what you approve today is enough to encourage investment in McLean,” Dorgan said.

She expressed concern about the revised language regarding the high-rise height on Land Unit G- 2 as being “overly broad” and that the new language regarding surface

parking “allows too much of it.”

Dorgan centered much of her concern on the possible lack of “enough of an incentive that would result in a plaza.” She said developers could build another seven-story building with no requirements to set aside land versus a ten-story building with the requirement to set aside land. “Our last plan was viewed as too prescriptive and limiting as to what businesses could be built in certain areas... I fear that if we did not get this right, McLean will continue, as is, for another 20 years and will be left behind,” Dorgan said.

Before the Board vote, Foust said he heard from residents with differences of opinion on the revitalization plan. They wanted to ensure that the Board preserved convenient parking and access to local businesses, especially community-serving retail. No one wished for McLean to become a Tysons or Bethesda with soaring building heights. The plan amendment would facilitate implementation and the community’s vision for McLean Community Business Center.

“We are not creating another Tysons,” Foust said. “Although support for plans obviously is not unanimous, it has something for almost everyone.”

## Comments During the Public Hearing

Scott Spitzer, First Vice-President of McLean Citizens Association, said the organization supported the impact analysis. It required evaluating the residential development potential in the Center, and General Zones for impact when schools and other public facilities reached a ten-year mark or 1,560 residential units were built or entitled to be built in the zones, whichever came first. He said MCA urged the Board to include in the plan unequivocal support and direction for surface parking in the General and Edge Zones.

Dennis Findley, architect and planner said the process in its entirety was designed to create a predetermined outcome. He described the ending as “a mini megalopolis of high-density characterless nothingness, with postage stamp size open space.”

Linda Walsh, a coalition member of Right Size McLean, said they sponsored a survey to capture the opinions of their community that represented over 1,200 households. According to Walsh and the survey, respondents wanted to keep building height skylines consistent with current landmarks. She said 90 percent of respondents supported more stringent stormwater runoff guidance.

Kathleen Wysocki, McLean Mews Homeowners Association urged the Board to place Land Unit G2, which is bounded by Franklin Sherman Elementary School and McLean Baptist Church along the eastern and northern edge, in the Edge Zone. She noted the plan failed to consider additional traffic routes or mitigating measures for through traffic within the business area.

Michelle Rosati, an attorney with Holland & Knight, said she spoke on behalf of her client, who owned 1330 Chain Bridge Road, the old Safeway building. She questioned if the plan spurred the redevelopment that made the Vision Plan so compelling as a good idea.



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**Obituary**

**Matthew Kyle Behrent** of McLean passed away on June 22. He was the devoted husband of Antonia Sherman and the loving father of Henrik and Lucy. He was 50 years old.

Matthew was born in Houston in 1970 to Curtis and Mary Beth Behrent. Growing up, he lived in London and Paris, where he graduated from the American School ('88). He later graduated from Hampshire College ('92) and Stanford University Law School ('97).

In college, Matthew interned on Capitol Hill with the House Oversight Committee. After college, he worked for ACORN in Washington. After law school, he was an associate at Pillsbury Madison & Sutro in Palo Alto (now Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman), Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton and Credit Suisse First Boston in New York. He later served as a vice president at Revolution Partners in Boston. For many years, he worked for EDCI, a communication and technology company, where he was Executive Vice President for Corporate Development. He was also a member of the boards of Tengasco Inc. and Assure Software Inc.

In the late nineties, he founded the first online discussion board for young lawyers called "Greedy Associates," under the name "nowhitenoise." The site was featured in a 1998 New York Times article and was credited by many with jump-starting the sharing of salary and bonus information among associates, leading to increases in compensation for Big Law associates.

Matthew will be remembered for his independence, intelligence, curiosity, and quirky tastes and sense of humor. He had a boundless appetite for new technology, offbeat gadgets, and unconventional ideas.

Most of all, he will be remembered for his total devotion to his family. He was a talented "house husband" and an amazing cook, who enjoyed looking after his loved ones. His distinctive outlook made him uniquely suited to relating to children. He was often quiet, but the joy that his family brought him was undeniable.

Matthew is survived by his wife, Antonia, and his children, Henrik and Lucy, of McLean; by his father, Curtis, of Marathon, Florida; by his brother, Michael (Cathy) of Boone, North Carolina; by his sister, Megan of Brooklyn and Chicago; by his aunt Cathy Behrent of Lutherville Timonium, Maryland; by his aunt Sharon Williams (Don) of Shady Shores, Texas; by his parents-in-law, Philip and Birgitta Sherman of Kinderhook, New York; and others.

**Obituary**

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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Really?

To the Editor:

I take issue with the page 3 sub-headline "Primary voters select candidates with gender and racial diversity but lacking in regional balance." (Connection, June 16-22, 2021).

Really?

Terry McAuliffe is a white male. Mark Herring is a white male.

Only Hala Ayala -- 1 of the 3 candidates on the Democratic statewide ticket -- is a woman of color.

## CALENDAR

### FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS

In Virginia, there are lots of great places to view fireworks, at the National Mall in Washington, hosted by the National Park Service: George Washington Memorial Parkway, including U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, Netherlands Carillon grounds, Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove, Gravelly Point Park, and along the Mount Vernon Trail from the 14th Street Bridge to Theodore Roosevelt Island. Parking is allowed in designated parking areas only.

City of Fairfax -- Saturday, July 3 - Independence Day celebrations will start with a parade at 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax at 10 a.m. The parade loops around downtown Fairfax, along Chain Bridge Road, Main Street, University Drive and Armstrong Street.

On July 4, an evening show will kick off at 6:30 p.m. with on-stage entertainment followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Fairfax High School, 3501 Lion Run.

Herndon - July 4 at 9:30 p.m. Fireworks launched from the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Viewing opportunities at Bready Park, 814 Ferndale Ave. with access for parking and field seating opening no earlier than 8 p.m. There will be no food concessions or entertainment this year.

Lorton - July 2nd, Workhouse Arts Center Fireworks - 5-10 p.m. (VIP Access) 6-10 p.m. (Drive In Tail Gate Access). Workhouse Arts Center Campus, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Phone: (703) 584-2986.

Lake Fairfax Park - July 3 - 9:15 p.m. 1400 Lake Fairfax Dr., Reston, VA 20190. Park admission is free, but advance tickets cost \$10 per car; day-of tickets may be purchased at the park for \$15 per car. Phone: 703-471-5415.

Mount Vernon. -This event is sold out - Independence Fireworks at George Washington's Mount Vernon: June 25 to 26, 6 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

### FRIDAY/JULY 2

Friday Night Live. At Herndon Town Green, Herndon. Popular free outdoor concert series returns to regular performances. This will be the 27th season for the concert series which is produced by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce.

Schedule

July 2 -- Under the Covers;  
July 9 -- Turtle Recall;  
July 16 -- The Rockets;  
July 23 -- Herr Metal + Dr FU;  
July 30 -- Kristen and the Noise;  
Aug 6 -- Social Call;  
Aug 13 -- It's All Good;  
Aug 20 -- JunkFood;  
Aug 27 -- All-Star Band;  
Sept 3 -- Shake the Room;  
Sept 10 -- Keeton + 8 Track Jones;  
Sept 17 -- The Reflex;  
Sept 24 -- Screaming Mönkeys.

Friday Night Live! is produced by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce and brought to you by its title sponsor Volkswagen Group of America.

### WOLF TRAP SCHEDULE

July 1 -- Fifty Years Together: A Celebration of Wolf Trap with National Symphony Orchestra, JoAnn Falletta (conductor), Cynthia Erivo

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How do you see that as selecting a gender- and racially-diverse set of candidates?

The Republican candidates also have white males on their ticket for Governor and Attorney General, and a woman of color for Lt. Governor. This basically takes gender and race completely out of the equation for this fall's election. Both tickets are equally gender-diverse and racially-diverse.

Debra Steppel  
Reston

(vocalist), Christine Goerke (soprano), Joyce Yang (piano)  
July 2 + 3 -- Wolf Trap Opera: Sondheim "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet" in Concert with National Symphony Orchestra, Roberto Kalb (conductor)  
July 7 -- Watchhouse (formerly Mandolin Orange)  
July 8 + 9 -- Beethoven and Bologne with National Symphony Orchestra, Jonathan Heyward (conductor),  
Francesco Dego (violin)  
July 10 -- Aria Jukebox, The Audience Gets to Choose! (streaming online beginning July 10)  
July 10 + 11 -- Max Weinberg's Jukebox  
Visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org) for tickets. By phone at 877.WOLFTRAP

### JULY 4

The McLean Community Center's 4th of July Celebration is holding a drive-thru celebration that will be safe and fun for families. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and features music played by a DJ, ice cream and free giveaways. Admission is free; registration is required. MCC is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave. Dranesville Small District 1 A residents can sign up for one of three convenient, hour-long timeslots: 11 a.m.-12 noon; Noon-1 p.m. and 1-2 p.m. Registration times are for personal vehicles only. One registration per vehicle. Large passenger vans and busses will not be permitted. To register or for more information, visit, [www.mcleancenter.org/special-events](http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events) or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

### JULY 4 FIREWORKS

In Herndon. 8 -10 p.m. At Bready Park, 814 Ferndale Ave, Herndon. This year the event is scaled back and will feature a fireworks display only. The fireworks will begin at 9:30 p.m. Event parking and access to Bready Park will open at 8:00 p.m. Rain date, fireworks will be held on Monday, July 5, 9:30 p.m. Free admission and  
Parking. Visit the website: <https://www.hernndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/4th-of-july>

### SUNDAY/JULY 4

Trailblazers 5K Fun/Run. 8 a.m. At Great Falls Library Ballfield, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls Trailblazers are sponsoring the free annual 5 K Fun/Run. All ages are welcome. Sign up at the web site [www.GreatFallsTrailblazers.org](http://www.GreatFallsTrailblazers.org).

### FIREWORKS AT LAKE FAIRFAX

Fireworks Return to Lake Fairfax. Lake Fairfax will host fireworks on Saturday, July 3, 2021, bringing back this community celebration after a pandemic-driven cancellation last year. This year's event will take place the day before the national holiday - on Saturday, July 3. Tickets can be purchased online through 11:59 p.m. on July 2. Advance tickets are available for \$10 per car; day-of tickets may be purchased at the park for \$15 per car. The fireworks will be launched at dark which is usually shortly after 9 p.m. Attendees should arrive by 8 p.m. to ensure sufficient time to park and find a spot to watch the show.

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## And the "Scancer" Is ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... stable, with a side of shrinkage, however modest. No jeopardy here, final or otherwise. Simply more of the same here, but hardly ho hum. A status quo with which I am fond of writing: I can live. Promises and guarantees left the building on that fateful day in late February, 2009 when an oncologist who I had previously never met summarized my condition and identified it as stage IV, non small cell lung cancer. A "terminal" disease if there ever was one, and of course there are many. And along with that bombshell came the excruciatingly unpopular prognosis: "13 months to two years." I was 54 and a half with no history of cancer in my immediate family.

Much has happened and many medications prescribed since I infused my initial chemotherapy back in early March, 2009. Most of which you regular readers know. If you recall anything from my 12 years of weekly cancer columns, it is that regular diagnostic scans: CT scans, bone scans, P.E.T. scans and MRIs have been recurring nightmares. Every three months, I am scheduled for some type of scan, sometimes more than one ("BOGO, I call it) which based on its findings will determine my subsequent course of treatment. If the results are encouraging, a change in my treatment is unlikely. If however, tumors are growing, newly appearing or spreading then it's "Katy bar the door," as we say in New England. Which means, hang onto your hat, among other things, as a new health situation presents, and one without an automatic solution. After years of conversations with my oncologist, I've learned: The best one can hope for is a definite maybe. It's this unpredictability which fills my day - and night.

Nevertheless, my life has gone on way longer than my oncologist anticipated. It may be because I was misdiagnosed (as a Georgetown Cancer Center oncologist suggested) and had a slow moving form of papillary thyroid cancer rather than an aggressive form of lung cancer which kills more often than it cures. Or, I may simply be my oncologist's "third miracle," as he's fond of saying. Presumably my positive attitude and good humor about my circumstances in conjunction with the many supplements I ingest with alkaline water exclusively have contributed to my unexpected survival. Regardless, as Frankenstein might have said: "I'm alive."

As scary as Frankenstein, Dracula or Lon Chaney ever was, a cancer diagnosis tops them all. Being told by a doctor you have never met that you have two years to live, at best, is as you might imagine, nearly impossible to process. It's not exactly what you had planned on or expected hearing when you sat in the doctor's office. Yet, as Ralph Edwards used to say; "This is your life." And as many others have said: "You're stuck with it." And as grim as you feel about your future, this is no fairy tale. As always, reality beats make-believe any day, and in this instance, not in a good way.

But I am in a good way. I am still typing, among other activities. And after having just received a "looks good" comment from my oncologist concerning this week's CT and bone scan, my warranty has been extended for another 90 days, when the results of my next quarterly scan will be emailed. Until then, I am in high cotton. To say I'm not worried is of course naive, but in the interim, between scans, I am in "the rocking chair, good buddy," to invoke a familiar CB-ism. This is how many cancer patients live: from one scan to the next. It's not ideal, but it is a living, and one for which I'm extremely grateful and fortunate to still have. It may not have been the life I expected, but I'm glad to live it nonetheless.

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





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## 1012 Steeples Ct, Falls Church City

**\*\*BEAUTIFUL\*\* 5BR/2.5 BA \*END-UNIT\***  
townhome in the heart of Falls Church City! This fantastic, light/bright home features updated kitchen and baths; sparkling hardwood floors; sunken living room with fireplace and sliding glass door walkout to patio and landscaped yard; main level den/office or BR; formal dining room and main level laundry. Upstairs features the lovely owner's suite w/ walk-in closet and luxury bath; nicely-sized additional BRS (one with walk-in closet); large 2-car garage! Gorgeous landscaping!



## 6610 Rosecroft Place, Falls Church

**\*JUST LISTED\* at Westmoreland Square!**  
**\*GORGEOUS\* 4 BR/2 full and 2 half BA \*END-UNIT\***  
townhome—close to West Falls Church Metro and in Haycock, Longfellow and McLean school district! This beautiful home features hardwood floors on the main and upper levels; modern kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and tile backsplash; family room off kitchen with exposed brick wall; elegant living rm & formal dining rm. 4 upstairs bedrooms; finished walkout LL with huge rec room and fireplace; walkout to the fenced-in yard and lovely brick and flagstone patio with landscaping; super location!



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