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PHOTO BY MERGIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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."

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McLean Citizens Association, Meeting Oct. 6, 2021

Spotlighting Daniel Singh, executive director of McLean Community Center.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Citizens Association held its Board of Directors meeting on Oct. 6, featuring remarks by guest speaker Daniel Phoenix Singh. The McLean Community Center Governing Board appointed Singh executive director of the McLean Community Center, replacing George Sachs, who retired on May 7.

Singh said he was excited to come back to Fairfax County and the community engagement. They “raised the taxes to build their community center, established the budget and keep it moving forward,” he said.

Singh reviewed the center’s last five years, saying that those years were “a little unusual for us.” In 2016 and onward, they got ready for the renovations, then closed the building for a year, with events at satellite sites. “We were open for about six months, and then COVID happened for the last 18 months. “We’ve had a really checkered five years here,” Singh said.

According to Singh, they are reimagining, redefining what it means to be a community center, adding pieces “that might be interest-

ing for all of us. ... Community engagement, being the biggest focus for us as we look forward,” said Singh.

Singh said they identified priority areas to work through the following year, then overall, the three years heading toward the center’s 50th anniversary in 2025. Because recovery is much of the center’s focus now, Singh said the center hopes to attend all in-person classes.

“Unfortunately, because of the current county restrictions, we’re back in hybrid mode, back to social distancing, and cutting down the number of registrants in our classes. [We are] cutting down audiences in our theater,” said Singh. He added that the center hoped they could move past that by spring and look at the subsequent recovery phase.

They typically build their programs around elementary through middle school students. “We haven’t had that kind of flow, and so we’re working on building that connection back into our programming,” he said.

Sustainability, Singh said, was “an issue for us.” They were working internally from the board’s directive and the County’s 250-page mandate, a document all county agen-



SCREENSHOT

From left, Rob Jackson, president of McLean Citizens Association and Daniel Singh, executive director of McLean Community Center.

cies have to abide by in the coming years. “They’re very stringent requirements for energy use in our appliances and lighting, the water usage, plastic in the building, recharging. ... All of those have a whole roadmap that they laid out in the County. We’re hoping that a lot of that will be funded by some of the county grant programs and partnerships they’re establishing,” Singh said.

Diversity and equity are another area of focus both internally from the board’s directive and One Fairfax coming down from the County.

Singh added that “how to be responsive and find programming with a faster turnaround than we’ve been able to do in the past,” is another goal. The center already submitted its FY 23 budget draft to the County. “That makes it hard for us to program, in-

novative, or if something is a hot topic in the news, whether it’s climate change or storm or a need in a high school, it’s hard for us to pivot and make that happen.”

A portion of the question and answer period.

Q- I actually had two distinct questions... one that’s directly associated with budget and taxation. In the past, my understanding was that the public was supposed to be able to give input on the MCC budget through the end of October. If that’s no longer true, because if you’ve already submitted your fiscal 2023 request to the County. It sounds like the public’s opportunity has sort of been cut

SEE MCLEAN CITIZEN, PAGE 11

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

Virginia is one of only 13 states that tax groceries.

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

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

NEWS

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



The Noman Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant, celebrated 50 years of service in 2020.



Virginia Master Naturalists observe the Grit Train mechanism that removes materials heavier than water which are hauled to the landfill.

Local Naturalists Tour Cole Pollution Control Plant

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Wrap your head around the fact that the water coming out of your kitchen tap today is the same water that has been on the earth for four billion years. Falling rain may seem new and fresh, but the earth is a closed system; no new water is being added to our planet. To keep water safe for drinking and other uses, the earth's huge natural recycling system gets a helping hand from the Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant, in Lorton. Owned and operated by Fairfax County, the 400 acre treatment center operates 24/7 all year; one five plants serving the area. The plant celebrated 50 years of service in October 2020.

Virginia Master Naturalists touring the plant on Oct. 1, got an up-close look at the operations that assure reused water meets or surpasses national and state water quality requirements. In the process of water treatment, wastewater and sewage go down your house pipes, entering a system about 3,000 miles long; reaching the Cole plant in four to five hours by gravity, assisted by 63 pumping stations. Upon reaching the plant, the first filtration pass, through mechanically controlled screens, separates out debris, such as sticks, rags, and other objects harmful to the system, which is hauled to the landfill; at a rate of 2 to 3 tons per day. The next step separates out other grit and sand matter, heavier than water. The screened water then goes into large tanks, covered for odor control, for about four hours, where solid matter either settles or floats, and is removed by mechanical rakes. That filtered liquid flows to eighteen foot deep aeration

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Plant Director Mike McGrath, (white hat) explains one of the primary processes where solid matter and floating materials are separated in covered tanks.

tanks to supply oxygen to natural bacterial microorganisms which feed on organic matter and nutrients in the filtered water.

About 100 million pounds of bacteria assist the cleansing process. Some microorganisms are collected for reuse; the excess biosolids are collected, burned, and hauled to the landfill where they are contained in ash pits. The cleaned water flows to either a five- or seven-million-gallon holding pond. At that point it is sufficiently clean to meet water quality standards. Water birds, and the occasional fish likely dropped by Ospreys nesting on site, can be seen enjoying

the ponds.

Cole uses yet another bio-filter, beyond the filtration done at many treatment plants: Moving Bed Biologic Reactors (MBBR). The plant was the first to use this large scale microbiological model for sewage treatment in the U.S. Multi-surfaced plastic objects in large numbers churn in an aerated tank, providing increased surface for growth of food to sustain the microorganisms relied upon to bring down nitrogen levels, which otherwise would be harmful to aquatic systems and the environment.

In the final step, the water is disinfected



Mid process tanks introduce aeration to stimulate bacteria used to breakdown matter in the wastewater.

with either sodium hypochlorite or ultraviolet light. The treated wastewater can then be released into Pohick Creek, soon reaching Gunston Cove and entering the global recycling system.

It is no small job to keep our water clean. Cole, with a capacity of 67 million gallons per day, usually treats and releases approximately 40 million gallons of treated wastewater per day; the equivalent to 60 Olympic sized swimming pools. About 170 employees work at the plant; others monitor businesses to assure regulatory compliance. The plant operates an in-house State certified laboratory for daily testing of nitrogen, phosphorus, and other pollutant levels. Employees and contractors check sewer lines using closed circuit television to avoid costly pipe failures. Residents can do their part by keeping grease, pesticides, paint, wipes, medicine, dental floss, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, and other items harmful to the system away from drains and toilets. For more information, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/wastewater/what-you-can-do.

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.”

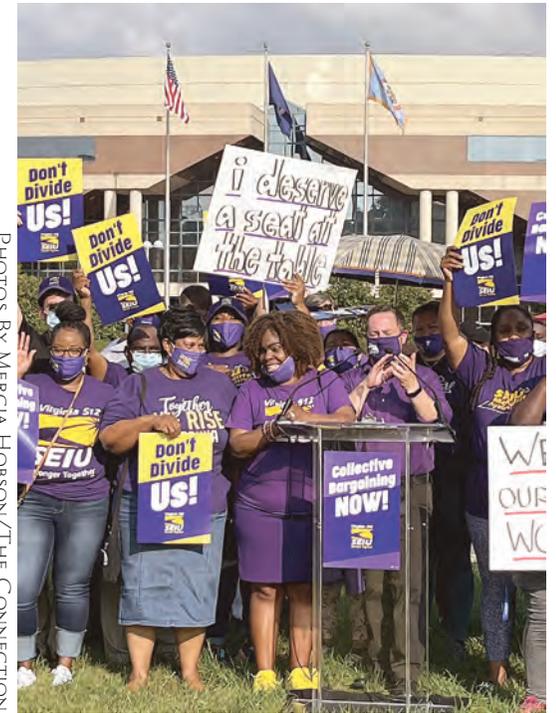
The new law reversed a 1977 Supreme Court of Virginia ruling. According to Code § 40.1-57.2, Collective Bargaining, effective May 1, 2021, counties, cities, and towns can but are not mandated to adopt ordinances recognizing labor unions and enter into collective bargaining agreements with them.

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.

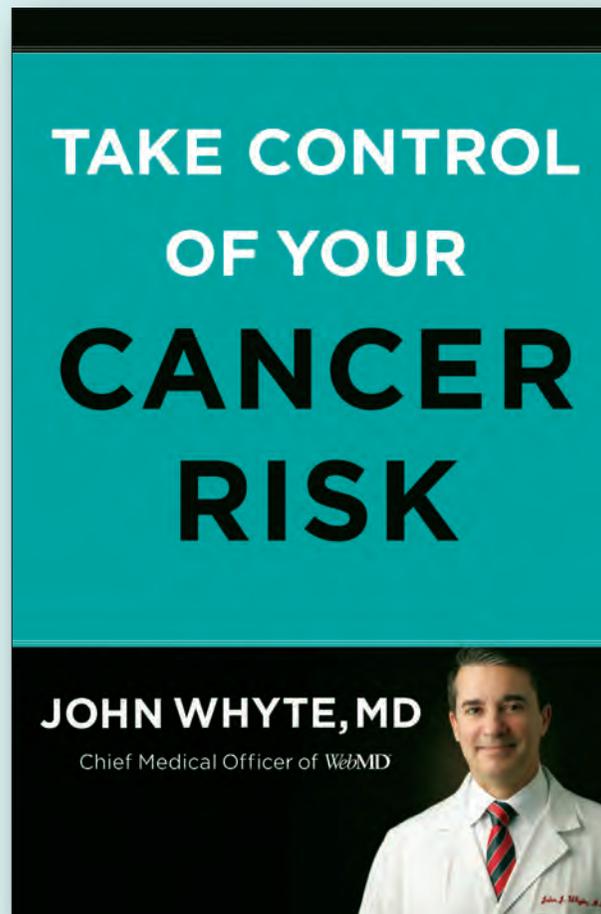


Sean Corcoran, Fairfax Coalition of Police president.

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.

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



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

- Assessing your cancer risk
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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.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ❖ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Community Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

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

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

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

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com





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 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.

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



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.

“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

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.”

Vienna Metro Station Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Fairfax County

Virtual Design Public Hearing

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 7 p.m.
<https://www.virginiadot.org/ViennaMetroBikePed>

Find out about planned bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the area of the Vienna Metro station along Country Creek Road/Virginia Center Boulevard between Sutton Road and the ramp to westbound I-66, and along Sutton Road between Blake Lane and Country Creek Road. Proposed interim improvements include creating a separated two-way cycle track on eastbound Country Creek Road/Virginia Center Boulevard between Sutton Road and the Metro North Parking Lot entrance by restriping and installing posts or barriers for separation, adding a buffered bike lane on Sutton Road between Sutton Green Court and Country Creek Road, upgrading pedestrian signals and installing related signs and pavement markings. Proposed final improvements include constructing shared-use paths along Blake Lane and Sutton Road from the I-66 bridge to Country Creek Road, adding a separated two-way cycle track with adjacent sidewalk along Country Creek Road/Virginia Center Boulevard, consolidating and relocating bus stops for improved transit access, and realigning the I-66 westbound ramp to Country Creek Road.

The public hearing will be held as a virtual/online meeting. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.virginiadot.org/ViennaMetroBikePed>. The project team will make a short presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions for about an hour after the presentation.

Review project information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-1794 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion was prepared under agreement with the Federal Highway Administration and is now available on the project webpage. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is included in the environmental document.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by December 3, 2021 via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Mr. Zamir Mirza, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference “Vienna Metro Station Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements” in the subject line.

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State Project: EN18-029-423, P101, R201, C501
UPC: 113611
Federal: TAP-5A01 (964)

In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Thursday, December 2, 2021 at the same time.

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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."

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?

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

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. Canceled 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.

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,

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

Cornfield adventure, farm chores, kiddie zone, apples & cider, food, entertainment, Imagination Trail, over 90 acres. <https://coxfarms.com/fall-festival/festival-attractions/>.

FIELDS OF FEAR Not recommended for children under 12 years old. When night falls on the farm, it's time for Fields of Fear. Friday and Saturday nights until Nov. 3. Fields of Fear, the Dark Side Hayride and the Cornnightmare. The Firegrounds feature several bonfires, a six-lane slide, music, karaoke, entertainment, tasty treats, Foamhenge, and more. All under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian (18+). Tickets required. Last admission at 10pm. Come alone or in a group. Buy your tickets online or same-day at the door. Proof of age required. See <https://fieldsof-fear.coxfarms.com/> for more details on timed entry assignments, rain policy, food options, and complete list of attractions.

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

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.

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.

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S **JOIN US AT ALZ.ORG/WALK**

Additional Walks available. Find one near you at alz.org/walk

OCTOBER 24
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VIENNA/OAKTON / McLEAN CONNECTION ❖ OCTOBER 13-19, 2021 ❖ 9

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 Connolly'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&p-g=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.

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 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.

McLean Citizens Association, Meeting Oct. 6, 2021

FROM PAGE 2

off to comment this year. Is that right?

A: Singh- No, the comment period is still completing. What we've submitted is a draft, and the comment is open till [Oct.] 27th, So there's a draft budget on our website available for comment; and then we have a final meeting on Oct. 27, when the public can sign up to comment. That's when it's finalized and sent to the County.

Q: Do you have thoughts on connecting physically to downtown McLean because right now, it seems like 123 is becoming a barrier?

A: Singh: Unfortunately, it's VDOT and not the County. It's just figuring out how we can build the coalition to make that happen. I would love to work together and get that built as quickly as we can.

Q: The McLean Citizen Association Board had a resolution that said that we did not support building an amphitheater in McLean Central Park. And then you guys came out with a resolution that said that you did support it.

A: Singh- Right now, we're not able to serve a lot of the outdoor activities. People



MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS
McLean Community Center

want us to program earlier in May and then all the way up until October in that theater. We're not able to do that because once we hit September even August, the evening hours are dark, and there's not enough lighting for us to actually program the outdoor events there.

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.

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.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at 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

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 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,

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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SCAN ME

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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. Call 703-759-0000 or email 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

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

OCT. 7-NOV. 7

A Disco Musical Comedy - Disaster. At Next Stop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Visit 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.

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.fallforthebook.org



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

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. 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.

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.

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

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

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. 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.

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	29	58	33	31	223
22066	11	45	105	39	52	3
Total:	69	148	314	153	190	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
22066	6	19	86	59	65	13
Total:	33	75	276	145	196	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	36	99	106
22102	6	9	34	12	40	132
22066	3	4	48	24	43	25
Total:	12	25	135	72	182	263
Combined Total Upper Brackets: 172			Combined Total Lower Brackets: 517			

As Inventory Wanes, Sales Surge

McLean/Great Falls real estate market continues to thrive.

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 buy-

ers 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 provides 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

SEE MCLEAN/GREAT FALLS, PAGE 14



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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Notice of Realty Action: Proposed exchange of Federally owned lands for publicly owned lands located Fairfax County, Virginia.

I. The following described Federally owned land, which is administered by the National Park Service (NPS), has been determined to be suitable for disposal by exchange. The authority for this exchange is 54 U.S.C. § 102901(b), which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire property within a unit of the National Park System in exchange for Federally owned property under the Secretary's jurisdiction that the Secretary determines is suitable for disposal and that is in the same State as the non-Federal property to be acquired.

The selected Federal land is currently managed by the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) and is not required for inclusion in the GWMP. The land has been surveyed for cultural resources, endangered species, and threatened species. Deed restrictions limiting development, protecting resource areas, and requiring GWMP review and Superintendent approval of certain actions will encumber the property upon conveyance of title to the non-Federal exchange party, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA).

The Federal interest to be conveyed to the FCPA is fee title to GWMP Tract 114-005A, which is a 52.17 acre, more or less, parcel of land, which will be subject to the deed restrictions referenced above. Tract 114-005A is a portion of the land that the United States of America acquired by deed from John R. Simpson et al., dated 11/23/1940, recorded 11/26/1940 in Deed Book L-14, Page 548 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia; by deed from Louise A. Simpson, widow, dated 11/22/1940, recorded 11/26/1940 in Deed Book L-14, Page 550 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia; and by deed from George W. Herring and Junita J. Herring, his wife, dated 11/29/1940, recorded 01/27/1941 in Deed Book P-14, Page 106 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia. GWMP Tract 114-005A is also known as Langley Fork Park. The United States of America will convey title by quitclaim deed.

II. In exchange for the lands identified in Paragraph I, the United States of America will acquire GWMP Tract 114-110, which is a 101.65 acre, more or less, parcel of land currently owned by the FCPA. GWMP Tract 114-110 is also known as Langley Oaks Park. The lands are being acquired in fee simple subject only to encumbrances of record.

Neither of the properties described in the foregoing paragraphs is located within a designated floodplain.

The value of the properties to be exchanged has been determined by a fair market value appraisal. The value of the land or interests in land to be conveyed by the FCPA to the United States is greater than the value of the land or interests in land to be conveyed by the United States to the FCPA. The FCPA plans to donate the difference in values to the United States. The FCPA will convey title by quitclaim deed.

Detailed information about this exchange, including precise legal descriptions, survey plats, and the Finding of No Significant Impact documenting the NPS's compliance with applicable Federal law, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, are available at the National Park Service, National Capital Regional Office, 1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington D.C. 20242. For questions or additional information please contact Melissa Mooza, Chief of Lands, at (202) 619-7079 or Melissa_Mooza@nps.gov.

For a period of 45 calendar days after the date of publication of this notice, interested parties may submit comments to the above address. The NPS will evaluate all timely comments and may modify or vacate the realty action in response to them. In the absence of any action to modify or vacate, this realty action will become the final determination of the Department of Interior.

September 21, 2021

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McLean/Great Falls Real Estate Market Continues To Thrive

FROM PAGE 13

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.

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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

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/> 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.

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 and enter sponsor word: HEARTOFGOLD, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) Eligibility Questions: Call 1-866-236-3276.

FRIDAY/OCT. 22

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. to noon. Via Zoom. The McLean Art Society will be holding a Zoom Meeting. Ally Morgan, a visual artist and teacher will be doing a mixed media presentation on animal portraiture. The demonstration will begin at 11 a.m. If you would like to be included as a guest for this presentation, contact M.A.S. President Ray Goodrow at raymgoodrow@aol.com. Guests are always welcome.

SATURDAY/OCT. 23

DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes. The Vienna Police Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused, or unwanted medications. Prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over the counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at the collection point inside the Vienna Police Department temporary facility located at 301 Center Street, South, Vienna (The former Faith Baptist Church).

SEEDLINGS FOR SALE

Every October, the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) opens its Seedling Store, which offers a variety of seedlings for online purchase to Virginians. The seedlings are grown and sold directly from our self-supporting Forestry Centers without replanting, and are bred for Virginia soils and climate.

In addition to the selection of over 40 individual species, they also offer several specialty seedling packs, with species that have been hand-picked for certain qualities (e.g. fall colors pack, pollinator pack). These are great options for diversifying your landscaping. This year, seedlings can be ordered in quantities as low as five, and can be picked up from a Forestry Center or delivered to you from Feb. 22 until April 27, 2022. Visit the website at www.BuyVaTrees.com.

NOW THRU DEC. 7

Volunteers Needed. St. Marks (Vienna) English as a Second Language program is looking for new students and volunteers. Classes will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings from Sept. 28 to Dec. 7. All classes will be conducted online using the Zoom App. There will be no in-person classes. For students: <https://bit.ly/StMarkRegistrationFall2021>. An online placement exam will be given. Visit the web page: www.stmarkesl.org/ or - Email: stmarkesl@gmail.com; Call: 703-980-9380, or 703-242-7449.

NEW MCLEAN TODAY WEBSITE

McLean residents and visitors looking for dinner, a local activity, a special gift or a hard-to-find item will find their search simplified by using the recently released McLean Today website. (<https://mcleantoday.org/>)

McLean Today, the collaborative effort of several local community organizations, is a new one-stop site to find many of the activities, events, goods and services that are close to home, according to the website's lead organizer, Kim Dorgan of McLean. The site will also offer links to media sites carrying news stories and items of interest impacting McLean.

Visitors to McLean Today will be able to see at a glance the community-wide activities and events offered by the McLean Community Center, the Alden Theatre, the McLean Project for the Arts, Capital One Hall and 1st Stage.

ONGOING

In-Person Worship Begins. 10:15 a.m. The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. In-person worship services will resume with some restrictions. Details at: https://faithconnector.s3.amazonaws.com/good-shepherdva/files/revise2_in_person_worship_begins_june_13.pdf

TEXT FOR FOOD

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

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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.



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