

An Air Force Color Guard enters the grounds of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial on Veterans Day.

Great Falls CONNECTION

Honoring Veterans

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



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Culture Shock of Private School Competition

Those unaccustomed to hyper-competitive education feel intimidated by the admissions process.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

School tours, applications, teacher recommendations, test prep tutors and on campus visits. These are some of the topics of conversation in families who are in the midst of the independent school admissions process. For Sandy Adams, it conjures up memories of the time when her children had to adjust to a new academic environment. She and her family moved three times in six years, each time experiencing the shock of adapting to a new private school admissions process.



A private school graduation from before the pandemic.

“During my children’s elementary, middle, and high school, I moved my three children into three private international schools in Europe and Asia,” said the Potomac mother of three adult children. “My top advice for parents is: Be open minded and flexible.”

Those who are new to the Washington region can be caught off guard by the hyper-competitive independent school admissions process here. Families who were accustomed to a laid-back environment where school choices are plentiful and acceptance rates are high can experience culture shock. There are strategies for navigating the process and snagging a seat in the private school of your choice, say local education consultants.

Perseverance and expectation management are the top coping mechanisms that education consultant Alex Ross believes will make the process less intimidating.

“For parents unaccustomed to the rigors and ultra-competitive environment of certain private schools, their knee jerk reaction when they’re being thrown into such an environment is to shut down,” said Ross, an education consultant who serves clients in Alexandria and Arlington. “They see nothing but the obstacles and throw up their hands, thinking their children will just have to settle for public school.”

To be truthful, though, the toughest school to get into in the region is a public school, Thomas Jefferson. And the social environment and whiff of celebrity in other public schools in Fairfax County, Arlington and Montgomery County can match many private schools. The list of super talented and now famous people who graduated from the public schools in those areas, or the Alexandria City High School, is daunting.

Still Ross believes that dedication and determination can increase the chances of being accepted to the school of your choice. “My best advice would be to stay the course and acknowledge the investment you’re

making in your children,” he said. “Yes, the path to admission into such exclusive schools is tougher, but it is worth it in the long haul. Staying the course always pays dividends. Study after study shows that students coming out of private schools get admitted into more prestigious universities and ultimately are earning higher salaries.”

Self-acceptance is necessary when navigating an unfamiliar and daunting process. “You have to be comfortable with your child going to school where other students may be wealthier, more socially connected, or have celebrity parents,” said Great Falls education consultant Chris Perry. “If you are not comfortable, your child won’t be comfortable. If you are

intimidated, your child will be intimidated. If you feel inferior, your child will feel inferior.”

Taking time to attend open house events or take a tour of a school can put families at ease, continued Perry. “Putting a positive spin on a big change can set your family up for success by making it an adventure, rather than just a stressful, arduous move across the country or to a hyper-competitive school,” he said.

For those who experience financial roadblocks, Ross

says, “Don’t be shortsighted. Even though many people will tell you that you’re too late to the game to get in, there are always side doors. You never know where a well-timed donation, political favor, or act of volunteering might catapult your son or daughter into the admissions line.”

When selecting a school, the most important factors are finding an environment that is a good fit socially and academically, says Perry.

“The thing to ask yourself is, are you in love with the education your child will get at this school? If you are not, then you shouldn’t go,” And if you are truly in love with it, then nothing else, not money, not social status, not celebrity, should matter.”

“Yes, the path to admission into such exclusive schools is tougher, but it is worth it in the long haul. Staying the course always pays dividends.”

— Alex Ross

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Keynote speaker Major General George Francis Close, Jr., retired senior U.S. Army officer and senior corporate and government executive



The Langley Madrigals



Veterans Day Ceremonies of Honor and Remembrance

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Veterans Day 2021, Thursday, Nov. 11, communities across Fairfax County, like the Town of Herndon and the village of Great Falls, held ceremonies, as did communities across the United States.

Fairfax County is home to almost 80,000 veterans and their families. There are over 700,000 living veterans in Virginia, or 8 percent of the population, while the United States has about 19 million living veterans, or 6 percent of the population.

The Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial Foundation presented the Veterans Day ceremony with featured keynote speaker Major General George Francis Close Jr. of McLean. Andy Wilson, president of the foundation, introduced Close, a retired senior U.S. Army officer currently acting as a senior corporate executive.

In his remarks, Close said that veterans were “in the midst of it,” whether in peacetime or war. He spoke of veterans’ various roles in the country, their professionalism, and how they were selected for promotions, schooling, and assignments based on their performance and potential, a true meritocracy.

A similar event co-occurred five miles away in the Town of Herndon. Held by The Wayne M. Kidwell American Legion Post 184 of Herndon-Reston and the Town of Herndon, David Womack, post commander, welcomed guest speaker Harvey “Barney” Curtiss Barnum Jr., a retired United States Marine Corps officer who received the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War. Barnum said that we owe our veterans a “debt of gratitude” for the freedoms the United States holds so dear, from freedom of speech to freedom of the press. He said that our veterans are on the front lines, protecting us.



An Air Force Color Guard enters the grounds of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial on Veterans Day.

But no matter which of the Veterans Day ceremonies one attended, there were similarities: the impressive postings of the nation’s colors, veterans and guests reciting the pledge of allegiance, and choral groups singing the national anthem and other patriotic songs. Speakers acknowledged the veterans who stood between us and ever-present danger.

According to Close, the Army has over 100,000 troops deployed or forward stationed in approximately 80 nations. “The scope of the effort to support the global war on terrorism, provides support to our allies, and keeps our other enemies contained as part of our country’s engagement strategy is tremendous,” he said. Close went on to say that without veterans, “there would be no United States of America.”



First row, Virginia State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), joins the crowd in the pledge of allegiance.



Veterans identify themselves by a raise of hands.

SEE VETERANS DAY, PAGE 4



It was standing room only at the Veterans Day Ceremony in Great Falls.



From left, Rev. Jerry J. Pokorsky, pastor at St. Catherine Church of Siena, joins Andy Wilson, president of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial Foundation, at the podium before the benediction.

Veterans Day Ceremonies of Honor and Remembrance

FROM PAGE 3

While the local ceremonies of honor and recognition, the kind words of thanks by residents, and the one-day freebie at local restaurants are appreciated by the veterans, they are not enough. Questions remain, including how the county is helping to repay the “debt to our veterans,” about what veterans say is needed, what the Virginia legislature might do in the next session, and how veterans want to be remembered by others after their

casket flag is handed to a loved one.

According to the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, representatives from 66 companies interviewed job-seekers one week before Veterans Day at the Veteran and Military Career Fair at Fort Belvoir on Nov. 4, 2021.

“We believe that Fairfax County can be a proving ground for how we get our nation’s veterans working in the private sector,” said Jeffrey C. McKay, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

VIEWPOINTS

Supporting Living Veterans, Repaying the Debt Beyond Thank Yous

Major General George Close, U.S. Army (ret), the keynote speaker at the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, said that every time someone reaches out to a veteran and publicly expresses appreciation for their service, “it makes a huge difference in that young man’s or woman’s life.” Yet, thank you, while much appreciated by service members, is not enough.

Q: The Connection asked the veterans and an American politician in attendance at the Great Falls ceremony, “Beyond saying thank you to a veteran, what can the public and politicians do to assist veterans?”



“There are too many homeless veterans. The public should put pressure on their respective governments to help veterans; in fact, help all homeless people. But there are too many veterans that are homeless. There are too many veterans that are committing suicide. And those are two issues that the [Veterans Administration] can’t handle. But need to be handled.”

— Major General William C. Moore, U.S. Army (ret.) of McLean



“I think the most important part is remembering the kind of sacrifice that veterans go through that maybe people don’t see all the time. A lot of veterans, especially those coming back from the Middle East, suffer from P.T.S.D. or like demons. They are carrying things that don’t necessarily show. I think people should make space for them to talk if they want to talk.”

— WO1 (VA.) Kevin Maxson, Warrant Officer



“I think that the government, especially on the injured soldiers that are coming back from the battlefield, put them in the V.A. system, and they forget about them. ... We just sort of let them go to their own devices. If they don’t have a good family around them, we get into the 22 a day suicide problem that we have now. Quit dropping them when they come home from combat and stay connected with them when they come in. That’s what I’m saying.”

— Donald Freeman, U.S. Air Force (ret.)



“Ensure that veterans’ benefits stay current and match the economy, as well as people assisting veterans with opportunities and ensuring that they care for their mental health.”

— Vice-President of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial Foundation, LCDR John A. “Sandy” Pidgeon, U.S. Navy Seal (ret.)



“I think there’s a lot being done for service members right now. And veterans, especially with Boulder Crest and other types of organizations that help out with charitable donations. But you know, I really think awareness is a big thing for veterans, the sacrifices that many have made. Some of my brothers and sisters I’ve served with are no longer here. ... So I’m just trying to bring recognition to that.”

— Dr. Rocco Blais, U.S. Army [1996-1999], U.S. Navy [2001-2006]



“It is really important to raise awareness of the challenges veterans face when they return home. We have an obligation to provide them with first-class health care and, more importantly, any mental health care that they might need. We know that post-traumatic stress syndrome is far more prevalent than we thought it was, and I really believe that veterans need to have support.”

“I’ve always advocated for more behavioral health funding. I would like to see the budget that goes to the Veterans Administration have a big increase in the behavioral health portion of the budget, and I think their families also need access to behavioral health services. They’ve been separated from a loved one for a very long time, and there’s a lot of stress and a lot of rebuilding, and we need to be there for them.”

— Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31)

NEWS

Fatal Crash Saturday

A 65-year-old man died Sunday morning from injuries sustained in a crash that occurred at 11:37 p.m. Saturday evening in McLean. Andre Newman, of Fairfax, was the driver and sole occupant of a 2012 Nissan Sentra traveling east on Georgetown Pike. The driver of a 2019 Range Rover was attempting to turn left onto Langley Lane from westbound Georgetown Pike. The driver of the Range Rover turned in front of Newman resulting in a sideswipe crash. Newman's vehicle then left the roadway and came to a stop in a ditch.

The driver of the Range Rover, along with three juvenile passengers, were not injured and remained at the scene. Newman was taken to the hospital with injuries considered life threatening. He remained in the hospital and succumbed to his injuries the next morning.

Preliminarily, detectives from FCPD Crash Reconstruction Unit do not believe that speed and alcohol are factors in the crash. The investigation remains active, and details of the investigation will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for review.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

This is the 17th non-pedestrian related traffic fatality in the county to date in 2021.

Friends of the Oakton Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Oakton Library will hold its first big book sale in over two years. Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 17-19, 10-5:30; and Saturday, Nov. 20, 10-4:30. A large selection of gently used CDs, DVDs, audiobooks and more. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton, VA 22124

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/NOV. 18

Listening Session. 6-8 p.m. At MCC, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean Community Center is seeking residents of Small District 1A—Dranesville 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. 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. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 18

"Cherokee Ancestors." 7:30-9 p.m. Virtual lecture by Kathie Forbes, citizen of the Cherokee Nation, sponsored by the Fairfax Genealogical Society (www.fxgs.org). Learn about the history of the Cherokee and the resources to find and document a possible Cherokee ancestor. Venue: virtual: Use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82082791831?pwd=RHcwL2pNMENCaFdSVjgxK1lyRnpJUT09> Free and open to the public, but registration is required. Visit the website: www.FairfaxGenealogicalSociety.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 19

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. to noon. Via Zoom. Naomi Chung, a painter and educator will be the featured presenter at the meeting of the McLean Art Society. Ms. Chung teaches painting, drawing

and color theory at Marymount University, Montgomery College and McLean Project for the Arts. She will be doing her demonstration of a semi abstract landscape beginning at 11 a.m. Guests who would like to join the Zoom meeting need to contact M.A.S. President Ray Goodrow at raymgo-drow@aol.com.

SUNDAY/NOV. 21

Messy Church. 9:30-11 a.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The focus of the November Messy Church is: "Choose a King to Govern Us so We can be like Other Nations." But did these kings have a heart for God? Through activities, storytelling and crafts they will look at the kings and prophets of Israel and see if they led the people to keep the covenant and a heart for God. After activities and a short worship service, stay for brunch. Call the church office at 703-356-7200 and leave a message.

SATURDAY/DEC. 4

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. 9:30-11 a.m. At 10609 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Turner Farmhouse Foundation invites the community to come to the Pancake Breakfast and Fundraiser. Come tour the grounds, visit the milk house and enjoy pancakes, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Venture inside the farmhouse and see how busy they have been during COVID. They are raising funds to work on the Retreat House, and will start construc-

tion since the Special Exception application was approved. Contact Sarah Kirk, skirkbtr@gmail.com, 703-403-3072.

WEGMANS OFFERING MODERNA AND J&J/JANSSEN COVID-19

Wegmans Pharmacy locations are now offering the Moderna and J&J/Janssen vaccine booster doses to eligible individuals by appointment only. Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Individuals 18 years and older who received the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine can receive a Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, or J&J booster at least two months after their primary vaccination. Appointments for a COVID-19 vaccine or booster shot must be reserved in advance. Customers can schedule an appointment by visiting Wegmans.com/pharmacy or calling 1-800-207-6099.

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 Thursday 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.

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Children's & Teens' Connection 2021

Please send all submissions via email by Friday, Dec. 3. This edition publishes Dec 15.

During December of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, families, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish every kind of artwork that can be submitted to us as a jpeg, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

Pandemic planning has made for a short deadline, and, like everything else, the 2021 Children's Connections will be different than in the past.

For 2021, please send a curated collection of art from your class. We will do our best, but we are unlikely to be able to print every item submitted. Please include the first and last name of the student with each submission.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they

can be sent through email. Writing should be submitted in .docx format or in google doc. If you are sharing a google doc with us, please turn on link sharing so that anyone with the link can edit the document and share with kimm.mary@gmail.com. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions, but different ideas are welcome:

Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome. Holiday themes are also encouraged.

Short answers, 100-200 words on: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite ani-

mal or food or toy? Describe a good friend. Describe one of the best gifts you've ever given or received. Discuss a hobby or sport that you are involved in. Your opinion about any topic.

Poetry or other creative writing.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist or writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

Please send all submissions via email by Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. The Children's & Teens' editions will publish on Dec. 15, 2021.

You can see the 2019 editions (pre-pandemic) by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Children's Edition. You may also see the 2020 editions at the bottom of this email.

Email submissions for the Children's Editions to kimm.mary@gmail.com.

For advertising, please email Debbie Funk at debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com.

MARY KIMM
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Reform Not Revenge

It appears that in the House of Delegates the Republicans will have a 53 to 47 majority.

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



When the final recount of votes in the two districts that were within a percentage point difference between the candidates are finally certified, it appears that in the House of Delegates the Republicans will have a 53 to 47 majority. Such a shift in partisan control is often referred to as "flipping the House" or "turning the House from blue to red." Democrats who took control of the House in 2019 were not able to withstand the shifting winds as the string of Democratic governors was broken when former Governor Terry McAuliffe who had been out of office for a term as required by the State Constitution was not able to win a second term. Some have observed that the Virginia governorship election that is held the year after the presidential election is most often won by the candidate of the party opposite that of the president. The Youngkin win to be governor after the Biden win followed that pattern.

With the change in partisan control of the House of Delegates, members will find themselves having different roles. The Democratic Speaker of the House and the first woman and first Jewish person to be speaker will lose her position to a new speaker elected by the majority Republican caucus. At the time of writing this column the rumor is that Delegate Todd Gilbert who represents a part of the Shenandoah Valley will be the new speaker. The Speaker of the House has total control over appointing members to committees. Too often including in the recent past the practice has been to take members of the minority party off the key committees on which they may have had the most influence. The shuffling of members on committees has been a way for the majority to solidify its power.

The way in which the transition of power has been handled in the past by both parties has led to many inefficiencies in the legislative process. Rather than a continuous process responding to the needs of the

Commonwealth there have been many fits and starts that delay needed legislative ac-

tion.

Of course, the winning party always wants to assert its power. I understand that "to the victors go the spoils." But much of what the legislature does should not be partisan. Virginians showed again in this election cycle that they are not clearly blue or red. No Democrat celebrated more than I did the transformative actions taken by the legislature over the past two

years. Hopefully the new governor and the new House leadership will not throw out all that work and start over. We can build on those things for which there are areas of agreement.

I will be pleading with the new administration that we view the next several months as time to look at reforms in the process on which we can agree. We need not spend time on seeking revenge on those who have been in office in the past. The winners in such an approach will be the people of Virginia and not a single political party.

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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The women of the March Family: Meg (Kirsten Knight), Beth (Keira Murphy), Amy (Franny Hemsley), Jo ((Kylee Majkowski), and Marmee (Kirsten Tierney).

NOW THRU NOV. 21

"Fully Committed." At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. This funny show follows a day in the life of Samantha, an out-of-work actress who works the red-hot reservation line at Manhattan's number-one restaurant. Coercion, threats, bribes, histrionics—a cast of desperate callers will stop at nothing in their zeal to land a prime reservation or the right table.

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>

NOW THRU NOV. 30

"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 (NPAA) was initiated due to a shared desire to explore the idea of painting outdoors. Since then, NPAA 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. NPAA is primarily a plein air group but members also engage in painting other subjects including still life, genre, and portraiture.

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 unforgettably 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.

NOV. 18-DEC. 12

"Secret Things." Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tysons. "Secret Things," a deep and heartfelt story of truth, discovery, and romance imbued both with gorgeous magical realism and fascinating true history of Sephardic Judaism in the American Southwest. General admission tickets are \$50. Senior (65+) tickets are \$47. Student, educator, and military tickets are \$15. Tickets can be purchased online at www.1ststage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

NOV. 18-20, NOV. 20-21

"Little Women, the Broadway Musical." Nov. 18, 19, 20 at 7 p.m.; Nov. 20, 21 at 2 p.m. At McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Tickets: www.Theatre-McLean.org or <https://tinyurl.com/7cxa8jjn>

NOV. 19-21

"Catch Me If You Can." Nov. 19-20 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. At Seneca Ridge Middle School Theatre, 98 Seneca Ridge Drive, Sterling. Based on the hit film and the true story, "Catch Me If You Can" is the high-flying musical comedy about chasing your dreams and not getting caught. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and are available at SterlingPlaymakers.org or can be purchased at the door.

FRIDAY/NOV. 19

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. 6-8 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean, in the Plaza. Tysons Corner Center will kick off the 2021 Holiday Season with its annual tree lighting ceremony. The ceremony will include a special appearance from Santa, community performances, live music complimentary s'mores, hot chocolate station, kids crafts, outdoor specialty pop-up market featuring mall retailers, holiday sips from Barrel + Bushel, giveaways, and more.

NOV. 19-20

JAM Christmas Show. 8-10 p.m. At Fredgren Studio Theatre at Ballet Nova, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. Created by choreographer Jeremy A. McShan, JAM 12 Days of Christmas, is a

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
MONTGOMERY	12355	787	DRY VALLEY RD./ROUTE 787	MEADOW CREEK	10/28/2021
DINWIDDIE	6063	631	CLAIRBORNE RD.	HATCHER RUN	10/23/2021
CARROLL	4640	620	FOREST OAK RD./ROUTE 620	CROOKED CREEK	10/22/2021
SCOTT	16924	796	GILLENWATER LOOP	BIG MOCCASIN CREEK	10/20/2021
LUNENBURG	11609	626	DOUBLE BRIDGES RD.	LEDBETTER CREEK	10/12/2021

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

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Closing Notice



Thanksgiving
Thursday, Nov. 25 - Friday, Nov. 26

A Christmas Celebration



"Joy to the World: A Christmas Musical Journey" w/ Damien Sneed
Wednesday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m.
\$30/\$20 MCC district residents

Presented by The Alden



Midday Movies: Foreign Language Films
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McLean Holiday Art & Crafts Festival



Friday, Dec. 3, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
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CALENDAR



Renaissance Feaste Returns to Langley

A beautiful Langley tradition, the Renaissance Feaste, returns on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4, at 7 p.m.

For tickets, <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5291225>

FROM PAGE 7

crowd-thrilling Christmas musical spectacular that mixes favorite Christmas carols along with favorite pop songs of all time. These dance-floor favorites are sure to leave audiences dancing in their seats as we count down the days 'til the arrival of good ole St. Nick. Cost is \$25. Visit the website: <https://jam12days.bpt.me/>

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

The Dancing Light. 8 p.m. At Reston Community Theater's CenterStage. Celebrating the Warmth of Winter; Akua Allrich and The Tribe. Come share an evening filled with music from around the world celebrating the wonder of the season and joy of living. Cost is \$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

Vendor Fair and Marketplace. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Christ Church, 7600 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The Clifton Community Women's Club will be hosting a Vendor Fair and Marketplace. The fair will feature 20 local vendors including the Fairfax Station Railway which will be selling trains. Additional vendors will feature products related to beauty, fashion, toys, antiques, collectibles, food stuff, health, wellness, travel and finance. The Clifton Community Women's Club is a service organization that supports a multitude of community needs and the Charitable Trust distributions support four local scholarships to colleges and

universities, donations to local food pantries, and various other charities.

SUNDAY/NOV. 21

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring Charlie Zahm and Tad Marks. All patrons must present a vaccination certificate with at least the first series completed for a minimum of 2 weeks, or a negative covid test within 48 hours. Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.oldbrogue.com - \$20 general admission.

SUNDAY/NOV. 21

Holiday Cooking Tips. 5-6:30 p.m. Virtual. At 8300 Greensboro Drive, Ste. L1, McLean. Join Seasons 52 Executive Chef for some tips and tricks on how to improve some of your favorite holiday dishes. Cost \$35. Tickets can be purchased here. https://members.jlnv.org/?nd=ticket_list&fund-raiser_id=52

SUNDAY/NOV. 21

Winter Dreams. 3 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Rd., Tysons. The Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra concert's theme is "Winter Dreams." The program will include three pieces from Georgy Sviridov's suite "The Snowstorm," excerpts from "The Nutcracker," and a perennial WBS favorite, "Russian Winter." The soloists will be Peter Omelchenko, domra, and special guest artist, Elina Karokhina, balalaika. Visit <https://www.capitalonehall.com/>

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

NOV. 27 TO DEC. 19.

Holiday Lights on the Farm. Fridays thru Sundays 5:30 to 8 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. What is "Holiday Lights on the Farm"? It's where you tour Frying Pan Farm Park in the safety and warmth of your car and see an amazing display of holiday decorations lighting up the 135-acre park. The cost is \$20 per private vehicle. Or you can take the tour on a tractor-drawn wagon ride with up to 20 of your family or friends for \$150 per group. Last year this event sold out, so get your tickets early at <https://bit.ly/FPLights>.

NOV. 19 TO JAN. 2

Ice & Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run, 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Open nightly 5 to 10 p.m.; January 8 to February 27, 2022 (ice skating only), open Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring an ice rink, multiple new holiday light displays perfect for Instagramming, a retail area, food, music and more. Admission: \$9 for general admission to Village; \$22 for

village admission and skating; beginning January 8, \$14 for ice skating; free ages 2 and under. Visit novaparks.com/events/ice-lights

FRIDAY/NOV. 19

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. 6-8 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean, in the Plaza. Tysons Corner Center will kick off the 2021 Holiday Season with its annual tree lighting ceremony. The ceremony will include a special appearance from Santa, community performances, live music complimentary s'mores, hot chocolate station, kids crafts, outdoor specialty pop-up market featuring mall retailers, holiday sips, giveaways, and more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

City of Alexandria Tree Lighting. 6 to 7 p.m. At Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Join Mayor Justin Wilson and a host of friends for the lighting of the city's 40-foot Holiday Tree at City Hall. Santa arrives at Market Square via the King Street Trolley to help light the

SEE HOLIDAY CALENDAR, PAGE 9
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

tree, then will circle the block, waving at visitors as he passes on his way back to the North Pole. Enjoy a welcome from the Town Crier and a bit of live music to set the festive mood. Visit alexandriava.gov

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

"Snow Globe Series" Concert. 8 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. The Alexandria Choral Society announces its return to live performances with a series of free, outdoor holiday pop-up concerts throughout the city of Alexandria, beginning with a kick-off outdoor performance. Accompanied by pianist Wei-Han Wu, ACS will perform a flurry of seasonal favorites from around the world, like 'Daa Naa Se (Oh, Give Thanks)', 'S'Vivon', 'Silent Night', 'Ose Shalom', 'Riu, riu, chiu,' and 'Christus Natus Est.' Additional pop-up performances will take place on November 23 at John Carlyle Square Park, November 30 at Casa Chirilagua/Four Mile Run Plaza and December 7 at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden. All concerts begin at 8 p.m. Visit alexandriachoralsociety.org

NOV. 20-21

Old Town Alexandria Cookie Crawl. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday; 12 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Various locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. Kick off the holidays early during Old Town Business's annual Old Town Cookie Crawl. Receive a commemorative tin and stop by all 25 retailers on the crawl to receive a cookie at each location. It's fun for the whole family and a great way to explore Old Town's walkable shopping district. Admission: \$35 registration fee. Visit oldtownbusiness.org

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS

Waterfront Art Market. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Art Center's waterfront entrance, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Visit the Waterfront entrance at Torpedo Factory Art

Center to discover new artwork from a rotating lineup of the Art Center's studio artists. Find paintings and photographs to jewelry and wearables, then step inside to browse the three floors of the Art Center for even more original art for purchase. Visit torpedofactory.org

THURSDAY/NOV. 25

46th Annual Turkey Trot. 9 a.m. Race begins at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Participate in the return of DC area's premiere turkey trot. The Flat, fast, USATF-certified five-mile course starts and ends at George Washington Middle School. The Alexandria Turkey Trot offers a generous cash and gift prize purse to the winning runners. Please support ALIVE!, a nonprofit organization serving Alexandria's needy, by bringing two nonperishable food items (cans, boxes) on race day. Admission: \$20 per adult; \$15 for youth ages 13-20; \$5 for children under 13; \$10 for race t-shirt. Visit the website: alexandriaturkeytrot.com

NOV. 26-27; DEC. 3, 4, 10, 11, 19

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Take a candlelit guided tour and learn about holiday traditions in 18th-century Virginia. Visit with Mrs. Washington and other 18th-century residents of Mount Vernon in a 45-minute candlelit tour of the Mount Vernon estate, followed by a reception. Hear stories of Christmases past from costumed character actors portraying Washington's family, friends, and enslaved or hired staff. Admission: \$36 for adults (ages 12 and up); \$28 for youth (ages 6-11); for members, \$26 for adults; \$18 for youth. Visit the website: mountvernon.org/candlelight

NOV. 26 TO DEC. 2

2nd Annual Alexandria Shop Small Week. At various locations throughout Alexandria. Kicking off with Plaid Friday: Alexandria's

Small Business Black Friday and Small Business Saturday, Alexandria Shop Small Week is an opportunity to show your support for the D.C. region's largest destination for independent boutiques with seven days of deals and promotions including Museum Store Sunday, a small business Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday, an Alexandria Shop and Stay giveaway at @VisitAlexVA on Wednesday and a new Moonlight Merriment event on Thursday. Visit the website: visitalexandriava.com/holidays/shop-small-week

SATURDAY/NOV. 27

Hometown Holidays at Port City Brewing Company. 7 p.m. At Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria. On Small Business Saturday, 30 Alexandria-based makers will take over the Port City parking lot. Come take care of all your holiday gift giving needs, and sip while you shop. Visit portcitybrewing.com.

DEC. 2, 3, 9, 21

Museum Shopping Evenings at Carlyle House. 5 to 8 p.m. At Carlyle House Museum Shop, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Enjoy shopping small and local. Stop by the Carlyle House Museum Shop for wonderful holiday gifts. An assortment of Virginia made items, ornaments, soaps, and more are available for purchase. Visit novaparks.com.

DEC. 3-4

Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade. Taste of Scotland: Friday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m. Parade: Saturday, December 4, at 11 a.m. Campagna Center is thrilled to celebrate the 50th Anniversary Scottish Walk Weekend in Alexandria. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was established by Scottish merchants. Dozens of Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans parade through the streets of Old Town, joined by pipe and drum bands from around the region, as well as terriers and hounds. The weekend kicks off with the Taste

of Scotland Scotch Tasting on Friday evening in the Atrium Building. The parade will depart from St. Asaph St. heading north, head east from Queen St., head south from Fairfax St., and head west from King Street, ending right in front of City Hall. Admission: Free to view; \$75 registration fee to march in parade; \$200 and above for Taste of Scotland Scotch Tasting. Visit the website:

Campagnacenter.org

DEC. 3-18

"A Christmas Carol." At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. The Little Theatre of Alexandria rings in the holiday season with a return of the classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable, bitter old miser, travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Visit the website: thelittletheatre.com

DEC. 3 TO 5, 10 TO 12, 17 TO 19

Del Ray Artisans' Fine Art & Fine Craft Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Fridays, 6 to 9 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Featuring unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass and much more from different artisans each weekend. Plus, purchase 2022 wall calendars, cookbooks and tote bags to support Del Ray Artisans. Visit the website: delrayartisans.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 4

Holiday Festival at Torpedo Factory Art Center. 2 to 8 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Torpedo Factory Art Center joins the fun on Alexandria's most festive weekend of the year. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive by fire boat around 3:30 p.m. on the Waterfront. Music fills the halls and the waterfront, beckoning people to browse three floors of open artists' studios. Visit the website: torpedofactory.org

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NEWS

Youth Rugby benefit tournament is back!

Great Falls Village will be a busy place on Sunday, Nov. 21. Great Falls/McLean Youth Rugby Club will host its sixth annual tournament to benefit the spinal cord injury research and recovery programs at MedStar National Rehabilitation Network. This annual charity event is dear to the heart of Gary Coetzee, president of Great Falls Rugby and himself a spinal cord injury survivor.

The event is a youth tournament, for all age groups U7 through High School. A number of D.C., Maryland and Virginia Youth, Middle School and High School teams are already registered. The fun begins at 9 a.m. and will run all day. The Middle School and High School tackle teams (Boys and Girls) will play at both Leo Santabella Park (behind library) and the Grange. Youth "tag" rugby matches will be played behind the post-office.

Great Falls/McLean Youth Rugby is grateful for the continued support of the community, including sponsors Cuisine Solutions, Indigo IT, Nandos PERI-PERI Chicken and Kiwi Kuisine Pies. A portion of the proceeds from all participating teams and vendors will be donated to MedStar's Adaptive Sports Program. We invite you to come visit, watch some rugby, and grab a bite to eat.

Great Falls/McLean Rugby, founded in 2011, is a 501c3 non-profit organization and has seen registrations increase after the COVID lull. Registration and playing opportunities exist year-round and the Eagles are always looking for opportunities to promote the club throughout the Herndon, Great Falls, Reston, McLean and Sterling areas.

The rugby year is just starting (October 2021-September 2022), so there are plenty of opportunities to benefit from our rugby program and your one-time registration is good for the full year. We are all starting to look out for Spring Sports: rugby is your answer! Football player? "Many families are looking for a safer alternative to American football, while others are realizing how well the sports complement one another. Rugby-style tackling is taking hold in both college and profession football."

For more information, visit www.greatfallsrugby.com or email Gary Coetzee at gary@greatfallsrugby.com. The club is also on Facebook.

OBITUARY

J. Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge

Political consultant dies at 83.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Kenny Klinge was just 26 years old when he began a career in Virginia politics as precinct captain for Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign in 1964. He went on to help shape the political fortunes of many Republican candidates, including President Ronald Reagan. On Oct. 27, the man known as a patriarch in Virginia GOP politics, died at his retirement home in Basye, Va. He was 83.

"I had the opportunity to meet and begin my admiration for Kenny Klinge in 1976 when I was a green rookie chair of Young Virginians for Reagan," posted former Governor George Allen in an online tribute. "Kenny was always a steady, shrewd leader in any competitive and tense operation from Ronald Reagan's to my campaigns. He was a revered and loved person."

John Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge, was born in Arlington Aug. 4, 1938, to Henry John and Bernice Klinge. He developed a passion for politics and as an expert on transportation issues served as both a Special Assistant and Deputy Assistant Secretary to two Secretaries of Transportation during the Reagan Administration.

Klinge is credited with the modern expansion of Reagan National Airport while serving on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and the successful efforts to expand Metro Rail out the Dulles Corridor during his tenure as Chairman of the Dulles Corridor Task Force.

"Kenny had so much to offer," said Maj. Gen. Keith Meurlin, president of the Washington Airports Task Force. "He was a great Board Member at MWAA and I so much enjoyed the opportunity to work with him and accept his guidance and advice."

His transportation expertise was respected across party lines as then-governor Mark Warner appointed Klinge to chair the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority in 2002.

Klinge served as Executive Director of the Republican Party of Virginia (1973-1975), Regional Political Director of Ronald Reagan campaigns (1976, 1980, and 1984), and National Political Director of the National Republican Campaign Committee (1987-1989).

As Executive Director of the RPV, he partnered with the late Dick Obenshain to lay the foundation for the electoral successes of Governors' Mills Godwin and John Dalton. He served as a senior leader for the winning campaigns of Governors' George Allen and Jim Gilmore, as well as Representative Tom Davis.

Prior to retiring to the Shenandoah Valley, Klinge and his wife Jean were longtime Al-



Political consultant J. Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge died Oct. 27 at the age of 83.



J. Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge speaks to a group of young Republicans as Ronald Reagan's Virginia Campaign Coordinator in March of 1976.

exandria residents with Jean running unsuccessfully for Alexandria City Council in the 1980s.

In retirement, Klinge volunteered as the Precinct Captain of the Orkney Precinct in Shenandoah County. He enjoyed playing golf, late night poker games and sharing his skills as a natural raconteur with family and friends.

Klinge is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jean Campbell Klinge; sons Michael (Shari) and John (Mel); brothers, Charles (Georgia) and Jonathan (Connie); grandchildren, John Klinge (Kylie) and Holly (T.J.); great-grandchildren, Jackson, Spencer, and Lincoln; and stepdaughter, Kendra Cipollina. A celebration of life was held Nov. 4 in Basye, Va. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Orkney Spring Fire and Rescue Squad, 922 Orkney Grade PO Box 374 Basye, VA 22810.

"Kenny Klinge was a blessing in my life and for the advancement of freedom and opportunities for all," Allen added. "We will all miss Kenny's wisdom but will be grateful for his positive influences in our lives."

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"One-Hundred Seventy-Three Minutes"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

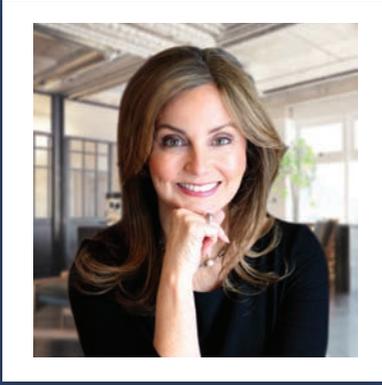
That's exactly how long the pre-recorded, artificially-computerized voice said I would have to wait on the phone if I wanted to speak with an actual person. For those of you arithmetically challenged, 173 minutes is almost three hours. Seeing no point in holding that long, I hung up the phone. EZ-Pass of Maryland is not as easy as I had hoped. Sure the transponder on my car has changed the way I toll around. I only wish I had been earlier to the party. But I waited until the monthly fees were eliminated before I joined. Had I been more on the ball, I would have been sailing through toll plazas up-and-down the east coast years ago. Nevertheless, I'm in the game now (last few years) and enjoying modern technology as it simplifies and eases the occasionally arduous task of driving through tolls - yours truly now being for whom the bell now calculates.

However, I needed to contact the EZ-Pass offices to question a \$25 "replenishment"/charge/debit to my EZ-Pass account. My car/transponder had been sitting in my driveway for most of the last week, undriven by anyone anywhere near a toll. Yet there it was in my email: a courtesy email advising of the \$25 charge/debit to my account. I was curious; having been told recently by my wife, Dina, of an EZ-Pass audit which showed phantom-charges (charges for roads not driven). As a result, I thought I would pursue the questionable debit to my account with a real person. I googled the EZ-Pass phone number and naively called it thinking I might get some satisfaction/resolution. Neither of which I did, but I did get a subject for this week's column.

To be fair-ish, the message does refer the caller to the EZ-Pass website, but that requires the caller to know their account number and password, which of course, I don't. As the message continued however, it spoke to this very circumstance and advised that if one didn't know their account number/password, press #2 I think it was, and then hang on to speak with someone. That's when I heard the 173-minute warning shot fired across my brow. That's when whatever hope I had of a reasonable reconciliation ended. I couldn't justify/tolerate the time it would take to possibly reconcile/credit my account the \$25. I figured my time was more valuable than that so I hung up. Alas, poor Yurik. It was not to be or be at all. I can't think of a more efficient way to solve a dispute in your favor: making callers wait three hours on hold just to talk to a person who might credit back an unnecessary debit into their account. Hardly a guarantee. More likely a definite maybe.

In effect: there's no dispute. There's no discussion and there's no reconciliation. The money's gone and I have absolutely no way/recourse to "replenish" my bank account. Sure, I could call back when the message advises due "to extremely high call volume," but when would that be? Midnight probably, on a weekend. But guess what? There's nobody home at that time. Apparently, the only time to get through to someone is when there's nobody around to be gotten through to. Granted, it's only \$25, but I'm entitled/deserving of an explanation. If I thought of it, I could certainly get paranoid about computers having access to my bank account and/or credit card information. I realize it's the way of the world to provide this information to total strangers/computer programmers, but if I have no real way to settle a dispute of a charge/debit, it makes me rather nervous. Dollars could very well disappear in the interests of whomever has access to the account. If I can't talk to a human being - in less than three hours, then in point of fact, I have no recourse. And no recourse is hardly the stuff from which dreams are made. It's the complete opposite, actually. It's a nightmare, and one from which we might never wake up.

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



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