

# Great Falls CONNECTION

Ursula Lee Johnson (center) of Great Falls joins her daughter, mermaid Maggie Wray with grandchildren (from left) Charlotte, Jake, and James. "We love the community, and we always come to everything they do."  
—Maggie Wray

## Spooktacular!

PAGE 4

### Great Falls Votes

NEWS, PAGE 3

### Losing the Historic Schoolhouse

HISTORIC, PAGE 6

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:  
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
REQUESTED IN HOME 11-04-21

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
ECR WSS

PERMIT #322  
EASTON, MD  
PAID  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PRSR STD



# COSTA

## DENTISTRY

ONE  
DAY  
ONLY

NOVEMBER

11



# \$1,250 OFF INVISALIGN

BE ONE OF THE FIRST 10 TO  
SCHEDULE TO BE ENTERED  
TO WIN FREE INVISALIGN!

703-757-0833 | [COSTASMILES.COM](http://COSTASMILES.COM)  
10135 COLVIN RUN ROAD #101, GREAT FALLS VA 22066



# Snapshot of Election Day Morning, 2021

Insight from voting and volunteering neighbors.

By MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

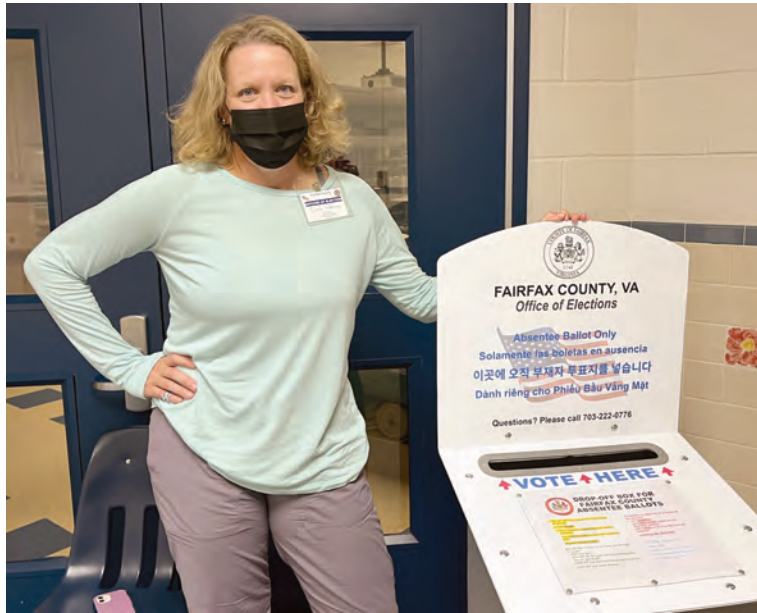
**O**n Nov. 3, voters from across Fairfax County turned out for the off-year General Election, which took place in the absence of a presidential or midterm election. Virginia is one of only two states in the country, New Jersey being the other, that holds gubernatorial and state office elections during a non-presidential year. The rest of the nation may be watching how Virginia and New Jersey vote to foreshadow the possible outcome of the 2024 presidential election.

Here are some snapshots and viewpoints from these precincts. Others are covered in different Connection newspapers.

**Reston-Precinct:** 222 Reston # 3, polling place: Reston Community Center-Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston, in the Hunter Mill District

**Great Falls-Precinct:** 306 Great Falls, polling place: Great Falls Elementary School, 701 Walker Road, Great Falls, in the Dranesville District

**McLean-Precinct:** 304 Cooper, polling place: Cooper Middle School, 977 Balls Hill Road, McLean, in the Dranesville District



**Cindy Watson of Great Falls:** “I voted early because I’m an election officer and I did not know which precinct I’d be assigned. I’m Republican and voted the ticket. Fifty percent of the election officers from each party are at each precinct. Whichever party controls the top ticket, [being governor], is the chief election officer ... this year being a Democrat, and the chief election assistant is a Republican.”

**Vienna-Precinct:** 214 Vienna #2, polling place: Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna, in the Hunter Mill District and

**Herndon-Precinct:** 320 Herndon #2, Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon, in

the Dranesville District.

Comments from voters and others at the polling places said that the governor and other state office races were their primary reasons for voting in the off-year election. They also shared why they voted

SEE SNAPSHOT OF, PAGE 5



**Caitlyn Albrittain of Great Falls and Todd Norris of Great Falls** volunteer at the Republican tent. Albrittain-“This is my first year. I think it’s important to get out and show enthusiasm and for people to vote. I’m voting in today’s election. I like the environment of it.” Norris- “If my Great Falls’ neighbors, Glenn Youngkin and Gary Pan, can put forth the effort for children, I feel it is my obligation to give my time as well. I voted early because my mom required curbside, and I voted at the same time.”



**In McLean, from left, Ronnie Raju, Heidi Appel, and Jennifer Adeli (former candidate) are the Democrat volunteers.**

**Raju:** “I voted early because I wanted to be sure to get it in, and I voted the straight Democratic ticket.”

**Appel:** “I voted early. We are in the process of moving to Arlington. I knew it would be too close to re-register.”

**Adeli:** “I always work Election Day, sunrise to sundown. I voted early last Saturday.”



**In Great Falls, from left, Marie Richards, Donna Stowe, “Precinct Captain for Great Falls Elementary School,” and voter Rich Wolfe of Great Falls.**

**Richards:** “I’ve been volunteering for two years because the issues are important, and I retired.”  
**Wolfe:** “I voted Democrat.”



# The Great Falls 2021 Spooktacular Halloween

Presented by  
Celebrate  
Great Falls

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**H**alloween in the heart of Great Falls is best described as Spooktacular, a palooza of make-believe, treat bags, and skeletons. Held at the Great Falls Shopping Center and Village Green by Celebrate Great Falls on Sunday evening, Oct. 31, entire families dressed up for the event. They came from the local community like the Kracht family of Great Falls and surrounding areas such as the Hussey family of Fairfax and the Gorlick family of McLean.

Everyone joined in the fun to trick-or-treat with local merchants and organizations in a safe environment. Boy Scout Troop 55 created the Haunted House, whose line of zombies, princesses, Harry Potters, and more extended across the Village Green.

The Langley High School Band provided the auditory spook, playing creepy music. Even the dogs got in on the action with the Pet Parade and Costume Contest.

SEE THE GREAT FALLS, PAGE 11



Ursula Lee Johnson (center) of Great Falls joins her daughter, mermaid Maggie Wray with grandchildren (from left) Charlotte, Jake, and James. "We love the community, and we always come to everything they do."  
– Maggie Wray

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



Ryker Kracht, 10, of Great Falls, holds back Mabel, the bubble-bee dog, while his sister, Sophie, keeps a firm hand on Nemo, the grandma pooch. "We came to see all our friends dressed up and celebrate."  
– Stephanie Kracht, not pictured and holding the dog treats.



The Great Falls 2021 Spooktacular Halloween.





Noah Flaxman of McLean cycled to the polling place on his way to work and cast his ballot.



From left, Marcia Close and Jane Yue in McLean: Close. "I early voted and voted straight Republican; always do. I'll be here all day, and they wanted us to vote early. But I wanted to vote today because it just feels right."

PHOTOS BY MERGIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

## Snapshot of Election Day

FROM PAGE 3

early or voted on Election Day, some telling how they cast their ballots and why.

The chief election officers at the named Reston, Great Falls, McLean, Vienna, and Herndon polling places reported their voting tallies, time-stamped 11:30 a.m. on Election Day. McLean-Vienna, Reston-Herndon and Great Falls Connections all go to press before the polls close on Election Day. For more, see [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Chief Election Officer Geoff Emmer, pre-

cinct 306 Great Falls, reported 347 ballots cast by 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Chief Election Officer Elizabeth Schreffler, precinct 222 Reston #3, reported 385 ballots cast by 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Chief Election Officer Lori Krause, precinct 214, Vienna #2, reported 692 ballots cast by 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Chief Election Officer Steve Wales, precinct 320 Herndon # 2 reported 521 ballots cast and one provisional ballot by 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

## 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

### 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)

Protect the  
ones you love,  
**get your flu  
shot today.**



@vaccinatevirginia



Protect the ones you love,  
**get vaccinated  
now.**

**VDH** VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH

Inside or out...



...Tech Painting's got you covered!



Serving:  
VA  
DC  
MD  
OBX

**703-684-7702**  
[www.techpainting.com](http://www.techpainting.com)







10112 Nedra Drive: A view of the original farmhouse and its additions: the older section of the residence has the tall pillars originally fronted Georgetown Pike. The farmhouse's front-to-back orientation flipped as the subdivision went up around it. The new access from Nedra Drive blends seamlessly.



10112 Nedra Drive: A view of the original farmhouse and its additions with access from Nedra Drive. A large, covered porch fronts the older section of the residence.



10115 Nedra Drive: Balances the new additions with the existing dairy barn and silo adapting them to domestic needs.



787 Stephanie Circle: Adaptive reuse saves an existing Cape Cod-style house and enlarges its living spaces with additions blending the structure into a new subdivision and upper scale residences.

# Great Falls Loses Its Historic 169-Year-Old Schoolhouse

## Models of adaptive reuse breathe new life for other Great Falls structures.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Attempts to save what was possibly the first schoolhouse in Great Falls, the Jackson School (1852) came too late and failed. In an interview on Oct. 20, architect Robert W. Mobley, AIA of Great Falls, said concerned citizens, he among them, stepped forward when they learned of the pending demolition. But the new owners had already started the process of tearing it down.



Photo of the Jefferson School House at 11105 Beach Mill Road, the 169-year-old 'historic' schoolhouse readapted to a residence but demolished by right in October 2021.

A listing on the Inventory is an "honorary designation" and does not limit an owner's property rights. "Sites are considered during land-use planning, and preservation is encouraged," according to the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning. At least 60 structures have been demolished since 1969.

The Jefferson School underwent several transformations over its existence. According to Glen Sjoblom and Carolyn Miller of the Great Falls Historical Society, built in 1852, "the Jefferson School House, which served the Methodist Church until around 1890, when Smith's Chapel was built, was purchased by Norman Beach in 1935," as cited in the Feb. 2, 2018, Connection Newspapers, "Researching Local History: Rural Schools in Great Falls."

According to Compass Realty's property history for 11105 Beach Mill Road, the property listed on Sept. 9, 2017, for \$799,900. The Public Record on April 1, 2021, reports it sold for \$688,000.

Moments before it was demolished, Tyler Lane uploaded a 40-second YouTube video of the

Jefferson Schoolhouse in Great Falls, Virginia. According to Lane, the short was created to "preserve a historical record of what the house looked like inside before it was demolished." The schoolhouse was located on a 1.84-acre site with mature trees. A drive-by of the property reveals that two large trees remain facing Beach Mill Road.

Mathew Hansen, P.E. is the director of the Department of Land Construction Services in Fairfax County. At the McLean Citizens Association's Infill & Tree Canopy Forum on Oct. 19, he stated that while the department is tasked with preserving the county's tree canopy, infill development is a "local problem." Infills are not subject to public hearings or notification requirements.

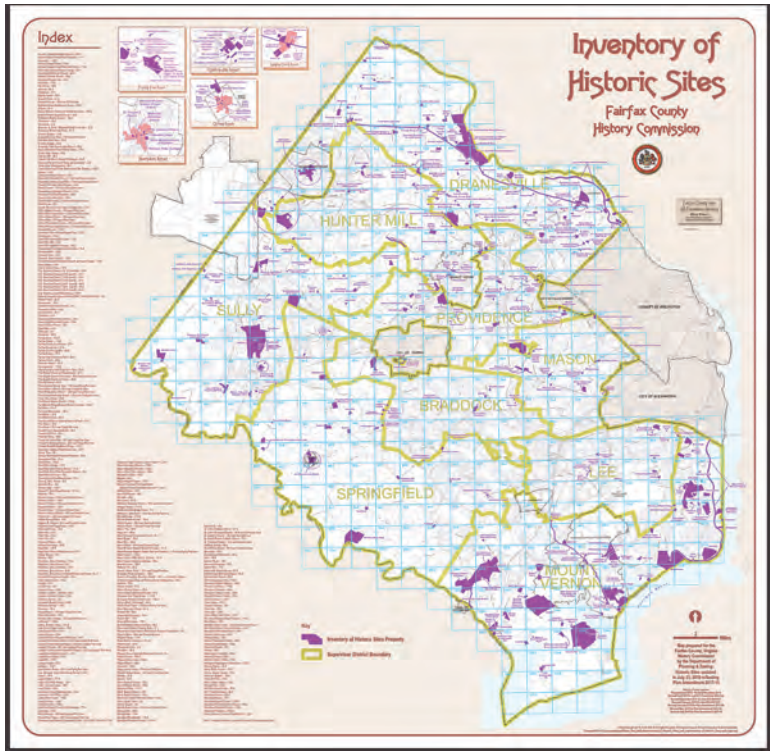
Great Falls has many buildings that reflect its history, from rural dairy farming to large lot communities. The fear is that since nearly all the older residences, schoolhouses, and barns can be demolished "by right," few argue for reinvigorating the tough old structures. Given they may not be well-suited to their original purposes nor inte-



Photo taken Oct. 28, 2021, of 11105 Beach Mill Road in Great Falls, lot cleared. This is where the Jefferson School House stood, a 169-year-old historic structure with its legendary, large white oaks fronting it.

rior wall configurations for today's standards, thoughtful adaptive reuse can form a link between cultures past and present. Four such structures, and others, stand in Great Falls; the crises that threatened their survival averted.

Mobley took this reporter on a tour of the four, beginning with a 1935 Sears, Roebuck and Company mail-order house located at 9511 Georgetown Pike. Concerned neighbors purchased it in 1988 when escalating land values threatened its existence, he said. "They didn't want to move it. They just wanted to make sure it didn't get torn down." The new owners, his clients, saved it, and Mobley's sensitive design solutions transformed it to an upper-scale larger home that they later sold. Named Gray Gables, the project won two design awards, the Award for Excellence in Architecture from the American Institute of Architecture and the Fairfax County Exceptional Design Awards Program.



Inventory of Historic sites in Fairfax County. The Jackson School is in the top left-hand corner.

Next on Mobley's tour was a visit to the Great Falls' Hickory Vale cluster subdivision. Mobley said that the developer [Cooper Land Co.] was more than happy to keep four structures, two homes, and the existing dairy barn and silo "because he found out that he would get a significant tax break if he did this."

John G. Colby, site planner and consultant to the developer, designed the subdivision plan to integrate a Cape Cod-style residence, the original farmhouse, and dairy barn and silo on their existing sites into the overall site plan.

10112 Nedra Drive was the original farmhouse whose front façade, with its five tall columns, faced Georgetown Pike. "But we had to make it face this street," Mobley said, looking at it from Nedra's perspective. "The original part is the one with the porches."

At 787 Stephanie Circle, the design goal, Mobley said, was to save the existing small "historic" Cape Cod-style home and add to it, carefully blending it with its neighbors.

For 10115 Nedra Drive, Mobley met the challenge of enhancing the barn, a utilitarian place for agrarian work where cows rubbed up against the beams and dropped their manure and the silo meant to shelter grain. Similar to the other two residences in the subdivision, Mobley employed the same strategy. He allowed the new additions to appear comfortable with the renovations of the historic structures, displaying harmony between the old and new. He used straightforward materials, saving both the dairy barn and silo structures while blending them naturally into their surroundings and environment.





**THE SYLVESTERY**  
Memory Care Community  
VINSON HALL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

## OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT

### Every moment is an opportunity.

The Sylvestery at Vinson Hall Retirement Community strives to ensure that each moment is an opportunity for meaning and comfort. The Sylvestery offers round-the-clock dementia care for those who are still active but require specialized support for Alzheimer's or other forms of memory loss.

### Call us today to learn more • 703-538-2975

The Sylvestery's award-winning, 36-resident community is located just across the street from Vinson Hall Retirement Community's main campus. No military or government affiliation required for residence at The Sylvestery.

[www.vinsonhall.org](http://www.vinsonhall.org) | 1728 Kirby Road, McLean, VA 22101 | 703-538-2975

## 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)**



# CALENDAR

## NOW THRU NOV. 7

A Disco Musical Comedy - Disaster. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. By Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick. Concept created by Seth Rudetsky and Drew Geraci. Additional material by Drew Geraci. Directed by Evan Hoffmann. Choreography by Ashleigh King. Music Direction by Elisa Rosman. Visit [www.nextstoptheatre.org](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org).

## NOW THRU JAN. 2, 2022

LuminoCity Festival. 6-9 p.m. At Roer's Zoofari, 1228 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. The LuminoCity Festival, a one-of-a-kind, immersive light display experience, will be a festive experience for guests of all ages. Be ready to enter a world straight out of your wildest imaginations as you step into an unforgettable spectacular night of lights. The festival includes African, Asian, Arid, and Ancient-themed exhibits of spectacularly lit art displays set up in the zoo's walk-through area. Visit the website: [www.roerszoofari.com](http://www.roerszoofari.com).

## NOW THRU NOV. 7

The Turn of the Screw. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher from the story by Henry James, this classic ghost story depicts the trials of a young governess, haunted by ghosts while caring for two orphaned children on a remote estate in the English countryside. This innovative adaptation is a spine-tingling, tour de force for two actors and will be directed by Christopher Richardson. Visit [www.nextstoptheatre.org](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org).

## NOW THRU NOV. 28

Artworks by David Alexander. At the Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609-A Washington Plaza N, Reston. "In Between: Phantom Algorithms Joining Worlds" artworks by David Alexander use the totem motif to bridge the digital, physical and spiritual worlds. Nov. 1 through 28 2021. Call 703-476-4500. Visit <https://enoarts.com/press>

## NOV. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13

Sound of Music. 7:30 p.m. at Capital Community Church, 20430 Ashburn Village Blvd., Ashburn. The Pickwick Players present Rodgers & Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music," starring local talent from the Northern Virginia area. Cost: Adults \$22, Seniors/Children \$17, Group discount available for 8 or more. Visit the website: [thepickwickplayers.com](http://thepickwickplayers.com)

## NOV. 5-6

Everything Christmas Sale. Friday 3-7 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Herndon Moose Lodge, 779 Center Street, Herndon. You'll find thousands of items related to Christmas - from artificial trees to ornaments. Many are one-of-a-kind items. Sponsored by The Closet, a nonprofit organization impacting the local community. Visit the website: [www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org](http://www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org)

## NOV. 5-31

"The Artist's Palette." At Great Falls Studios Gallery, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. "The Artist's Palette" features the work of members of

NOVA Plein Air Artists. Founded in 2016, NOVA Plein Air Artists was initiated due to a shared desire to explore the idea of painting outdoors. Since then, Plein Air Artists has evolved into a creative, educational and social network of local artists committed to painting weekly at organized "paint-outs." Plein air locations are chosen for their diversity, varying from state and county parks to rustic farms, vineyards, and urban settings within the Northern Virginia and Greater Washington, DC area. NOVA Plein Air Artists is primarily a plein air group but members also engage in painting other subjects including still life, genre, and portraiture.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 6

Clifton Lions Pancake Breakfast. 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Clifton Presbyterian Church 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. Come and enjoy a yummy breakfast, with pancakes, bacon, orange juice and coffee. 100% of proceeds go to local charities. Cost: \$10 Adults, \$5 Children under 12, under 5 Free

## SUNDAY/NOV. 7

Pilobolus "Come to Your Senses." 7:30 p.m. At The Alden, McLean Community Center, McLean. Engage with childlike wonder in the miracle of your senses through both classic and brand-new repertory that begins by examining our biology and ends by utilizing the senses in a refreshing immersion in the



The Left Bank Quartet will perform at Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna on Nov. 7. (From left to right): Eric Kutz, Sally McLain, Katherine Murdock, David Salness.

biosphere. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit: [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 7

Traditional Celtic Concert. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Part of a five-concert series of top quality music from the British Isles, Brittany (France), the Celtic areas of Northern Spain, and the Americas, staged in the listening room Snuggery (dining room). Tickets must be purchased in advance at [oldbrogue.com](http://oldbrogue.com) - \$20 general admission.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 7

Into Vietnam War. 2-3:30 p.m. At the Cold War Museum (online only

in the Museum's Zoom Room), 7134 Lineweaver Rd., Warrenton, Va.. The Vietnam War was the most controversial US war since the Civil War. How did we get in...and how did we get out? An eyewitness tells you. Cost is \$20.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 7

String Quartet Concert. 4-6 p.m. At Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road NE, Vienna. Concert by the Left Bank Quartet featuring Schubert's well-known "Death and the Maiden" string quartet together with works by Haydn and the 20th-century composer Erich Wolfgang Korngold. Visit the website: <https://hollycomforter.com/>

## NOV. 12-14

"The Eye of the Beholder." The McLean Art Society, a local group of professional artists and art enthusiasts is sponsoring an Art Show and sale on Friday Nov. 12, 5-8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday Nov. 14 10 a.m.-1 p.m., hosted by Walker Chapel United Methodist Church, 4102 N Glebe Rd, Arlington. There will be all original framed paintings in many styles with a large variety of subject matter as well as less expensive matted pieces and originally designed greeting cards. Everyone is welcome in a Covid safe environment.

A GAYLORD HOTELS® ORIGINAL EXPERIENCE

**i ♥ Christmas MOVIES™**

AN IMMERSIVE POP-UP EXPERIENCE

**SO. MUCH. CHRISTMAS.**

**GAYLORD NATIONAL®**

This holiday season, see five iconic holiday films come to life through 13 fully immersive scenes in I Love Christmas Movies™, only at Gaylord National. Enjoy days of Christmas activities, fully renovated guest rooms, and proximity to National Harbor attractions. It's all part of So. Much. Christmas.

BOOK YOUR TICKETS AND OVERNIGHT PACKAGES TODAY.

NOV. 26 - DEC. 31  
[ChristmasAtGaylordNational.com](http://ChristmasAtGaylordNational.com)

ELF and all related characters and elements © & ™ New Line Productions, Inc. A CHRISTMAS STORY and all related characters and elements © & ™ Turner Entertainment Co. NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION, THE POLAR EXPRESS, THE YEAR WITHOUT A SANTA CLAUS and all related characters and elements © & ™ Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. (s21)



# The Grim Reality of the High Maternal Death Rate among Black Women

**Racism and access to medical care are among the causes.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**C**hest pains during and after her pregnancy were the first sign that something might be wrong. When Corretta Lewis of Alexandria visited her doctor, she was told that her pain was the result of low iron levels and a nutrition-deficient diet. She was skeptical of her physician's diagnosis.

"I had a friend that died at 21 with her 3-day old baby in her arms because the doctors didn't take her seriously, so I was scared," said Lewis.

She adjusted her diet but the discomfort persisted.

"I nearly died while in labor with my son and then I was dismissed by my OB-GYN during postnatal care," she said. "After giving birth, I was still experiencing severe chest pain and after a few weeks my wife forced me to go to another doctor to have them look into it further."

A cardiologist ordered an echocardiogram. "It turns out that the doctor saw something on an ultrasound of my heart," said Lewis. "I could have died. I was dismissed because I was a young black woman."

Lewis' experience is not uncommon. Black women are three-to-four times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes at a higher rate than white women in Northern Virginia and parts of Montgomery County. A lack of access to healthcare and racism from medical professionals are among the top reasons for this gap.

Most pregnancy-related deaths are preventable, according to the CDC. Racial and ethnic disparities in pregnancy-related deaths have persisted over time, the CDC reports. Even in states with the lowest pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births, and among women with higher levels of education, significant racial differences persist. These findings suggest that the disparity observed in pregnancy-related death for Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women is a complex national problem, according to the CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/p0905-racial-ethnic-disparities-pregnancy-deaths.html>

"Institutional racism, implicit bias, toxic stress, and intimate partner violence ... are contributing factors to the staggering disparity among black women," said Joanna Hemmat, assistant director, Health Services Division, Fairfax County Health Department.

The actions that are associated with these behaviors are dismissing a patient's symptoms, making assumptions and generalizing.

"We work on addressing institutional racism and implicit bias—in collaboration with One Fairfax, our county-wide initiative to bring an equity lens to all areas of operation throughout the county, including



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORRETTA LEWIS  
Corretta Lewis, pictured with her wife Mea and their son Caleb says that she almost lost her life due racism in healthcare.

**"Institutional racism, implicit bias, toxic stress, and intimate partner violence ... are contributing factors to the staggering disparity among black women."**

— Joanna Hemmat, Health Services Division, Fairfax County Health Department

teams up with the Virginia Hospital Center to provide services to pregnant women, says Kurt Larrick, assistant director of Arlington County Department of Human Services. "They do all deliveries and we actually send any high risk pregnancies to them immediately as well," he said.

Addressing pre-existing medical conditions and creating an overall healthy lifestyle can help lower maternal mortality rates among women of color.

"Mental Health screening, screening for intimate partner violence and substance use, as well as subsequent referrals, are essential components of care provision during the prenatal and postpartum periods. In order to reduce maternal deaths due to suicide, overdose, and intimate partner violence," said Hemmat.

Though she survived her pregnancy and now has a happy family of three, Lewis is still concerned about the plight of other women of color.

"It's not asking a lot for all black women to live long enough to see the child they carried celebrate their first birthday, and many others," Lewis said.

health," Hemmat said.

A lack of access to prenatal and postnatal healthcare is another barrier to closing the maternal mortality gap between Black and white women. "Uninsured women are less likely to seek routine health care and more likely to receive episodic care in the emergency department," said Hemmat, "The diagnosis and management of chronic health conditions may be delayed and follow-up care is not coordinated."

To address the issue of a lack of healthcare, local counties are partnering with medical facilities to offer services on a sliding scale for uninsured patients. For example, Arlington County

**SAT. 10-5**  
**SUN. 11-4**



44th Annual  
**ANTIQUES SHOW**  
*November 13-14, 2021*

**At the Newly Renovated  
 McLean Community Center**

**2/10 mile off Rt. 123  
 Chain Bridge Rd.  
 in McLean, VA  
 DFSHOWS.COM**

**ADMIN \$10  
 (\$9W/THIS AD)**

**DORDY FONTINEL**  
 ★★★★★★  
 SHOW MANAGEMENT, INC.



## We Need Your Voice!

The McLean Community Center is seeking public input as it develops its strategic plan. McLean Community Center is seeking residents of Dranesville Small District 1A to participate in upcoming Community Listening Sessions hosted by consultant AMS Planning & Research. These sessions will inform the center as it works to improve the programs and services it provides to district residents.

**WHEN** Thursday, Nov. 18, 6-8 p.m.

**WHERE** McLean Community Center  
 1234 Ingleside Avenue  
 McLean, Va. 22101

**WHY** This is an opportunity for MCC district residents to give valuable input and express their ideas about the future programming and strategic priorities of the center.

**WHO** High school youth (9th through 12th grade) through adults, who reside in Dranesville Small District 1A.

**HOW TO REGISTER**

**Visit [qrco.de/MCCvoice](https://qrco.de/MCCvoice)  
 or scan:**



As a "thank you," all participants will receive a \$25 voucher that can be applied towards a future performance at The Alden Theatre or MCC class and/or camp registration fees.



1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, Va. 22101  
[mcleancenter.org](https://mcleancenter.org)



**LeafFilter** GUTTER PROTECTION  
**BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE**

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

**15% OFF** YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE\*  
**10% OFF** SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS  
**5% OFF** TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!\*

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST | **Promo Number: 285**

\*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 LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." Manufactured in Plainville, Michigan and processed at UNIT Mergers Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. C3159 1035795 DCP #10782008-5501 License# 7056 License# 90145 License# 41354 License# 95938 License# 128344 License# 218294 WA US# 603-233-977 License# 2100212585 License# 2100212946 License# 27051321534 License# LEAFNW2222 License# WV056912 License# WI 29958 H17 Nassau HIC License# H0106/000 Registration# 175447 Registration# HIC/0649905 Registration# C127220 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920018 Registration# PC 6475 Registration# IP721804 Registration# 13M40963900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H License# 2705169445 License# 262000022 License# 262000403 License# 0085960 Registration# H-19114

Protect the ones you love,  
**get your flu shot today.**




@vaccinatevirginia



Protect the ones you love,  
**get vaccinated now.**

**VDH** VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**Struggling to pay rent due to the pandemic?**





**The Virginia Rent Relief Program may be able to help.**

Virginia is offering relief for renters who are having trouble paying rent and related fees. A local nonprofit will help renters one-on-one apply for the Virginia Rent Relief Program to receive the help they need. If you or someone you know is in need of rent assistance call:

**877-315-1200**

For eligibility, visit: [HOMEofVA.org/RRPinfo](http://HOMEofVA.org/RRPinfo)

  Housing Opportunities Made Equal conducts the outreach and engagement initiative for the Virginia Rent Relief Program to provide one-on-one application assistance.

The Virginia Rent Relief Program is administered through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Residents in Fairfax and Chesterfield counties should reach out to their counties' programs.

**CLASSIFIED**  
 WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM  
 To ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

**Announcements**

**Find us on Facebook and become a fan!**  
[www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers](http://www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)

**THE CONNECTION**  
 Newspapers & Online  
 The Connection to Your Community  
[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

**MAKE YOUR VEHICLE AN AD SPACE AND EARN \$300 WEEKLY** when you drive your vehicle with an Ad on it. Vinyl graphic sheets are installed for free by the Advertiser and you earn \$300 by just driving to your normal routine places. Email [Carwrapapplication@gmail.com](mailto:Carwrapapplication@gmail.com) or text (772) 218-1799 to apply.

**PARKINSON'S DISEASE PARAQUAT LAWSUIT**

If you were exposed to the herbicide Paraquat and have been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease,  
**you may be entitled to compensation.**

**Call Us Toll Free:**  
**1-800-444-9112**

**Pulaski Kherkher, PLLC**  
 2925 Richmond Ave #1725, Houston, TX 77098  
[www.pulaskilawfirm.com](http://www.pulaskilawfirm.com)

Adam Pulaski is the attorney responsible for the content of this advertisement. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.

**Sign up for**  
**FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION**  
**to all of our papers**



[www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

**Past issues of**  
**THE CONNECTION**  
**NEWSPAPERS**

**back to 2008**  
**are available at**  
<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

## NEWS

# Scouting for Food on Nov. 13, 2021

On Saturday, Nov. 13, Scouts and their adult leaders from Troops and Packs all over Northern Virginia will be gathering food from their neighbors and bringing it to local charities in the annual Scouting for Food collection. Operating the food drive safely during the pandemic is a primary concern for Scout Leaders. Scouts will be masked and will conduct the food drive outdoors for maximum safety while serving their community.

All food is donated to local charities that distribute the food to those in need in our community. All of the charities will also observe pandemic safety precautions.

Four charities will accept food donations between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Nov. 13 and the public is also welcome to drop off nonperishable food. The charities are:

- ❖ LINK receiving food at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon;
- ❖ Community of Faith UMC Food Pantry at 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon;
- ❖ Cornerstones, receiving food at the 11484 Washington Plaza West, Reston, and
- ❖ South Lakes High School PTSA Food Pantry, will receive food from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 1133 Reston Ave, Herndon.

Betty Eidemiller, of the LINK charity on Scouting for Food: "LINK is doubling the number of families that we are serving this holiday season to accommodate the new clients that LINK has been serving during the pandemic. Food insufficiency in Herndon, Sterling, and Ashburn is great and LINK volunteers are working hard to provide, thanks to all the generosity that we see from the community."

Rev. Robert Vaughn, of the Community of Faith UMC Food Pantry on Scouting for Food: "Scouting for Food is an important link in providing food for families in our neighborhoods. Eighty-five percent of all the non-perishable items come from the annual collection – every can, box and bag make a difference in the lives of our clients. Some of our families receive their entire week's groceries from the food ministry." The number of families served by Community of Faith has grown by about 60% during the pandemic.

Roberta Gosling of the South Lakes High School Food Pantry on Scouting for Food: "Since COVID



# The Great Falls 2021 Spooktacular Halloween

FROM PAGE 4



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

The Great Falls 2021 Spooktacular Halloween.



Zombie Logan Hussey, 5, werewolf dad Dave, ghost Aubree, 3, mummy mom Megan, and witch Sydney, 10 months-old of Fairfax, came to the 2021 Spooktacular Halloween in Great Falls for the dog parade and little trick-or-treating fun.



At 2021 Celebrate Great Falls Halloween Spooktacular, McLean's Sara Gorlick and her 3-year-old son Ryan join Laura on the Village Green for an evening of community and fun. "We were here for the 4th of July Home-town Celebration... with its sense of community." -Sara Gorlick

## Scouting for Food on Nov. 13, 2021

FROM PAGE 10

-19, the SLHS PTSA Food pantry has pivoted to a contact-free distribution system. We pack 20-25 pound bags of food and distribute that along with many other items to [each of] approximately 140 families each week at South Lakes High School. This number continues to grow every week. These groceries serve students and families in the SLHS Pyramid.

Prior to the pandemic, we knew that approximately 30% of the students at SLHS were food insecure — that's approximately

730 students. Many have told us that these groceries and other products have been a life-saver for them."

Minnie Orozco of Cornerstones on Scouting for Food: "Scouting for food as well as other food drives are really important to Cornerstones food pantry — they help us provide food for our community who are in need and who cannot afford to buy food."

Last year, over 400 scouts and 300 adult leaders collected 38,978 pounds of food in the Powhatan District covering Great Falls, Herndon, Reston, Oakton, and Chantilly.

## 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**  
VA. Licensed Class A Contractor

Sign up for  
**FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION**  
to any or all of our 15 papers  
**WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE**

## Diffusing But Still Losing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And not too proud or embarrassed to admit it. Although it's hardly an AA-type situation where I'm also powerless against its pull, I am nonetheless acknowledging my weakness. With five cats living exclusively indoors - under one roof in approximately 1700 square feet, the ruckus is non stop. Trying to integrate into an animal-family unit an older pair of siblings, a single female and a new pair of siblings, has not been easy. Granted, we haven't exactly followed the presumptive advice cat whisperer Jackson Galaxy might have recommended: slowly introducing and acquainting the various cats to one another and into shared areas of the house. Unfortunately, we're way past being able to undo any inadvertent psychological animal trauma we may have caused. Though our house remains standing with relatively minor impact, there does appear to be a path forward to possibly upend the "territorializing" that goes on when new cats are added to a household where older cats have already taken up residence - and staked their claims. The answer is a product called "Feliway." Or so I hope, and have been led to believe - by my wife, Dina.

"Feliway" is a retail product we are now buying online from Chewys, the online pet superstore. It is similar in design and application to a plug-in room freshener. There's a part which plugs into an electrical socket: the diffuser, and another part, a liquid which is inserted into the diffuser. This heated up liquid is supposed to release a sort of calming vibe throughout the house and promote peace among the warring cat factions. Moreover, it's supposed to prevent fighting, staring, posturing and chasing. So far, three-plus months or so into it, the results are mixed. The cat mood in the house seems occasionally tranquil with cats coexisting and tolerating. Though nobody is making new friends, there does seem to be some allowances from some cats for other cats to sometimes occupy similar/familiar spaces. And it's only apparent to us that this is happening when it's not happening. And by that I mean, when our supply of diffuser refills run out - and we don't immediately replace them with new. Then there seems to be an upset/upheaval of sorts among the various cat groups. The cat groups being Andrew and Sloane, the oldest siblings and longest living in the house; Twinkle, the middle cat and not part of a pair; and the newest additions, siblings Louie and Mia. The siblings get along with one another perfectly well, but when any other group appears, aside from feeding time (we feed the three groups in separate rooms in an attempt to keep the peace) when the fighting is minimal, chaos usually ensues. And since diplomacy does not work, Dina and I are forever reacting to the sound of a cat screaming, locating it and running off to protect/prevent any unnecessary fistcuffs (invoking one of my fathers' expressions from my youth). Since we're reacting, we're usually too late, but we do what little we can and try to comfort whomever seems the most distressed.

As a consequence, I am constantly on the phone with Chewy buying diffusers and diffuser refills, and/or checking the fluid levels of the in-home diffuser refills trying to determine how much time/relative peace we may have until war breaks out. It seems unlikely that we'll have enough diffusers in the house, or have enough refills in inventory, to maintain the calm. Quite frankly, we're running out of electrical outlets in which to plug in the diffusers. Our house is over 250-years old and aside from limited closet space, there are also minimal electrical outlets. Throw in the number of outlets which are already being used for non-Feliway uses: lamps, television, stereo, miscellaneous other electrical appliances, and then consider that some of the outlets are old and tired and no longer working and you have a recipe for disaster, at least as far as living in a house with five cats - most of whom don't get along, is concerned. Trying to regulate the peace becomes next to impossible. Feliway may not be the answer, but I'm addicted nonetheless. Their products are all I think about; morning, afternoon and evening.

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?

Great Falls Sales Stats:

- 7% average price increase for 2021
- 14% units increase year to date



Great Falls

\$3,250,000



Great Falls

\$1,950,000



Great Falls

\$4,250,000

# No One Prepares Your Home Better

## CALL ME TODAY!!

703-757-3222

[sales@GreatFallsGreatHomes.com](mailto:sales@GreatFallsGreatHomes.com)



LONG & FOSTER®  
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066  
703-759-9190 • [GreatFallsGreatHomes.com](http://GreatFallsGreatHomes.com)

