

# Great Falls CONNECTION

## Support for Dark Skies

NEWS, PAGE 3

From left, Bella Pan, 3 of Vienna, mom, Jang, baby Jeremy, 9- months, Lexie, 5, and dad, Justin, enjoy their "family outing with the awesome weather," as Jang says. Asked if they will choose a pumpkin, Lexie says, "We're growing our own pumpkins."

## Halloween Happenings

PAGES 8-9

## Push for Collective Bargaining

NEWS, PAGE 4

## Why We Walk To End Alzheimers

PAGE 10

U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EASTON, MD  
PERMIT #322  
POSTAL CUSTOMER  
EGR WSS  
ATTENTION POSTMASTER:  
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
REQUESTED IN HOME 10-14-21



COSTA  
DENTISTRY

VOTED NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S  
TOP DENTIST SIX YEARS IN A ROW



EXPERIENCE *luxury* DENTAL CARE



ENJOY A \$25 GIFT CARD AT YOUR FIRST APPOINTMENT!  
10135 COLVIN RUN ROAD, SUITE 101, GREAT FALLS, VA 22066  
(703) 757-0833 | COSTASMILES.COM





A visitor to Observatory Park at Turner Farm enjoys use of one of the large telescopes.



A family takes turns seeing objects in the night sky through one of the large telescopes at Observatory Park at Turner Farm.

# Preventing Light Pollution

## Supervisors approve resolution toward Urban Night Sky Place at Observatory Park.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Oct. 3, 2021, 35-acre Stacey Park in the City of Olivette, Missouri, received designation by International Dark-Sky Association as the world's fourth Urban Night Sky Place. Perhaps, in a year or two, Observatory Park at Turner Farm in Great Falls will receive a similar designation, thanks to a resolution put forth by Supervisor John W. Foust (Dranesville).

At the regular meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors held Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021, Foust brought forward a board matter supporting the Park Authority's nomination of Observatory Park at Turner Farm in Great Falls to be designated as an Urban Night Sky Place. The Board unanimously approved the resolution.

The International Dark-Sky Association makes such determinations.

Light pollution prevents many people from seeing the beauty of the night sky, the Milky Way, lunar eclipses and meteor showers. Artificial light affects the natural world, changing foraging routes and migration for birds, moths and bats, and leading to many deaths. Artificial light affects humans altering their natural circadian rhythms.

Foust said that the International Dark Sky Places [conservation] program offers five types of designations, one of which was Urban Night Sky Places. These are sites near or surrounded by large urban environs whose planning and design promote an authentic nighttime experience. "They do so in the midst of significant artificial light at night," according to the Association's website.

Foust said that one of the County's environmental goals has been to reduce light pollution. Part of the Board's 2020 Work Program, he added an item to establish lighting

provisions to protect dark skies around astronomical facilities.

What Foust referenced was the Public Commission Meeting held on Jan. 15, 2020. In a follow-on motion to Zoning Ordinance Amendment Article 14: Outdoor Lighting and Related Provisions, Countywide. The planning commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors review additional zoning provisions for Park dark skies around astronomical facilities.

"Presently, staff is working on a Zoning Ordinance Amendment for dark skies. Supporting the Park Authority's nomination demonstrates the County's ongoing commitment to maintaining natural nighttime light," said Foust in his Oct. 5 Board Matter.

Observatory Park at Turner Farm features an orientation room used for educational programs and an Observation Room with three telescopes.

According to DarkSky.org, as of August 2021, there were only 180 or so certified International Dark-Sky Places in the world holding one of its five designations. The Certification requires "applicants to



SCREENSHOT

Supervisor John W. Foust presents his board matter.

demonstrate robust community support for dark-sky protection and document designation-specific program requirements." The process for Certification as an International Dark-Sky Place reportedly takes one to three years from initial inquiry to the formal designation. The Certification helps "enhance the visibility of designated locations and foster increased tourism and local economic activity," according to the International Dark Sky Association.

The Great Falls Citizens Association and the Analemma Society submitted letters of support for the Park Authority's nomination.

## Enjoy the Night Sky

The Analemma Society holds Friday Night Public Viewing Sessions at Turner Farm in Great Falls from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. These public observing sessions at Observatory Park are open to all.

With the roll-top observatory operational, volunteers will be available to help the public use the newly mounted telescopes.

The public is invited to bring their own telescopes and set up outside the roll-top or their own binoculars for observing. There is a lot to see in the night sky. On some of our Friday night sessions, we have had more than 100 visitors.

People can sign up with Fairfax County Parktokes for courses at Observatory Park at our roll-top observatory and educational classroom at Turner Farm.

Check the pbserving page for the Clear Sky Chart and Analemma Tweets @AnalemmaSociety for last minute messages and possible cancellation for cloudy skies. Wear appropriate clothing — nights can be chilly. The roll-top observatory has an enclosed classroom, but the observatory room is not heated and is open to the sky.

<http://www.analemma.org/>

In an interview with Jennifer Falcone of GFCA, she said that a designation is "totally separate from a zoning amendment."

The designation of Observatory Park being an urban night sky place will further the objective of protecting the night sky around it, said Falcone. She added that a designation is not a requirement; they are unrelated in that one is not dependent on the other. "It's more about the education of lighting and how it affects the community," she said.

"A zoning amendment would place restrictions around the observatory and would become part of the binding Zoning Ordinance of Fairfax County."

The International Dark Sky Places Program offers five types of designations:

**International Dark Sky Communities**

Communities are legally organized cities and towns that adopt quality outdoor lighting ordinances and undertake efforts to educate residents about the importance of dark skies.

**International Dark Sky Parks**

Parks are publicly- or privately-owned spaces protected for natural conservation that implement good outdoor lighting and provide dark sky programs for visitors.

**International Dark Sky Reserves**

Reserves consist of a dark "core" zone surrounded by a populated periphery where policy controls are enacted to protect the darkness of the core.

**International Dark Sky Sanctuaries**

Sanctuaries are the most remote (and often darkest) places in the world whose conservation state is most fragile.

**Urban Night Sky Places**

UNSPs are sites near or surrounded by large urban environs whose planning and design actively promote an authentic nighttime experience in the midst of significant artificial light at night, and that otherwise do not qualify for designation within any other International Dark Sky Places category.



# Fairfax Defers Decision on Collective Bargaining

FCPS employees are not part of the ordinance.

By Mercia Hobson  
The Connection

Following testimony with 64 speakers at the Oct. 5 Public Hearing on a collective bargaining ordinance draft for the members of county employee groups, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors deferred the decision on the matter. In a letter to the Fairfax County Community late that evening, Jeff McKay, chairman of the Board, wrote that members did so to consider “the significant and thorough testimony provided at the meeting.”

The new law reversed a 1977 Supreme Court of Virginia ruling. According to Code § 40.1-57.2, Collective Bargaining, effective May 1, 2021, counties, cities, and towns can but are not mandated to adopt ordinances recognizing labor unions and enter into collective bargaining agreements with them.

While verbiage in code read: “County, city, or town” includes any local school board, and “public officers or employees” includes employees of a local school board,” the Fairfax County collective bargaining ordinance under consideration did not include Fairfax County Public School employees.

“In fact, absolutely nothing about this proposed ordinance directly impacts FCPS in any way. If schools enter into an agreement,



Rallying for Collective Bargaining in front of the Fairfax County Government Center.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

that is an action the FCPS School Board would take, not our Board of Supervisors,” added McKay in the letter.

**AN HOUR BEFORE** the scheduled start of the Public Hearing on Oct. 5, hundreds of essential Fairfax County workers rallied for collective bargaining in front of the Fairfax County Government Center. Community members and partner organizations included Fairfax County Professional Firefighters &

Paramedics - IAFF Local 2068, Fairfax Branch of NAACP, 32BJ SEIU, New Virginia Majority, Catholic Labor Network, Network NOVA, and NOVA Labor Council, as well as the Fairfax Education Association, Inc. (FEA), a union for employees in Fairfax County Public Schools and the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers (FCFT).

David Broder, SEIU Virginia 512 president and Fairfax County resident, spoke first at the rally.

“We are here to pass meaningful, collective bargaining rights and to make Fairfax the best community in the Commonwealth for working families. ... We know that collec-

tive bargaining raises standards for all people while closing racial and gender pay gaps.”

Tilly Blanding is a union member and a retired Fairfax County employee. “We are here to have a seat at the table,” she said.

Tammie Wondong Ware, SEIU Virginia 512 Fairfax Chapter president, has worked for Fairfax County for 32 years. She thanked the community partners who attended the rally, saying that their support continued to prove that collective bargaining benefits the common good. “When workers thrive, the community thrives. After months of hard work and negotiation with the

county, we have a draft ordinance.”

Ware cautioned that three changes are necessary: “One, allow bargaining over the full range of wages, benefits, and working conditions so that we improve our jobs and recruit the best and brightest of Fairfax County. Two, include G status, temporary part-time and probationary employees, to ensure they do have a seat at the negotiations table. Three, ensure that we have access to talk to our co-workers at work so that we can talk about our union and our union contracts.”

SEE FAIRFAX DEFERS, PAGE 5



Tilly Blanding: “We are here to have a seat at the table.”



David Broder, SEIU Virginia 512 president.



Adriana Granado and her “protest pooch”



# Fairfax Defers Decision On Collective Bargaining

FROM PAGE 4

Ware said that if they don't get it right, the ordinance they had worked so hard to pass would be nothing but an empty gesture on a piece of paper.

**DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING,** County staff said that months of work went into the draft collective bargaining ordinance. The Board created a collective bargaining workgroup, led by Supervisors Penelope Gross and James Walkinshaw. The workgroup included employee group representatives from the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and General County Government, elected officials from FCPS, County Executive Bryan Hill, FCPS Superintendent Scott Brabrand, and other senior staff members.

The workgroup met twice in February 2021 and once in April 2021. They sought to amend Chapter 3 of the Code of the County of Fairfax, Virginia, County Employees, by adding Article 10, Collective Bargaining, Sections 3-10-1 through 3-10-18. Staff detailed two town halls with employees, a combined attendance of 1,000 employees, published four packets of questions and answers from the Board of Supervisors, and created many frequently asked questions that are on the public website.

Speaker Patrick Booth said he was born in Fairfax County and lived here with his family. "I was not bussed in from out of state or from Richmond this morning, I have the honor of representing working staff for Fairfax County as president of the only internal, not-for-profit union, the Fairfax Workers Coalition," Booth said. He supported collective bargaining, but he said it must include equality for all staff, especially lower staff members. Their pay grade should not dictate the deciding factor of individuals' rights and voices. "Putting these same employees in the same bargaining unit with senior staff is absurd," Booth said.

Sean Corcoran, president of the Fairfax Coalition of Police, said that power dynamics of higher-ranking officers could come into play during collective bargaining. He asked how long lower-ranking officers could push back on contract issues against a person that could potentially fire them.

Rafael Gil-Figueroa said the county has no more time to waste. He encouraged the Board to adopt the changes recommended by the unions and pass meaningful collective bargaining rights for



Rafael Gil-Figueroa



Patrick Booth, president of the Fairfax Workers Coalition.



Sean Corcoran, Fairfax Coalition of Police president.

county employees. "We must let employees bargain over working conditions, health, safety, staffing, scheduling, and discipline. We must let employees communicate, talk and meet their union freely in the workplace without fear of retaliation. We cannot divide the workers. All county employees, including temporary workers, should have the right to bargain as a combined unit," he said.

According to the staff report, the FY 2022 Adopted Budget Plan includes \$1.0 million and 6.0 FTE positions to support collective bargaining for public employees. This consists of adding \$0.5 million and 5.0 FTE positions in the Department of Human Resources and \$0.1 million and 1.0 FTE position in the Office of the County Attorney. In addition, \$0.3 million in Fringe Benefits funding is included in Agency 89, Employee Benefits. These positions are necessary to address the new workload associated with labor relations, including legal support, policy administration, contract compliance, and system administration.

PHOTOS: SCREENSHOTS

**CALENDAR**

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

**Here's the deal. You switch. You save.**

**Kyle Knight Ins Agcy Inc**  
**Kyle Knight, Agent**  
 11736 Bowman Green Drive  
 Reston, VA 20190

The right insurance at the right price is available now. On average, you'll save \$597\*! All you need to do is make the switch. It's easy. Just call me today..

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

\* Average annual per household savings based on a national survey by State Farm® of new policyholders.

ACROSS FROM RESTON TOWN CTR  
 WWW.KYLEKNIGHT.ORG  
 703-435-2300

**Dr. Whyte's New Book Released October 5, 2021**

**TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR CANCER RISK**

**JOHN WHYTE, MD**  
 Chief Medical Officer of WebMD

This book shares straightforward information and equips you with strategies to help you on a journey to better health, including:

- Assessing your cancer risk
- Knowing which screenings you need, and when
- Learning the role food, exercise, and sleep play
- Understanding the relationship between stress and cancer

You have the power to reduce your cancer risk--and this book will show you just how easy it is.

**Order this and Dr. Whyte's other books on Amazon.com**

# Maintaining Our Democracy

DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



## COMMENTARY

The most recent issue of the periodic publication of the Virginia Museum of History and Culture reminds us that it was 225 years ago that President George Washington gave his Farewell Address. Revered as president, Washington could have kept the job as long as he wanted. He was so beloved by the people of the country that he probably could have turned the presidency into a monarchy had he chosen to do so. Of all his accomplishments in getting our new country underway, the wisdom he imparted in his Farewell Address has to be among his greatest accomplishments. He decided on his own to step down after two terms thus setting a precedent that was followed with one exception until a constitutional amendment limited the terms an individual can serve. He left behind wisdom and insights that are as pertinent today as they were in his time.

Washington stated that "Respect for (the Constitution's) authority, compliance with its Laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties en-

joined by the fundamental maxims of true Liberty." He warned at length of "the dangers of (political) parties" and "the baneful effects" of the spirit of parties. He warned that the rise of political parties "agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, fomenting occasionally riot and insurrection."

Do his warnings sound all too familiar for today as they have at other times in our history? What would Washington have thought of today's circumstances whereby a former president is being investigated for fomenting an insurrection to overturn the results of an election he clearly lost but by which he attempts with bogus claims and physical force to have himself declared the winner? The "false alarms" about which Washington warned us are rampant with social media and around the clock "news" programming spreading misinformation that is unfortunately undermining too many people's faith in our system of government.

I am very pleased that there are many ways that technology can further our democracy by having more people involved. At the same time, it can be the method by which our democracy is undermined.

Among the many emails I receive daily are concerns expressed by citizens that there be a forensic audit of the results of the last election. They have been taken in by the "big lie" repeated so often as to be seen as true by some. Never mind the thorough and careful ways that elections are conducted and the results are checked and rechecked. Not a scintilla of evidence has been found from investigations and court cases to support the allegations that fraud was involved. Not only are the repeated claims of fraud affecting citizens, but they affect persons in leadership positions who are unwilling to speak the truth or to take on the thugs who are trying to force a different result.

Washington offered this admonition to the citizenry: "The common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it."

Our next opportunity to assume that responsibility comes by voting — early or on election day — Nov. 2.

# Supporting Key Values: Service, Peace, Sacrifice 60th Anniversary of the Peace Corps

BY DON BOILEAU

Sept. 22 was the 60th anniversary of the Peace Corps, the day that President John F. Kennedy signed into law legislation creating the agency. With one stroke of a pen President Kennedy deepened our nation's ability to live out key values — values like service, peace, sacrifice, commitment, and learning from those we hope to serve. I am proud to be one of more than 8,315 Virginians who have served in the Peace Corps, joining more than 240,000 nationwide over these last 60 years.

I entered the Peace Corps in 1967 hoping to help others. However, I left enriched and grateful for what I had learned from the many Koreans I had come to serve. Due to a housing shortage, volunteers in Korea were assigned to live with families. This became an exchange for me

as the youngest daughter lived with my parents in Oregon for a year on her way to graduate work.

Because of the pandemic, Peace Corps will observe the 60th anniversary without Peace Corps Volunteers in the field. But returned volunteers have continued with Kennedy's dream by being engaged in many projects.

For the fifth time, Northern Virginia Volunteers have a booth at the Reston International Festival. This same group of people do a quarterly trail clean up in Reston. President Kennedy rightly understood the need for returned volunteers to be active in serving their communities.

Many volunteers selected careers in international work from the State Department to business and international organizations. Others returned to the states to become involved

indirectly in international activities.

Over the last 60 years, nearly a quarter of a million Peace Corps volunteers have made a tremendous contribution to the individuals and communities in which they served, and to our planet. We are fortunate that our local Representatives [Connolly, Wexton, and Beyer] and U.S. Senators [Warner and Kaine] have supported increased funding for Peace Corps. Peace Corps has had a lasting influence not only on the countries and peoples it serves but has had a major impact on the ways returned volunteers have participated in our communities.

*Don Boileau served Peace Corps from 1967-1969 in South Korea and is a George Mason University Emeritus Professor. He is a member of the Northern Virginia Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, and lives in Reston.*

## VOTE EARLY:

**EARLY IN-PERSON** voting locations are open Sept. 17 - Oct. 30 at three government center sites: Fairfax County, Mount Vernon, and North County.

Any registered Fairfax County voter may vote early at any Fairfax County early voting location.

Early in-person absentee voting is available for the November 2021 General & Special Elections at the following three locations from now through Oct. 30.

❖ Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax

❖ Mt. Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Ln, Alexandria

❖ North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr, Reston

Thirteen additional early in-person voting sites are open Oct. 21 - Oct. 30.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections).

## Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name.

Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

### Send letters

Online [www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/)  
By email: [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

**By mail to: Letters to the Editor The Connection**  
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

**You can comment on our Facebook page or find us on Twitter**  
[www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers](http://www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)  
<https://twitter.com/alexgazette>  
<https://twitter.com/mtvernongazette>  
<https://twitter.com/followfairfax>

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

**Published by**  
**Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to [connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mercia Hobson**  
Community Reporter  
[mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Ken Moore**  
Contributing Writer  
[kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

**Salome Howard-Gaibler**  
Display Advertising  
703-415-5394  
[salome@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:salome@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Debbie Funk**  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Classified & Employment Advertising**  
703-778-9431

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**CIRCULATION**  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)





## Free Halloween Lyft Rides

Free Halloween Lyft rides (up to \$15) will be offered to deter impaired driving throughout the Washington-metropolitan area, beginning Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the Halloween SoberRide program will be in operation beginning at 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30 until 4 a.m. on Sunday October 31, 2021 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During this six-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30 on

[www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com).

"Well over one-third (41%) of all U.S. traffic fatalities during Halloween from 2015 to 2019 involved drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP's President.

During the 2019 Halloween holiday (COVID-19 prevented last year's campaign), a record 1,122 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and the winter holidays.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 80,407 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area. [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com).

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### OCT. 1-31

**MVFD Coloring Contest.** The McLean Volunteer Fire Department is inviting elementary school students across the area to participate in a coloring contest during October's Fire Prevention Month. Students can download an image of the fire station, color it any way their imagination leads and mail it back to the address: 1455 Laughlin Ave., McLean, VA 22101. At the end of the month, they will hold a drawing – with the winner receiving a visit to his or her street by the antique Pirsch fire truck. Here is the link to the drawing:

<https://www.mcleanvfd.org/coloring-contest/>  
Visit the website: [www.mcleanvfd.org](http://www.mcleanvfd.org)

### FRIDAY/OCT. 15

**Estate Planning Presentation.** 2-4 p.m. Hosted virtually by Oakton Library via Zoom. Many believe estate planning is too complicated or only necessary for the very wealthy. Attorney Bettina M. Lawton has offered to clear up these and other misconceptions through a

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

# State Farm Insurance G. STEPHEN DULANEY

IN GREAT FALLS



**AUTO • HOME • LIFE  
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Like A Good Neighbor, State Farm Is There.®

Open Saturdays

Complementary Insurance and Financial Review

Visit [www.gstephendulaney.com](http://www.gstephendulaney.com)



**703-759-4155**

**731-C WALKER RD. • GREAT FALLS, VA**

State Farm Insurance Companies  
Home Office Bloomington, Illinois

Proud Supporter of Military Appreciation Mondays

## Be a part of our:

**Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

**Senior Living**, fourth week of every month.

### Questions?

E-mail [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431



# You're not imagining things. The cost of living is higher than ever.

Virginia is one of only 13 states  
that tax groceries.

Republicans want to abolish  
the grocery tax.

**Had enough?  
Vote Republican.**

PAID FOR BY FAIRFAX COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE | [FAIRFAXGOP.ORG](http://FAIRFAXGOP.ORG)



SCAN ME





Fresh produce, pumpkins, apple cider, and more await Krop's Crops' visitors. Don't expect a mega-palooza event. This small-scale farm event is for the younger set or those overwhelmed by too much stimulation and for adults who want to take a step back in time and browse the Antique, Vintage, Shabby Chic Center.



Micah Daluz, 6, of Great Falls, gets his first 'driving lesson' from dad, Norberto, while mom, Hillary, watches. Answering why they were here, Norberto says, "I was looking for strawberries and rhubarb to make a pie," he said. "No luck."



From left, Bella Pan, 3 of Vienna, mom, Jang, baby Jeremy, 9- months, Lexie, 5, and dad, Justin, enjoy their "family outing with the awesome weather," as Jang says. Asked if they will choose a pumpkin, Lexie says, "We're growing our own pumpkins."



At the pumpkin patch in front of Krop's Crops, Harvey Butler, 2, of Reston gets a wagon ride joined by what will be the family pumpkin. However, Harvey seems to favor his "Jack Be Little" pumpkin that fits in the palm of his hand. "We came to get a tractor ride and a pumpkin," says Tyler, with his wife Rebecca joining him. Not to tell Harvey, but miniature pumpkins can be used in a variety of recipes.



The weather vane atop Krop's Crops main structure no longer turns, seized by creeping vine. It stands as a whimsical sentinel, a symbol for country life, and small town charm that beckons families to haul wagons full of pumpkins, later to be carved or decorated at home for the season.

#### HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



A 75-year tradition, the Vienna Halloween Parade is Oct. 27. This year's theme is the "Roaring 20s."

The Old Firehouse is transforming the inside of the center into the spookiest, scariest, walk-through experience in McLean. The House of Terror will be divided into two time slots:

- ❖ No Scares 5-7 p.m.: Participants can walk through the lighted path and view our actors and actresses with no jumps, scares or fears.
- ❖ All Scares 7:30 - 10 p.m.: The effects are on, the lights are off, and the actors and actresses are out of sight and ready to surprise.

**Trunk or Treat**  
Saturday, Oct. 30, 6-9 p.m.  
Free for kids of all ages; preregistration is not required.  
If the House of Terror isn't your thing, outside, the Old Firehouse Trunk or Treat will have some music, fun and themed vehicles with Halloween candy to share while supplies last.  
<https://mcleancenter.org/special-events>

**HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR ON THE GREAT FALLS VILLAGE GREEN**  
Oct. 31, 2021, 5-7 p.m. Recommended for Great Falls children up to

age 12 (6th grade) and their families.

Trick or treat! Children up to age 12 are encouraged to wear their favorite Halloween costume, experience the Haunted House, and enjoy trick or treating with local merchants in a safe environment right in the heart of town.

Stop by The Haunted House by Great Falls Boy Scout Troop 55 and Adler Jewelers Spooky Porch.  
The Spooktacular was launched over 20 years ago by members of Great Falls Friends to provide younger children with a central, convenient place in Great Falls to have fun trick or treating. It was because of their initiative that still today Great Falls vendors offer candy around the Village Green as well as in the Safeway shopping center at the corner of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road.

Held Rain or Shine  
Also, Pet Parade on the Green. Bring your pet on a leash dressed up in its favorite costume. Parade begins at The Arts of Great Falls gallery (756 Walker Rd). Judging at 4:30. Prizes for Special Categories. Pets must be cleared from the area by 4:50.

## It's 35 Years and Counting for Krop's Crops

### Fall festivities underway.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Families with little ones in tow and individuals looking for a gentler, small farm appeal can head down Georgetown Pike in Great Falls to experience Fall Fun at Krop's Crops. The 20-acre farm is celebrating its 35th year in business in 2021. It features hayrides to the pumpkin patch, Winchester apples, fall squash, and gourds. Fresh apple cider, Halloween decorations, farm animals, and a corn bin to play in round out the

autumn event.

The farm retains its roadside produce stand appeal but stretches the enjoyment indoors to its Antique, Vintage, and Shabby Chic Center with refinished furniture, collectibles, and repurposed decorative items. According to their website, Krop's Crops is taking reservations for group hayrides and campfires.

The family-owned business is currently managed by Lauri Omwake (Krop), the daughter of local legend Larry Krop. Located at 11110 Georgetown Pike, Krop's Crops is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Step back in time with a visit to Krop's Crops in Great Falls. Only the fading sign and the height of the rose bushes indicate the age of the seasonal farm located on Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. A community institution since 1986 when it opened as a roadside produce stand, 2021 marks its 35th year in operation



Krop's Crops pays homage to local news. Or is it the other way around?

#### GHOSTS, GOONS AND A BUNNY MAN

At 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25, Burke Historical Society Treasurer Cindy Bennett will offer a virtual talk hosted by Richard Byrd Library: "Ghosts, Goons, and a Bunny Man." Tune in to learn about some of the spooky legends of stories of the area, as well as their factual origins. Registration has just opened and is available at:  
<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/8000522>

#### TOWN OF VIENNA HALLOWEEN PARADE

The 75th annual Town of Vienna Halloween Parade will take place at 7 p.m. Oct. 27. The theme for this year's parade is "The Roaring Twenties."

Children and others in costume are invited to march along in the parade, no need to register, meet at 6 p.m. at the United Bank, 374 Maple Ave., E.

<https://www.viennava.gov/residents/concerts-and-events/halloween-parade>

**OCT. 30, 2021 AIR & SCARE** at the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. Oct. 30, 2021, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission, tickets required, parking \$15; 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly, VA 20151. Annual Air & Scare program is back, with fun Halloween-themed STEAM activities, costumes, Star Wars characters, and of course, candy. Outdoors. Free, reserved tickets will be required. Also some virtual activities. Details at <https://airandspace.si.edu/events/air-and-scare-2021>

**MCLEAN'S OLD FIREHOUSE HOUSE OF TERROR AND FAMILY TRUNK OR TREAT**  
Saturday, Oct. 30, 5-10 p.m.  
\$5 per person; preregistration is recommended. Activity No. 4704.221  
[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

#### SOCIALLY DISTANCED TRUNK-OR-TREAT AT BULL RUN

A special Trunk-Or-Treat will be on Monday, Oct. 18, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park. 7700 Bull Run Dr., Centreville.

Cancelled in event of rain.

The event is free; however, everyone must register. Include the number of kids in each car, to ensure enough treats for all the children. During the event, everyone will remain in their car at all times. The attendees will drive through slowly admiring the Halloween trunks/displays. At the conclusion, an officer will offer goody bags to the attendees if they choose to accept one. All goody bags will be prepared and distributed by officers wearing personal protective equipment.

#### WORKHOUSE HAUNT

Workhouse Haunt, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, now through Nov. 6, 7-11 p.m. At Workhouse Arts

Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This year's Workhouse Haunt immerses guests through a highly-themed walk-through experience, as creepy characters deliver contactless scares in multiple scenes. Guests will travel in small groups for a frightening 30-minute experience that brings them next to the site's abandoned, historic buildings and into the dark woods where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights that are not for the faint of heart. Cost is \$25. Occurs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday each weekend through Nov. 6. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/workhouse-events/2021-workhouse-haunt-the-collection-2/>

#### COX FARMS

Fall Festival through Nov. 7  
Celebrating more than 40 years of business for Cox Farms. Giant slides, hayrides, rope swings, farm animals & their babies,

## THESE FLOWERS HAVE A LOT OF FIGHT IN THEM.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Because like flowers, our participants don't stop when something's in their way. They keep raising funds and awareness for a breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

It's time to add your flower to the fight.



JOIN US AT  
[ALZ.ORG/WALK](http://ALZ.ORG/WALK)



Additional Walks available. Find one near you at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk)

OCTOBER 24  
RESTON TOWN CENTER

2021 NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSORS  
Edward Jones CVS Health

Same Company, Same Employees,  
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

## TWO POOR TEACHERS

### Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed  
Since 1999



10% down  
nothing until the job  
is complete for the  
past 17 years

Free Estimates 703-999-2928

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level  
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com)



# Why I Walk to End Alzhiemers

**Walker Name:** Michelle Alonso  
**Hometown:** Vienna, VA  
**Team Name:** Gpa's Krewe  
**Participating in the Reston Walk on Oct. 24**

**Q. How many years have you been involved with the Walk?**

A. 2016 to present here and 2015 in Galveston, Texas

**Q.If known, how much money did you raise last year? Since you've been involved?**

A. We were Grand Champions last year so I think a little over \$1500. We raised well over \$5000. We were Grand Champions in Texas and Champions in DC in 2016 but don't have exact numbers.

**Q. Other Alzheimer's Association programs, services, activities you have participated in?**

A. Gpa's Krewe also participates in the Longest Day. We've participated since 2016. We've raised over \$1000 each year, always Solstice Champions, We have had six Zumbathons, yard sales, bake sales, and more to raise money and awareness. I am also an Advocate/Ambassador for the Association. I have been Congressman Connelly's Ambassador since December 2017. I also volunteer in the community at walks, health fairs, events, etc to help raise awareness and do outreach. I also just became a member of the Latino/Hispanic Outreach Committee.

**Q. Why do you support the Walk and the Alzheimer's Association?**

A. Everything I do is in honor of my Dad and Grandmother that we lost to Alzhei-



mer's. My Dad died in 2015 at the age of 67 of Younger Onset Alzheimer's

**Q. Please share a favorite memory of your loved one.**

A. Family was everything to my Dad. We loved to travel as a family. Even with Alzheimer's we continued to make beautiful memories with him and the grandkids going to the beach and Disney. Being with his family always brought a smile to his face. Those experiences were priceless.

**Q. What would you say to someone to encourage them to join the Walk?**

A. It's such a beautiful experience to be surrounded by so many people that understand what you are going through or what you've been through. We are all there with one goal in mind, to raise awareness and find our first survivor.

## Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's. Together, we can end Alzheimer's.

### Walk to End Alzheimer's - Northern Virginia

[https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2021/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr\\_id=14363&pg=entry](https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2021/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr_id=14363&pg=entry)

Sunday, Oct. 24  
 Reston Town Center  
 Registration opens at 8 a.m.  
 Ceremony starts at 9:30 a.m.



For more information, contact Shiri Rozenberg at 803-371-9793 or shrozenberg@alz.org

### Registration information

Sign up as an individual, team member or Team Captain. While there is no fee to register for the Walk, all participants are encouraged to raise critical funds that allow the Alzheimer's Association to provide 24/7 care and support and advance research toward methods of prevention, treatment and, ultimately, a cure. Learn more and register at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk).

### Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Its mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Visit [alz.org](http://alz.org) or call 800.272.3900.

# Langley High School Orchestra to Present Heroes

**First performance in the Langley auditorium since March of 2020 will highlight the works of Brian Balmages and Richard Meyer.**

BY ERIKA W. LI

The Langley High School Orchestra will take the stage once again for their Heroes concert in the Langley HS auditorium- for the first time since March of 2020. The performance will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. Orchestra Director Dr. Scott McCormick set the theme to celebrate the works of his own musical heroes: composers Brian Balmages and Richard Meyer.

Balmages, a Maryland resident and James Madison University alumnus, has composed many pieces in Langley Orchestra's repertoire over the years. Meyer, a renowned former music teacher, has even composed a piece specifically for Langley Orchestra. The

concert will highlight some of their works and give a glimpse into the differing themes and genres they present.

The night will kick off with the Concert Orchestra, made up of freshmen and sophomore players, performing "Rise of the Olympians" by Balmages and "Mantras" by Meyer. The Symphonic Orchestra will then perform "Ice Sculptures" by Balmages and "Momentum" by Meyer. "Ice Sculptures" will be a particularly meaningful piece, dedicated to Laura Moore. Moore, who recently died, had been the assistant principal at Langley for a number of years. Moore had always been an avid supporter of the orchestra, even accompanying them on a 2018 trip to Toronto, where they performed the piece.

The Philharmonic Orchestra will close off



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Director Scott McCormick will lead the Langley High School Orchestra in showcasing the works of musical "heroes" on stage Oct. 19.**

## Langley Happenings

Thursday, Oct. 14 – Choral Concert  
 Saturday, Oct. 16 – Homecoming Dance  
 Tuesday, Oct. 19 – Orchestra Concert  
 Thursday, Oct. 28 – Band Concert  
 Friday, Oct. 29 – End of 1st Quarter, Two Hour Early Release

the night with a performance of "Rhythm Dances" by Balmages and "Bailes Para Orquesta" by Meyer.

In classic Langley Orchestra fashion, student speakers will be sprinkled in throughout the night, bringing more insight and background into each of the pieces.

The concert will signify a return to normalcy — a gathering where students and audience members alike can revel in music and camaraderie. No tickets or advance reservations are required, and community members are encouraged to attend. Masks will be required for both performers and audience members.

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



presentation outlining the key estate planning steps we should ALL take. Bettina will help us learn how to properly plan for possible incapacity as we age, and how to ensure we leave the legacy we want for our children, grandchildren, and favored charitable organizations. Registration is required. Register at the following link: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/8198998>. For questions, contact [staff@LawtonLegacyPlanning.com](mailto:staff@LawtonLegacyPlanning.com)

## SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Good Samaritan Day. 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join members of Lewinsville Presbyterian Church for a day of service. There are opportunities for volunteers of all ages and talents. Based on current CDC guidelines and the understanding that working outdoors has a low risk for disease transmission, there are great opportunities to help. Meet for breakfast, then split off and go to one of four worksites: Westgate Elementary School, FACETS, Lewinsville Retirement Residence, or SHARE. Optional lunch follows. Sign up online! We welcome all in the community to join us for this day of service. Visit the website: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/good-samaritan-day/>

## SUNDAY/OCT. 17

Bachtoberfest. 6 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. To reflect on the losses of this past year, Bachtoberfest will feature Bach's "Ich Habe Genug" cantata, Organ Chorale Preludes with Choir, and a Brandenburg Concerto with baroque orchestra. The concert will be in the Sanctuary; masks will be required. More information is here: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/bachtoberfest/>

org/events/bachtoberfest/ This concert will also be live streamed on the website and on the YouTube Channel.

## MONDAY/OCT. 18

Dark Skies Program. 7 p.m. At Observatory Place at Turner Farm Park, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. The Environment and Parks Committee (E&P) of Great Falls Citizen Association (GFCA) invites you to a Dark Skies Program. Presenters Tammy Schwab with Fairfax County Park Authority and Jeffrey Kratsch with the Analemma Society, will tell us about light pollution and how it affects us. Space is limited therefore reservations are required. Send response to E&P co-chair at: [winfrost@gmail.com](mailto:winfrost@gmail.com).

## TUESDAY/OCT. 19

NARFE Meeting. 1:30 p.m. At the Vienna Community Center, Vienna. National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) Meeting. Guest speaker – Angela Barker, "Need 2 B Neat" Professional Organizing – senior downsizing, de-cluttering and more. For many people, organizing can be a very draining process, both emotionally and psychologically. Hiring a professional to help you along this journey is the key to success. Free. Members and guests welcome. Call 703-205-9041 to register.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 22

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 9 a.m.–3 p.m. McLean Community Center is helping the American Red Cross with Diverse Blood Donations. It is urgent for donors of all ethnicities to support patients in need. For an appointment, 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.



## Get a 24-step vehicle inspection for just \$20

Since 1933, the Safety Inspection Program has helped keep Virginia's motorists safe, with affordable annual checkups that ensure your car – and all those around you – are roadworthy, reliable and ready to go. Learn more at [vasafetyinspection.com](http://vasafetyinspection.com).

## PRINT AND DIGITAL OPTIONS TO REACH YOUR TARGET MARKET

Email Blasts  
Print  
Digital Billboards  
Sponsored Content  
Exclusive Front Page Shoutout  
Social Media



**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online

For Advertising:  
Call 703.778.9431  
or email  
[advertising@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:advertising@connectionnewspapers.com)

# KEEP OUR SCHOOLS OPEN!

**Democrats**, rewarding their big union donors, kept our kids **locked out** of "public" schools — well after private schools reopened safely.

**We cannot trust Democrats to put students first.**

**Had enough?  
Vote Republican.**



SCAN ME

PAID FOR BY FAIRFAX COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE | [FAIRFAXGOP.ORG](http://FAIRFAXGOP.ORG)



# Building a Better Bar

Local designers share home bar trends.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Whether unwinding after a long day or hosting a dinner party for family and close friends, the pandemic has boosted the popularity of home bars, say local designers. Their relatively small size makes home bars a blank canvas on which to unleash design creativity. A few local tastemakers offer ideas to those who are ready to trade-in their bar cart for a full-size version.

“The home bar is no longer just a bar,” said Tracy Morris of Tracy Morris Design in McLean. “It has turned into the new workhorse of the home. Since our clients have been home a bit more, they are looking for secondary kitchen spaces.”

Because home bars occupy only a small area in a home, homeowners can experiment with unexpected colors and textures that might overpower a larger space.

“Saturated colors are among the latest trends in home bar designs. [They] present a great opportunity to be different and creative,” said Danielle Steele, lead interior designer, Marks-Woods Construction Services. “This space is often near the kitchen, which may be white or neutral, so it presents an opportunity to go bold.”

From wall coverings to countertops, options for courageous design abound. “We are using jaw-dropping wallpapers in many of our home bars,” said Morris. “This is the most asked for item. Clients are trying to differentiate their home bars from the rest of the home. One way to do this is with amazing wallpaper.”

Those who enjoy entertaining friends and family know that the kitchen is often a dinner party gathering spot. Home bars offer an alternative space for guests to mingle. “[It] moves them away from the center of a busy and congested kitchen into a second area, which is perfect for conversation and gathering,” said Tom Reineberg, architect. InSite Builders & Remodeling.

In fact, home bars can be equipped with accessories that allow them to serve as extensions of the kitchen. “In one recent Bethesda home, we provided a full walk-behind bar with bar stool seating, said architect

Mark Kaufman of GTM Architects. “The bar has a full array of appliances including an ice maker, refrigerator, dishwasher, sink and power outlets.”

Proper lighting is essential. “Popular choices are LED circular-shaped lights, tape lighting and lighting strips ... [which] create a bright and attractive entertaining area,” said Reineberg. “Open shelves with mirrors behind the shelving and dramatic lighting can be used to display and showcase barware, unique bottles and liquor collections.”

“Since our clients have been home a bit more... the home bar is no longer just a bar. It has turned into the new workhorse of the home.”  
— Tracy Morris of Tracy Morris Design in McLean



PHOTO BY REGIS VOGT

The bar in this home by interior designer Danielle Steele of Marks-Woods Construction is fitted with a wine refrigerator and glass front cabinetry, which create a minimalist style.



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

The cabinet-front bar in the family room of this Bethesda home, by Mark Kaufman of GTM Architects, blends seamlessly with the built-in bookcase.



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Gray and white are popular color schemes, while quartz is often requested for countertops, says Tom Reineberg, InSite Builders & Remodeling.



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Open shelving, mirrors and dramatic lighting combine to add glamour to this home bar by architect Tom Reineberg of InSite Builders & Remodeling.



PHOTO BY GREG POWERS

Because it occupies a small space, designer Tracy Morris was able to use bold colors and textures in this bar without overpowering the rest of this McLean home.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## NOW THRU NOV. 1

Reston Farm Garden Market Fall Festival. 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Cost is \$28 per child and \$6 per parent, children 2 and under free. The event will feature a range of activities, including several moon bounces, a petting zoo, the Express Train for both adults and children to ride. Visit [www.restonfarm.com](http://www.restonfarm.com). Call 703-759-0000 or email [info@RestonFarm.com](mailto:info@RestonFarm.com).

## NOW THRU OCT. 17

A Familiar Melody (An Evening of Music). At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Directed by Ashleigh King; Music Directed by Elisa Rosman. Nothing can soothe the soul like live music! Four past NextStop musical theatre stars (Katie McManus, Alex De Bard, Ricky Drummond, Marquise White) come together for an evening of Broadway and movie musical hits, including songs from Cinderella, Ain't Misbehavin', Waitress, Ragtime, Company, Little Shop of Horrors, A Star is Born, and so many more beloved classics.

## NOW THRU OCT. 30

Art Show. At Reston Art Gallery-Lake Anne Plaza. 11400 Washington Plaza WB-Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Julia Malakoff's solo show, "Good Juju" is a collection of mixed-media collages, displaying bright colors, nature inspired shapes, textures and organic papers fused with hand painted acrylic paints. "Colorful comfort and visual stories that inspire and bring a sense of renewal, joy and magic"-this is the goal of my current collection of work, says Malakoff. The gallery is open on Saturdays, 10-5 and Sundays, 12-5 and by appointment. Visit the website: [www.juliamalakoff.com](http://www.juliamalakoff.com)

## OCT. 7-17

"The Book of Mamaw." At Boro Park at The Boro Tysons, 8350 Broad Street, Tysons Corner. October 14 at 7:30 PM, October 15 at 7:30 PM, October 16 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM, and October 17 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Visit [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org)

## OCT. 7-NOV. 7

A Disco Musical Comedy - Disaster. At Next Stop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Visit [www.nextstoptheatre.org](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org).

## OCT. 14-31

Fall for the Book: Fall for the Book Festival featuring live and recorded events will be held virtually and in-person at George Mason's Fairfax campus. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Fall for the Book events and sessions are free and open to the public. Fall for the Book is free with the generous support of sponsors including the Fairfax County Public Library, George Mason University, the Fairfax Library Foundation, and the City of Fairfax among others. Fall for the Book returns with a new hybrid format including virtual and in-person events, including lively Podcasts. For complete up-to-date schedule with details visit [www.fallforthebook.org](http://www.fallforthebook.org).

## FRIDAY/OCT. 15

After 7 Dance Party. 7-10 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd. McLean. The Old Firehouse presents After 7, a themed party that includes raffles, contests, catered food and drinks. One of the hottest DJs in the DMV will be playing the hottest hip-hop, top 40 and dance hall tracks, plus requests.

## OCT. 15-17

Art & Craft Festival. Friday, Oct 15: noon - 5 p.m.; Saturday Oct 16: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday Oct 17: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. The Capital Art & Craft Festival at Dulles Expo Center features artisans of glass, jewelry, leather, paintings, prints, photography, pottery, wearable art and wood, plus specialty food exhibition. Cost: \$10, in advance; \$12 at door; Kids under 12 free, senior discount. Visit the website: [www.capitalartandcraftfestival.com](http://www.capitalartandcraftfestival.com)

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



The Herndon Homecoming Parade will take place on Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021 in Herndon.



And they're off! Ready to walk Lake Anne Plaza and pick up their donut half-way through the grueling 650-step 0.5k

[CapitalArtandCraftFestival.com](http://CapitalArtandCraftFestival.com)

## OCT. 15-16

"Anon(ymous)" Play. 7 p.m. At Westfield High School, Chantilly. Westfield Theatre Department presents its fall play Anon(ymous) by Naomi Iizuka. Tickets are \$10.00; \$5.00 for students with a student ID and open to all audiences! Audiences are encouraged to purchase tickets online at [www.westfieldtheatre.com](http://www.westfieldtheatre.com). Cash or check only at the door. Masks must be worn at all times in and out of the auditorium.

## OCT. 15-17

Studio Art Tour. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Great Falls Village Center, Great Falls. Great Falls Studios is back, in person, with their popular Studio Tour where you can come visit the artists, many in their own studios and some in pop-up studios, on Friday October 15, Saturday October 16 and Sunday October 17, 2021 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day. Admission is free. In advance, you can get a flavor of the Tour by visiting the exhibit at the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike during the entire month of October - each artist on the Tour will have a piece up there and you can also pick up a brochure to help you plan your visit. Visit the website: <https://www.greatfallsstudios.com/arttour>

## SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Centreville Day 2021. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Centreville Park, Braddock and Mt. Gilead Roads, Centreville. Entertainment, food, crafts, vendors, historic locations, parade, children's rides and games, Cavalcade of Pets, Safety Expo. Great day for families. Spaces still available for vendors and sponsorships. Satellite parking will be available in the Carrabba's (Rt. 29) parking lot beginning at 9 a.m. and ending with last pickup at the Braddock stop at 5 p.m. Overflow available if needed in Trinity Centre. Shuttle buses provided by Fairfax County Community and Neighborhoods. Visit the website: [www.centrevilleday.org](http://www.centrevilleday.org).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Gin Dance Company performs "Perfect 10+." 7:30 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. Tickets \$45. For information and tickets, go to [www.gindance.org](http://www.gindance.org).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Herndon Homecoming Parade. 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The parade route extends along Elden Street from Locust Street/Sterling Road to Lynn Street, Herndon. All are welcome to be a part of the Herndon Homecoming Parade. Grab a lawn chair and find your favorite spot along Elden Street starting at 9:30 a.m. to cheer on the parade participants. This year's

theme is Herndon Goes Hollywood, so expect to see some familiar faces from the big screen.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Unbridled Passion. 4-5:30 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Community Orchestra's inaugural program, "Unbridled Passion," features three works: Carl Maria von Weber's Jubilee Overture, Frederic Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2, and Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 1.

Each composer demonstrates intense feelings about their respective life experiences. Cost: \$25 adult, \$20 Senior 62yrs+, Youth 17 and under, active military and first responders free. Visit the website: [www.restoncommunityorchestra.org](http://www.restoncommunityorchestra.org)

## SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Reston Home Tour. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Join Reston Museum in celebrating new beginnings at four uniquely renovated homes as well as the Kensington Reston during the 19th Annual Reston Home Tour. Cost is \$30-\$35. Visit the website: [restonmuseum.org/restonhometour](http://restonmuseum.org/restonhometour)

## OCT. 16-17

The Okee Dokee Brothers. 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. At The Alden Theater, McLean Community Center. As the GRAMMY-winning Okee Dokee Brothers, Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander, have built a plaid-shirted national following with their outdoor adventure-themed albums, "Through The Woods," "Can You Canoe?" and "Winterland." But whether it's indoors or out, the Okee Dokee Brothers believe that as long as folks are singing together there's a glimpse of hope for our world. Cost is \$20/\$15 MCC district residents.

## OCT. 16-17

Made Pop-Up Market. 12-5 p.m. At Vienna Shopping Center, 136 Maple Avenue West, Vienna. The Town of Vienna in partnership with Vienna Shopping Center, brings to the town a Fall Pop-Up Market featuring up to 25 local artisans ranging from jewelry, home gifts, art, and more. Shoppers can shop safely and explore a variety of handmade gifts from local makers. Visit the website:

<https://www.viennava.gov/doing-business/economic-development/vienna-fall-2021-pop-up>

## SUNDAY/OCT. 17

SLHS Pantry 0.5K. From 3-5 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza, 11424 Washington Plaza West, Reston. Join them for music, donuts, a raffle, and the most rewarding 650 steps you'll take all year. Proceeds purchase food, toiletries, and necessities for SLHS pyramid students and families in need. Cost: \$25. Visit the website:

<https://potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2021-do-it-your-way-0-5k>

## SUNDAY/OCT. 17

Bachtoberfest. 6 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church invites you three Bach performances to celebrate "Bach"-tober! Bach Chorales sung in alternatim with organ chorale preludes, classical guitar, and an orchestral suite featuring Air on a "G" String. A reception of German sweets will follow the program outdoors in the Lewinsville Pavillion. The concert is free and open to the public. Website: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/bachtoberfest/>

## SUNDAY/OCT. 17

Friends of Reston Fall 5K. 8 a.m. At Brown's Chapel Park, 1686 Brown's Chapel Road, Reston. All ages are welcome to register to run, walk, or stroll in this new 5K event and enjoy the awards celebration with prizes and live music. Online registration is open until Oct. 15 via the link on [friendsofreston.org](http://friendsofreston.org). Participants registered by Friday, Oct. 1 will be ensured to receive an event T-shirt and a goodie bag for a fee of \$40. For later registrants, Oct. 2-15, and in-person on event day, Oct. 17, the cost is \$45 and event T-shirts will be available while supplies last.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION ♦ OCTOBER 13-19, 2021 ♦ 13



The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted  
IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY



**\$500 OFF\***

OR  
**No Payments & No Interest  
For 18 Months\*\***

OFFER EXPIRES 12.31.2021

**BCI BATH & SHOWER**

CALL NOW (844) 945-1631

\*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires Dec. 31, 2021. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2021 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

**GENERAC**

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

**844-947-1479**

**FREE**

7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available

Subject to Credit Approval

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Treasury's Unclaimed Property Program returns millions to rightful owners every year!

What is unclaimed property?

Inactive or dormant accounts from stocks, dividends, customer refunds or credits, uncashed checks, safe deposit box contents, bank accounts, insurance policy proceeds, etc.

Go to our free website today to search and start the claim process for your unclaimed property.



Virginia Department of the Treasury

**CLASSIFIED**

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

To ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Upgrade Your Home with a  
**NEW METAL ROOF**  
Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!



Call today to schedule your

**FREE ESTIMATE**  
1-844-902-4611



New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires December 31st 2021. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded message(s) by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies representing if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved.

LIMITED TIME OFFER

**60% off**  
YOUR INSTALLATION  
+  
**TAKE AN ADDITIONAL  
10% off**  
Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

**ERIE**  
Metal Roofs  
Quality Choice  
Expires 12/31/21

**Medicare has changed.**

Find out how it can affect you.

For **FREE** Medicare Supplement information from Physicians Life Insurance Company, call:

**1-833-657-1636**

or visit **MedSupBenefit.com/vapress**

We are not connected with, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Federal Medicare Program. I understand I have no obligation. This is a solicitation of insurance. A licensed agent/producer may contact you. (MD, VA: These policies are available to people under age 65 eligible for Medicare due to a disability). (VA: For a complete description of policy exclusions, limitations, and costs or other coverage details, please contact your insurance agent or the company). Policy form number L030, L035, L036, L037, L038, F001, F002 (OK: L030OK, L035OK, L036OK, L037OK, L038OK; TN: L030TN, L035TN, L036TN, L037TN, L038TN, F001TN, F002TN; L030VA, L035VA, L036VA, L037VA, L038VA). 6243\_A

A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

**ACT NOW TO RECEIVE  
A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!\***  
1 (833) 688-1378

\*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.

**GENERAC**  
**PWRCELL**  
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM



**Leaf & Filter**  
GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A  
**YEAR-ROUND  
CLOG-FREE  
GUARANTEE**

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

**15% OFF** & **10% OFF**  
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE\*  
SENIORS & MILITARY!

**+ 5% OFF**  
TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY!\*

**WE INSTALL  
YEAR-ROUND!**



**FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!\***

Promo Code: 285

\*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.



CALL US TODAY FOR  
**A FREE ESTIMATE**

**1-877-614-6667**

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

\*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. \*\*Offer valid at time of estimate only. †The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized Leaf & Filter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." Manufactured in Plainville, Michigan and processed at LMI Mercer Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. ‡SLB# 1035295, DCP# 10783583-5501, License# 7659, License# 50195, License# 41354, License# 59339, License# 128344, License# 218294, WA US# 603 233 577, License# 2102212586, License# 2106212945, License# 2705122153A, License# LEAFNRW2227, License# W056912, License# WC 25998 H17, Nassau HC License# H01067000, Registration# 176442, Registration# HIC 0649505, Registration# C127229, Registration# C127230, Registration# 366920918, Registration# PC6379, Registration# R231804, Registration# 13VH5953900, Registration# PA069383, Suffolk, HC License# 52229-H, License# 2205169445, License# 252000022, License# 262000403, License# 0086590, Registration# H-19114.

**CALENDAR**

FROM PAGE 13

**FRIDAY/OCT. 22**

NASCOW Fundracer. 10 a.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park. Virtual. NASCOW Fundracer is back at Frying Pan. Sponsor your favorite of the nine cows competing, just like race cars get sponsors. A fun way to support the farm you love. Visit the website: <https://friendsoffryingpan.org/nascow/>

**FRIDAY/OCT. 22**

Monster Mash 5th and 6th Grader Party. 7-9:30 p.m. At The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. The Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Parties are themed and decorated accordingly. Partygoers can enjoy catered food and beverages, a DJ spinning the latest tunes, an open dance floor and a variety of other attractions and activities. Cost is \$35/\$25 MCC district residents. Preregistration is highly recommended.

**SATURDAY/OCT. 23**

Petite Pumpkin Painters Program. 10 a.m., 11 a.m. 1 p.m., 2 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Halloween is just around the corner and it's time to start breaking out the decorations! What better way than to make them yourself? Let your kids get hands-on with this year's fall decorations at Sully Historic Site's Petite Pumpkin Painters Program. Bring your preschooler (ages 3 to 5) to pick their own perfect pumpkin from our pumpkin patch to paint, and let their creativity shine. While your child's artwork dries, children can play the many outdoor games set up for the season. The cost is \$9 per participant. Advanced registration is required. Call 703-437-1794.

**SATURDAY/OCT. 23**

DogFest Washington D.C. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Reston Town Center, 1818 Discovery Street, Reston. Canine Companions DogFest is coming to you! So grab your dog and get ready to have a tail-waggin' good time! We'll change lives, four paws at a time. Furry friends and their families are invited to join us online for a day of fun, festivities, contests, graduate speakers, dog demonstrations, and more. Register for free at [www.canine.org/DogFestWashingtonDC](http://www.canine.org/DogFestWashingtonDC) to receive a FREE DogFest bandana for your dog!

**SUNDAY/OCT. 24**

The Borisevich Duo. 2 p.m. At The Alden, McLean Community Center, McLean. The Borisevich Duo, featuring pianist Margarita Loukachkina and violinist Nikita Borisevich, is an internationally acclaimed violin and piano duet, frequently performing across the United States and Europe. \$10/\$5 MCC district residents

**SUNDAY/OCT. 24**

New Dominion Chorale. 4-6 p.m. At Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Thomas Beveridge conducts NDC and orchestra in his Yizkor Requiem, a unique fusion of Jewish and Christian rituals honoring the dead, and in several Mendelssohn Psalms. Masks and proof of vaccination are required. All performers have been vaccinated and will wear masks during the performance. Visit the website: [www.newdominion.org](http://www.newdominion.org)



# Inventory Wanes, Sales Surge

By LIZZY CONROY

The residential real estate market in McLean and Great Falls continues to experience the best year ever. The number of sales for the first three quarters of the year is up 22% over 2020 transaction levels. This surge in sales is occurring even while our market continues to experience record low inventory levels. The market experienced a seasonal breather in August as some buyers took a pause from their home search during the summer, but activity kicked back up with the start of the Fall market in September. Home sales remain competitive, especially for turn-key properties in the best locations, and the real estate industry anticipates these market conditions will continue for the foreseeable future.

The upper bracket segment (\$1.25 million plus) experienced the greatest increase from 2020 to 2021 with a 38% rise in closed transactions. The number of sales in the \$2.0 - \$3.0 million category have nearly doubled from 2020 to 2021, with the Great Falls market leading the way. The ability to work from home, a trend toward multi-generational living, the desire for new experiences after Covid lockdowns, and historically low interest rates are all driving demand for real estate with ample indoor and outdoor spaces, as well as more amenities.

Another key trend driving upper bracket sales is the new build market. Many buyers are willing to pay a premium for modern floor plans and the maintenance ease of new construction. Most of McLean and select neighborhoods in Great Falls are experiencing a significant amount of in-fill building where an existing home is demolished to make way for the building of a new home. Land scarcity and increased demand is driving prices.

Five years ago, a 1/3-acre lot, on average, sold for \$750,000 - \$800,000. Today we are seeing 1/3-acre lots command \$1,000,000 - \$1,300,000 depending on location. While the cost of money is still cheap, land, labor and materials have jumped, and builders are passing the increased cost along to the consumer.

Digging deeper into the numbers, we see that the lower bracket segment, less than \$1.25 million, is up only 10% from last year. The inventory crunch is more pronounced in the lower brackets which means buyers are losing out on lower bracket properties due to multiple offer scenarios and buyers are finding they either must expand their geography, budget, or both.

OUR REAL ESTATE market has dramatically changed from 10 years ago. In the first 3 quarters of 2011 when we were still pulling out of the 2008 market crash, only 689 homes sold in McLean and Great Falls. A whopping 64% more homes have sold in Q1-Q3 in 2021. Today's lending guidelines are more rigorous and borrowers who qualify for financing have sound credit scores and financial profiles. This phenomenon pro-

McLean & Great Falls 2021 Q1-Q3 Market Analysis of Home Sales (Based on List Price):

2021 Sales Compared to 2020 and 2011						
2021 Q1-Q3 Total Sales: 1,127						
Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-\$3 Mil	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.25 Mil	\$750k-\$1 Mil	<\$750k
22101	37	74	151	81	107	27
22102	21	28	58	33	31	223
22065	11	45	105	39	52	3
Total: 69		Total: 148	Total: 314	Total: 153	Total: 190	Total: 253
Combined Total Upper Brackets: 531			Combined Total Lower Brackets: 596			
2020 Q1-Q3 Total Sales: 924						
Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-\$3 Mil	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.25 Mil	\$750k-\$1 Mil	<\$750k
22101	18	42	134	58	107	10
22102	9	14	56	28	24	176
22065	6	19	86	59	85	13
Total: 33		Total: 75	Total: 276	Total: 145	Total: 196	Total: 199
Combined Total Upper Brackets: 384			Combined Total Lower Brackets: 540			
2011 Q1-Q3 Total Sales: 689						
Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-\$3 Mil	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.25 Mil	\$750k-\$1 Mil	<\$750k
22101	3	12	53	30	99	106
22102	6	9	34	12	40	132
22065	3	8	48	24	43	25
Total: 12		Total: 29	Total: 135	Total: 72	Total: 182	Total: 263
Combined Total Upper Brackets: 172			Combined Total Lower Brackets: 517			

vides stability and certainty in the lending market. The stock market continues to perform which gives borrowers and cash buyers the confidence and resources to purchase a home. Rents are also rising which drives real estate investors to seek return and motivates first-time home buyers who see that their mortgage payment could be the same or less as a rental payment and that low rates translate into more purchasing power.

The good news is that the McLean/Great Falls real estate market continues to thrive. Supply is low and demand remains elevated thanks to current demographic trends. Millennials are forming households. Gen Xers are moving up to accommodate multi-generational households and work-at-home adults, and baby boomers are choosing to age in place. This confluence of factors is driving the housing crunch and the steady rise in sales prices.

At the close of the first half of the year, supply for the overall McLean and Great Falls market was under 3 months. Today, supply is just under 2 months. While you may have heard rumblings that the market was slowing toward the end of the summer, the market is getting tighter. We are experiencing more of a sellers market today vs. 3 months ago. This means that if you are thinking of selling, now is the best time to sell.

**THINKING OF BUYING?** While it is a sellers market, anemic inventory can continue to lead to higher prices. Buyers who decided to sit out for a year or so are finding their purchase power diminished as they gambled that the market would slow down over time. In McLean and Great Falls when we look at the market with a 20 year lens, sales prices are in line with growth expectations and we are experiencing a market correction from the 2008 downswing. Ultimately, time is of the essence and waiting until next year could mean you end up paying more and getting less.

Karen Briscoe, Lizzy Conroy, and Jenny McClintock with HBC Group at Keller Williams are active and experienced Realtors® in the Northern Virginia marketplace. They work with sellers, buyers, investors, and builders in all price ranges and are available to assist with your real estate needs! [www.HBCGroupKW.com](http://www.HBCGroupKW.com), 703-734-0192, [Homes@HBCGroupKW.com](mailto:Homes@HBCGroupKW.com)

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004  
FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL

ELECTRICAL

**K & D ELECTRIC**  
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE  
Family Owned & Operated

Recessed Lighting  
Ceiling Fans  
Phone/CATV  
Computer Network Cabling  
Service Upgrades  
Hot Tubs, etc...

Licensed/Bonded/Insured  
Office 703-335-0654  
Mobile 703-499-0522  
lektrkman28@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING

LANDSCAPING

**Quality Tree Service & Landscaping**  
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.  
**Summer Cleanup...**  
Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.  
25 years of experience - Free estimates  
**703-868-5358**  
**24 Hour Emergency Tree Service**

Landscaping Drainage

Landscaping Drainage

**ProDrainage**  
A JES Services, Inc Company  
Eco-Friendly Landscape Drainage Experts  
Drainage, Erosion, Landscaping, Hardscaping, Patios, Retaining Walls & More  
Your Neighborhood Company since 1987  
**703-772-0500** [www.ProDrainage.com](http://www.ProDrainage.com)  
VA. Licensed Class A Contractor

Sign up for  
**FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION**  
to any or all of our 15 papers  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE)

## Life I'm Trying to Live



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Continuing last week's justifiable rant about my less-than-ideal cancer-driven circumstances, I have to look ahead somehow, not behind. I can't change the past and focusing on what happened that possibly didn't need to happen would make yours truly more of a dull boy than I already am. Besides, living my life with constant anger and disappointment concerning how I was potentially harmed serves no real purpose. It can't change the facts. It seems logical to me therefore that what damage I can't change and/or control, and that which medically has harmed me in the past, I must find a way to embrace it somehow so that I can live my present and future life - what there is of it, with some dignity and joy. Easier said than done, I assure you, especially for my wife. Though it's not exactly in the vault for me, it is nonetheless compartmentalized.

Oddly enough, it's this ability to compartmentalize which has likely carried me this long: nearly 13 years from my Feb., 2009 "terminal" diagnosis of stage IV non small cell lung cancer, a killer cancer if there ever was one, and of course, there are many. In fact, annually, more people die from lung cancer than the next four cancers combined. No wonder I was worried when I recall the "13 month to two year" prognosis I was given. Hearing those "you have cancer" words are life changing and in many cases, life ending. Fortunately for me, I was misdiagnosed and only thought I had a few years left to live.

Nevertheless, receiving this kind of life-threatening blast of reality at age 54 and a half is overwhelming. The treatment (heavy-duty chemotherapy) that followed was challenging. The life the patient is forced to live as a result becomes cancer centric. Very little time passes when you are not keenly aware of your circumstances or preoccupied with them or planning/coordinating your life/schedule around something cancer related. All the while knowing/having been told that your chances of surviving beyond two years is in the low single digits. And for many lung cancer patients, particularly stage IV patients, there's very little the doctors can do about it. There is no cure. As my oncologist told me: "I can treat you, but I can't cure you." It was extremely hard to process that statement. I mean, really process it to understand that you are going to die because of this diagnosis. It reminds me of an episode from the M\*A\*S\*H, the television series. It was a long day/night in the operating room and "Havekeye" Pierce, one of the trauma surgeons, was questioning his ability to save wounded soldier's lives. Lt. Col. Henry Blake and "Hawkeye" are standing outside the surgery taking a break. And Henry, hearing his fellow surgeon's frustration, says to "Hawkeye": "There are two rules in war. Rule number 1, young men die. Rule number 2, doctors can't change rule number 1." The warning/advisory one hears after getting a non small cell lung cancer stage IV diagnosis is very similar. It's not exactly a rule, but it is a startling reality nonetheless. That reality? Most stage IV lung cancer patients die much sooner than later.

This is the kind of news that you don't want to take to your grave. This is the news however that you must incorporate/assimilate into your life somehow so you can try to go on living a rewarding and productive life. Ignoring your diagnosis seems stupid and irresponsible. And pretending that your future actions will not have consequences for your health seems incredibly naive. The only real choice as I saw it, was integrating these horrible circumstances into my life, somehow. And the only way I could see doing this was to compartmentalize them. Try to control/file them away so everyday is not dreary and depressing. Life can go on by living it, not dying because of it. I made a conscious choice to not give in, and in a way, I've been rewarded for it. I've lived 10 years-plus beyond my original prognosis. Granted, mistakes were made, apparently. But for the 10 years or so until I learned my true diagnosis, I believed as curly Howard believed in an unrelated Three Stooges two-reeler: "I'm too young to die. Too handsome. Well, too young, anyway."

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





Work with the #1 Realtor

# DIANNE

## VAN VOLKENBURG



Twee Ramos, Susan Canis,  
Joe Trippi and Justin Scango

# Thinking About Selling In 2022?

## No One Prepares Your Home Better

# CALL ME TODAY!!



Great Falls

\$4,500,000



Great Falls

\$1,199,999



Great Falls

\$1,700,000



Great Falls

\$1,399,999



Great Falls

\$3,250,000



Great Falls

\$2,299,000



Great Falls

\$1,855,000



Great Falls

\$1,299,000



Great Falls

\$1,350,000

LONG & FOSTER® | CHRISTIE'S®  
REAL ESTATE INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066  
703-759-9190 • GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

703-757-3222

sales@GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

