

Delicious Festival Raises Funds for Rotary Projects

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At the 2022 McLean Chocolate Festival, a customer purchases chocolates with tickets.

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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Connection's Mother's Day Photo Pages

As usual every year at this time, The Connection calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery. Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8. This year we will continue to publish submissions through the May 18th edition. Photo submissions are due by Monday, May 16, but now is the right time to submit your photos.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information.

You can upload photos and information directly using the form at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/> or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

This is also a fine time for submissions for our annual Father's Day galleries. Submit them online HERE <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday/>

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NEWS

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



At the 2022 McLean Chocolate Festival, a customer purchases chocolates with tickets.



At the 2022 McLean Chocolate Festival, Cameron Graham of McLean, Sean Cross of Fairfax, Catie Cunningham of Fairfax, and Brandi Lovett of Centreville show off some sweets they make at Cameron's Coffee and Chocolate, a non-profit in Fairfax run by Every1 Can Work.



Mariano D'Aguiar, the co-founder of River-Sea Chocolates in Chantilly, greets a customer at the McLean Rotary Club's 2022 McLean Chocolate Festival.

2022 McLean Chocolate Festival Raises Funds

McLean Rotary Club raises money to support local and global projects.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Following a two-year COVID hiatus, the McLean Community Center welcomed back a sweet tradition on April 24. Nine vendors set up tables in the community hall for the Rotary Club of McLean's Tenth Annual McLean Chocolate Festival. "The purpose of the festival is to raise funds for our Foundation," said John P. McEvelly Jr., club president. "We haven't had a real fundraiser for two years."

Attendees purchased tickets to buy products from the festival vendors. The event featured a demonstration of colonial American chocolate making by American Heritage, a Mars brand, a raffle table, and a children's game room operated by Thomas Jefferson High School Keyettes Club.

McEvelly said that the Chocolate Festival has historically been the Foundation's primary fundraiser, bringing in between \$30,000 and \$35,000 per year.

"For some of the causes, it has been tough for them [during COVID], but we're hoping we can help them out now, with this Festival. We are going to have a fresh batch of money."

Proceeds from the festival and sponsor-



Mariano D'Aguiar, the co-founder of River-Sea Chocolates in Chantilly, greets a customer at the McLean Rotary Club's 2022 McLean Chocolate Festival.

ship solicitations support local, national, and international charities via the McLean Rotary Foundation. These include HomeStretch, which assists homeless families; Langley Residential Support Services, which provides housing and employment for adults with intellectual disabilities; and Share of McLean which helps families in need with food, clothing, and furniture.

McLean Rotarians oversee medical missions in Guatemala and Honduras and humanitarian assistance to Afghan and Ukrainian refugees in the United States. Rotary International is a global leader in the eradication of polio.

"We will probably be able to make some grants in the next 60 to 90 days," McEvelly said.



At the 2022 McLean Chocolate Festival, a Fluffy Thoughts Cake from the local McLean bakery may be irresistible to a child.



At the 2022 McLean Chocolate Festival, a Fluffy Thoughts Cake from a local McLean bakery may be irresistible to a child.



Don Beyer



Victoria Virasingh

Deep Blue Primary

Incumbent congressman to face first-time candidate.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The Eighth Congressional District is the bluest of the blue strongholds, giving President Biden 78 percent of the vote in 2020 — the largest margin of victory for all the Virginia congressional districts. For many years, the district was represented by U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), who decided to step down in 2014 after serving 12 terms in Congress. Beyer emerged that year from a field of 10 candidates in the Democratic primary, and has not been challenged in a Democratic primary since that time. This year, though, Victoria Virasingh is challenging Beyer for the Democratic nomination.

“It is difficult to knock off an established incumbent member in a first run for public office,” said Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. “Unless there is some dissatisfaction among the district’s Democratic Party voters with Beyer — and I do not see any — it is going to be especially difficult in this case.”

Virasingh is calling attention to Beyer’s personal wealth, criticizing the performance of his stock portfolio at a time when he was in a position to have what she calls “privileged information” as a member of Congress. She is calling for a prohibition on members of Congress being able to buy and sell stocks. That’s a policy proposal that Beyer actually agrees with. Two months ago, he says, he moved all his investments from stocks to mutual funds when the issue of self-dealing on Capitol Hill became a topic of conversation. On the campaign trail, Virasingh has tried to fashion herself as a progressive alternative to the incumbent -- a new voice of a new

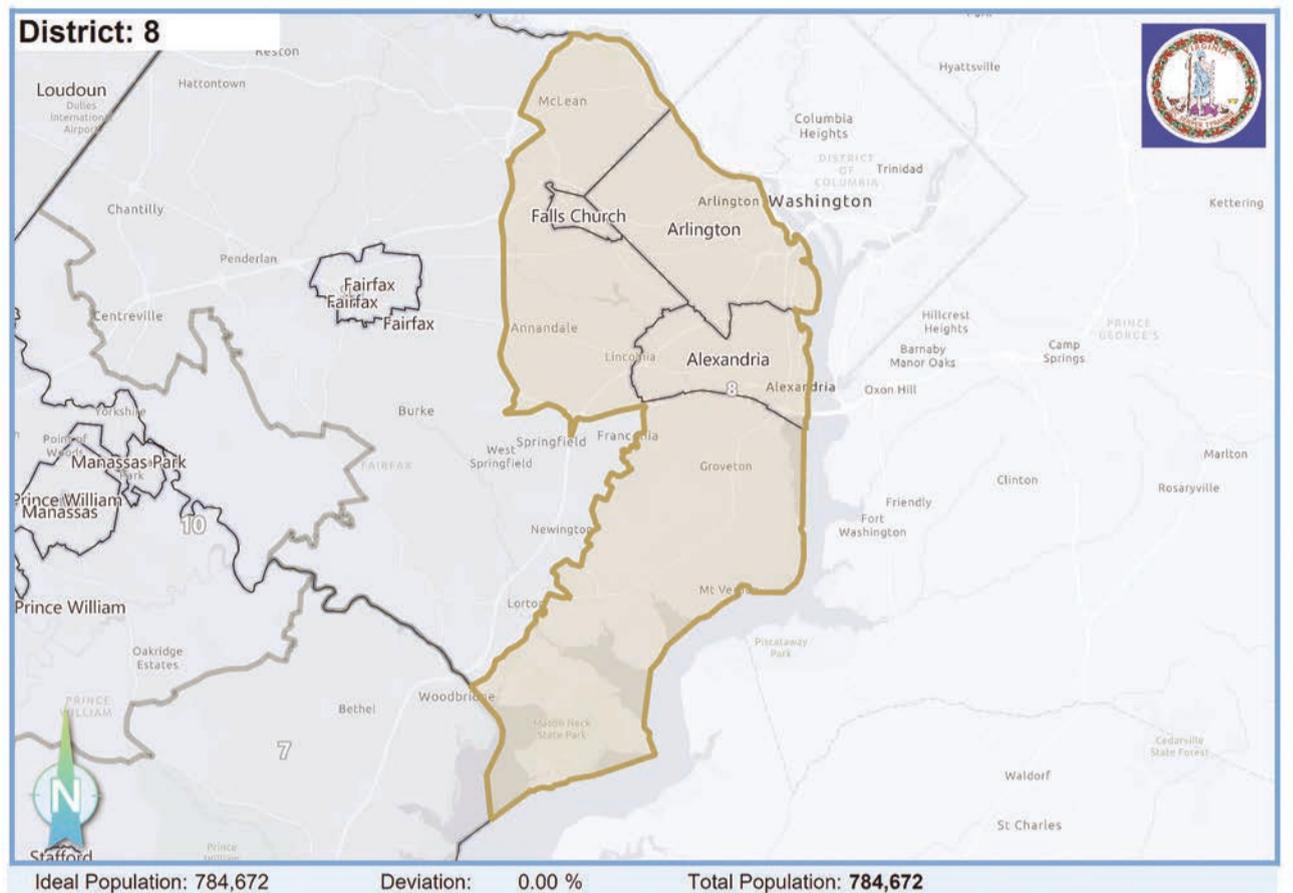
generation challenging someone who has been a fixture of Virginia politics for decades.

“I could see a progressive challenge viable in the case of an incumbent voting well to the right of his or her constituency, but that is not the situation here,” said Rozell. “To the extent that the challenger can draw out some contrasts and give Democratic Party voters reason to consider an alternative, that is all good for the process as it helps to hold the incumbent accountable.”

VICTORIA VIRASINGH is a native of Arlington, where her parents were part of a community that included refugees from India and immigrants from South America. She earned scholarships to St. Agnes Catholic School in Arlington and Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in Washington, D.C. Virasingh has a bachelor of arts in international relations and a master of arts in Latin American Studies, both from Stanford University. She interned at the Internal Revenue Service and the office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) before joining Palantir Technology leading public-private partnerships. She’s now a full-time candidate.

“If I was born in this area today, my story would not be possible,” she said when asked why she’s running in the primary. “This area has exploded in growth, which is really exciting. But one of the problems is that it’s much harder to find affordable housing.”

If elected, she says, she would support a prohibition against members of Congress buying and selling stocks. She pointed to disclosure reports from Beyer indicating



“It is difficult to knock off an established incumbent member in a first run for public office. Unless there is some dissatisfaction among the district’s Democratic Party voters with Beyer — and I do not see any — it is going to be especially difficult in this case.”

— Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University

that his portfolio recently outperformed the Standard & Poor 500 index, which she says should raise red flags given his access to information as a member of Congress. She says she would also support publicly financed election campaigns, and she says she supports the Biden administration’s controversial proposal to end the Trump administration’s use of Title 42 of the Public Health Service Act of 1944 to turn away undocumented immigrants arriving at the southern border. She says it’s time for “a new type of leadership” and “it’s time to pass the torch.”

“We don’t have legislators who understand what the challenges are,” she said, adding that Beyer and others fit that description. “They don’t understand the basic fundamentals of the ways in which technology is influencing our economy.”

DON BEYER is serving his fourth term in the House of Representatives. He is a former lieutenant governor who ran an unsuccessful campaign as the Democratic candidate for governor in 1997, when Republican Jim Gilmore was elected. He has a bachelor’s degree in economics from Williams College in Massachusetts, and during the Obama administration he served as ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein. If elected to a fifth term to a party in the minority, he says,

he will be able to work with friends across the aisle on issues like regulating space traffic management of satellites orbiting Earth.

“This really gets into the meaning of life, you know, why are we here? I long ago figured out that I was happiest when I was trying to

make other people’s lives better,” he said. “We all have to try to make sense of the story of our own lives, and this is the way I do it.”

During his time in office, he says, he’s been focused on tackling the problem of climate change, pressing for a carbon tax and expansion of fusion energy to replace fossil fuels. Congress is currently considering seven of his climate change proposals as part of the long-delayed Build Back Better plan. He says he agrees with Virasingh that members of Congress should be prohibited from buying and selling stocks, and in February he moved all his investments from the stock market to mutual funds. He also agrees with Virasingh about public financing of elections, although he says he’s not yet sure whether he supports the Biden administration’s plans to lift Title 42 restrictions and allowing undocumented immigrants to seek asylum at the southern border.

“I think it might be the right thing to do legally, that there may be no legal merit to keeping it in place. Politically I think it’s very difficult,” said Beyer, who says he wants to hear all the arguments on both sides. “Generally I hate picking a political consideration over a policy consideration. I always want to do the right thing, not necessarily the smart thing.”

NEWS

McLean Cold Case Murder from 2001

Detectives from Fairfax County Police Department Cold Case Squad continue to use advancements in technology to examine cases from years ago. New technology is used to identify offenders as well as victims in cases that have reached an impasse.

On Sept. 27, 2001, officers found the skeletal remains of a Black woman near a drainage ditch in the 1500 block of Lincoln Circle in McLean. Detectives believe the victim, found behind an apartment complex, was in her late teens to early 20s. She stood 5'5" and had partially-dyed red hair. At the time of her death, she was wearing a red pullover turtleneck sweater with a yellow and beige stripe. The victim was also wearing a costume-style ring with a large blue stone, featuring three clear stones in a triangular pattern on each side. Detectives found additional clothing and jewelry they believe belonged to the victim as well. None of the evidence found led to the identification of the victim.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined the woman sustained a gunshot wound to the head. This discovery classified the investigation as a homicide. Detectives were not able to determine how long the victim was in the wooded area. They believe her

murder may have occurred months to a year prior to the discovery of the remains.

Detectives hope advancements in technology can identify this Jane Doe. The identification of the victim will provide a family with some closure and could provide new leads in this investigation.

FCPD continues to work with its community partners, including Othram Inc. and DNA Solves. They are assisting with crowdfunding (<https://bit.ly/3LdLIHQ>) for advanced DNA testing and Forensic-Grade Genome Sequencing.

"Cold Cases never truly go cold, as the detectives in Fairfax County keep a close eye on any potential developments and opportunities for a breakthrough," said Major Ed O'Carroll of the Major Crimes, Cyber and Forensics Bureau. "Advancements in DNA evidence and genealogy research offer insight into cases that have baffled investigators for years. The goal of re-examining these cases is to provide answers to victims and family members who have lived too long with only questions."

Detectives continue to ask anyone with information about this case to submit tips through Fairfax County Crime Solvers. Tips can be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

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.

MAY 14 AND 21

Mental Health First Aid. 1-5 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. This is an 8-hour course, presented in 2 4-hour blocks on May 14 and 21, designed to give community members key skills to provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/8882192>

SHEPHERD'S CENTER SPRING CLASSES

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia will hold Spring classes from now thru June 9, 2022. All Classes will be held virtually on Zoom and in person at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Registration: April 4-19, 2022. The Spring 2022 semester schedule includes 40-plus classes with a wide range of subjects -- from a Health and Wellness series to National and World Affairs.

The following classes are but a few of the classes to choose from:

- April 28 – "Sorting Fact from Fiction" – Larry Lipman, AARP

- May 5 – "Monarch Butterflies – Life Cycle and Migration" – Scott Schroth
 - May 19 – "Whale Watching in Baja" – Paul Wormeli
 - May 26 – "Vienna African American Trailblazers and Liberty Amendments" – Gloria Runyon/Sylvia/DeeDee
- Students may attend one or all of the all spring classes for a \$55 fee and are encouraged to create their own schedule – attend classes all day or attend only one class. For a complete listing of classes or to register, visit the ALL page on the SCNOVA website at [SCNOVA Adventures in Learning Spring 2022](http://SCNOVAAdventures.com) or call the office at 703-281-0538. Visit www.scnova.org or contact the Office at 703-281-0538.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

In conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes.

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CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Lewinsville 5K and 1Mile Fun Run!

June 5 - 8 am start

REGISTER or VOLUNTEER at www.Lewinsville.org

Race proceeds and donations will be used to help support the Ukrainian refugee relief efforts. The race will be one of several activities and events celebrating Lewinsville's 175th Year Anniversary and the reopening of the newly renovated education building. We are looking forward to seeing you in June for a morning of fitness, fun, and fellowship as we navigate the streets of downtown McLean.

Hosted by Lewinsville Presbyterian Church in coordination with Potomac River Running

Lewinsville Presbyterian Church 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia

Public Hearings

Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2023-2028 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2023-2028 SYIP. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available <https://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings2022/default.asp> before April 25, 2022.

Public meetings begin at 4 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

<p>Monday, April 25 Fredericksburg District James Monroe High School 2300 Washington Avenue Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 26 Culpeper District Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, Virginia 22701</p>	<p>Thursday, April 28 Richmond District Richmond District Auditorium 2430 Pine Forest Drive Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834</p>
<p>Monday, May 2 Staunton District Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center 1 College Lane Weyers Cave, Virginia 24486</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 3 Lynchburg District Virginian Hotel, 712 Church Street Lynchburg, Virginia 24504</p>	<p>Wednesday, May 4 *Northern Virginia District Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, Virginia 22030 *meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.</p>
<p>Monday, May 9 Hampton Roads District Hampton Roads District Auditorium 7511 Burbage Drive, Suffolk, Virginia 23435</p>	<p>Wednesday, May 11 Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, Virginia 24210</p>	<p>Thursday, May 12 Salem District Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, Virginia 24017</p>

*The Northern Virginia District meeting will serve as the required joint public meeting with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Virginia Railway Express, and the CTB per § 33.2-214.3 of the Code of Virginia.

You can submit comments by email or mail by May 23, 2022.

For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer Fairfax Names 2022 Service Award Winners and Community Champions

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Volunteer Fairfax, together with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, celebrated 149 service award nominees, 11 winners, and 10 Community Champions, honoring their volunteerism achievements during 2021 in a virtual awards ceremony on April 20th. Founded in 1992, The organization mobi-

lizes people and resources to meet regional community needs, running well known events, such as Stuff the Bus and the MLK Weekend of Service. Now celebrating its 30th year, their awards ceremony highlights remarkable achievements in volunteerism in several distinct award categories.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay congratulated the volunteers, thanking them for their service. "I have witnessed

the great work from a wide range of volunteers serving our community. They seek to shine a light, not on themselves, but on the needs of others and the issues that face our community. Volunteers serve at our local libraries, and our food banks; they are counselors and translators. They tutor children and drive our neighbors to doctors appointments. They plant gardens at our parks and schools. They clean up our streams and waterways and care for the most vulnerable

among us, animals included, and I have seen how volunteers have helped this community through a changing and unprecedented crisis during the COVID 19 pandemic. Volunteers do all of this work and more, because they share a desire for all to live in a vibrant, safe, and healthy community."

Speaking to the award winners and the nominees, he added, "Thank you for stepping forward to support this great community that we share."

Loren Zander, Education & Literacy Award Winner

Since 2015, an integral part of the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia's positive impact on the lives of English learners in Fairfax County. Serving learners from many different nationalities, cultures, and backgrounds, Loren created a supportive community by strengthening students' sense of belonging and confidence to engage with wider society.



Mary Lee DiSpirito, Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

A mainstay of the Annandale Christian Community for Action, a church-related volunteer organization providing rental assistance, day care, food, furniture, and other services to low-income families in the Annandale/Bailey's Crossroads area. She devoted countless hours to the organization over the past 35 years, including 1,500 this year.



John O'Connor, County Volunteer Award Winner

A volunteer at the Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court for more than eight years and skillful intake officer teaching clients about the complex court process, while displaying empathy, particularly for those with limited English proficiency.



Maria Lewan, RSVP Northern Virginia Award Winner

A registered nurse who used her clinical nursing skills to help those who face health issues, providing a community connec-



Meet the 2022 Service Award Winners



Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps, Volunteer Group Award Winner

A group of more than 3,550 members with a passion for helping to keep their communities healthy and safe provided thousands of volunteer service hours during public health emergencies, such as measles, TB outbreaks and the Coronavirus Pandemic, responding to public health implications of severe weather incidents, and conducting educational and outreach activities.

tion and resource for the social workers at Capital Caring Health. Each week, Maria made calls to patients to provide a touch-point check-in, targeting any health needs and providing emotional support to them and their caregivers.



Amini Bonane, Social Justice Winner

A community builder, organizer, and advocate used her titles of Miss Black DC 2020 and Miss Fairfax City 2021 to speak up for marginalized commu-

nities. During her time at George Mason University, was a founding board member of the COVID Student Safety Corps; also founded the Student Safety Advocacy Board, the Conflict-Free Campus Initiative, and GMU's first-ever delegation of the Model African Union.

Kirsten Mikolashek, Youth Leadership Winner

A volunteer for Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program for more than



Fairfax Master Naturalists, Environmental Sustainability Award Winner

Throughout the pandemic, offered refuge, for volunteers and citizens alike, who were seeking "outdoor relief" by developing volunteers to assist with the beneficial management and preservation of natural resources and natural areas in the County, widening opportunities for residents to enjoy the great outdoors.

four years with over 350 hours of service providing equine-assisted activities to people with disabilities, youth-at-risk, recovering military personnel, and others in need of an inclusive, community setting to help each individual realize their highest potential.



Laurie Manning, Quality of Life Winner

Changed the face of Capital Caring Health's volunteer pediatric program and enticed many community members to join the volunteer workforce.



Frank Pappas, Hunger Hero

The key volunteer leader of 65 large-scale emergency food distribution events in Fairfax County, organized to ease the economic and food insecurity impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, forming the

initial response structure in May 2020 and ensured its success over the next year.



Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, County Volunteer Program Award Winner

During the months in 2021 that volunteers had access to facilities, program members volunteered 3,868 hours providing 1,353 visits; helped ensure that 2,737 residents receiving long-term care services needs were addressed, and advocated for systemic changes. Since the program's founding in 1985, Ombudsman volunteers have contributed 261,547 lifetime hours, representing a total value of \$7,621,473.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU MAY 8

"The Mamalogues." Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. In this satirical comedy, three friends share the joys, challenges, and anxieties of being middle class single Black mothers in predominantly white suburbs. The story celebrates motherhood and community while exploring racial profiling on the playground and supporting your kid who is perpetually the Only Black Child (OBC). Follow their journey as they lean in and steer their children from pampers to college while navigating their own road toward retirement. Visit www.1ststage.org.



Deidra LaWan Starnes and Tamiaka Chavis star in "The Mamalogues," at 1st Stage, now through May 8, 2022.

NOW THRU MAY 1

Art in 3D. 12-5 p.m. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. An "Art in 3D" reception will be held Sunday, May 1 from 2-4 p.m. Nine artists renowned for their work in Reston, D.C., and beyond are exhibiting their sculptures and assemblages of metal, wood, clay, fiber, and found objects displayed on plinths, on walls, and suspended from the ceiling. Enjoy works by Lisa Battle, Sandra Dovberg, Doug Fuller, Dierdre McGuire, Kelly Ayotte-Phelan, Guy Rando, Wayne Schifflin, Ira Tattelman, and Guy Zoller. Visit the website: www.restonartgallery.com.

NOW THRU MAY 7

"Death of a Salesman." Presented by Vienna Theatre Company. At 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Show times are: 8 p.m.: Fridays and Saturdays: April 29, 30; May 6, 7, 2022; 2 p.m.: Sundays: May 1, May 8, 2022. Arthur Miller's 1949 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about the tragic shortcomings of an American dreamer, is widely considered to be one of the greatest plays of the 20th century. Purchase tickets at viennava.gov/webtrac, in person at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE during open hours, or before each performance if available. Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 27

Sensory Awareness Day. 2:30-6 p.m. At the Old Firehouse in McLean. Challenge your senses at the Old Firehouse! This unique and fun event, supporting Autism Awareness Month, will provide ALL who attend a sensory exploration (taste, smell, sound, sight and touch). This event is free and open to all.

APRIL 27 TO MAY 1

Book Sale. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The Friends of the Reston Regional Library are hosting its Big Spring Sale of Gently Used Books and Media. Shop tens of thousands of items in great condition and support the library. Categories include hardcover and trade paperback fiction and a wide range of non-fiction including Art, Biography, Cooking, Economics, History, Science, and more. Specific dates and times at the website: www.restonlibraryfriends.com

APRIL 28-MAY 7

"A Year with Frog and Toad." At George C. Marshall High School, Falls Church. The play is a warm and funny musical based on Arnold
www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

brary/branches/great-falls

APRIL 29, 30, MAY 1

Theatre in the Park. 7 p.m. At Reston Town Square Park, Reston. William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is reimagined by NextStop Theatre and presented by Reston Community Center and Reston Town Center Association. This production of one of Shakespeare's most beloved and hilarious comedies, with a contemporary spin, will be Reston's first-ever professional Theatre in the Park event. The shows will take place on a stage especially designed for the production and are free and open to all ages. There are no rain dates.

APRIL 29-30

AUW Used Book Sale. At Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church. Great bargains on great books. Most books are priced at \$4 or less. Buy a book, Send a girl to college! Hours: Friday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, April 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 703- 637-4488, visit <http://fallschurcharea-va.aauw.net/booksale> or email: fallschurcharea-va@aauw.net

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Horse Expo. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Fryling Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. The Horse Expo will include food trucks, speakers, a parade of horse breeds, horse-related products and services, and demonstrations by groups, such as the Topaz Vaulters, whose riders perform gymnastics on the backs of moving horses. The park plans to have roving "equine ambassadors" on hand to answer questions. Horse experts will also give talks, such as "What to Do When Your Child Asks for a Pony," presented by Clover Brooke Stables owner Amy Fries, and "Equine Chiropractic and Acupuncture," presented by Dr. Laurel Marley, DVM, CVA, VSMT. Call 703-437-9101.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Clifton Town 120th Birthday Celebration. 4-9 p.m. At the CBA Barn in the Town of Clifton. Join neighbors (past and present) for an afternoon cookout at the CBA barn.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Community Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m. to noon. At 12005 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Eighty families will be selling a variety of items so this is a great opportunity to find things for your home or college dorm. Rain Date: May 1. Visit www.reston.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Bioblitz. 10 a.m. At Observatory Park, 925 Springvale Road at Turner Farm Park, Great Falls. Tamara Sheiffer, with Fairfax County Park Authority, will lead the Bioblitz, a family-friendly event for folks to go outside and explore nature and identify plants and animals in the Great Falls community. Participants will be able to use a free app to help identify local flora and fauna.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

St. James Reston Opening. 9:30 a.m. to noon. At The St. James Reston, 11985 Market Street, Reston. The St. James will open its new Perfor-

Lobel's beloved Frog & Toad children's books. Performances are Thursday, April 28 @ 7:30 p.m.; Friday, April 29 @ 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Friday, May 6 @ 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, May 7 @ 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.. The box office opens at 3 p.m. for the matinees and 6 p.m. for evening shows. Tickets can be purchased online at www.statements theatre.org

THURSDAY/APRIL 28

Green Expo. 7 to 9 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. The annual event features nearly two dozen exhibitors offering information about topics including: composting, recycling, beekeeping, pollinators and native gardens, green landscaping, home energy efficiency, Solarize Vienna, ways to reduce plastic usage, citizen science, volunteer opportunities, sustainable businesses in Vienna, and much more. Attendees can enjoy a live raptor exhibit and ask questions of the Town's arborist. Email CSC@viennava.gov or call 703- 255-6300.

APRIL 29 TO MAY 1

Used Book Sale. At Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Gently used books, DVDs, CDs and audio books for children and adults. Sponsored by Friends of the Chantilly Regional Library to benefit programs and renovation projects at the library. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, April 29; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, April 30; 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 1.

REGISTER FOR MAY 14

It's only a month away from a great opportunity to enjoy scenic bike routes through Hunter Mill District in the 2022 Tour de Hunter Mill sponsored by @WalterAlcornFFX, @BikeFairfax, and others. Register for May 14 ride here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/second-annual-tour-de-hunter-mill-tickets-293139206257>

APRIL 29 TO MAY 25

Watercolor Exhibition. At Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Celebrating a Lifetime of Art showcases the watercolors of Catharine Noland (1920-2020). A reception will be held Saturday, May 14, from 2-4 p.m. Event start and stop times correspond to normal library hours, which are available at:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/li->

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Special Connections Calendar 2022

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursdays unless noted.

MAY

5/4/2022.....Wellbeing
5/11/2022.....HomeLifeStyle
5/18/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools
5/25/2022.....Senior Living

JUNE

6/1/2022.....Wellbeing
6/8/2022.....HomeLifeStyle
6/15/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools
6/22/2022.....Senior Living
6/29/2022.....Summer Fun

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THE CONNECTION | Alexandria Gazette Packet | Mount Vernon Gazette | Potomac ALMANAC

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer Fairfax Names 2022 Service Award Winners and Community Champions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors each selected an individual to be recognized for their commitment to promoting volunteerism within their community while addressing specific needs. Meet those selected for each district.



Chairman/At-Large:
Paul Berry

Lead the Redistricting Advisory Committee, amplifying the One Fairfax policy of diversity, equity, and fairness.



Braddock District:
Javelin Soriano Lake

As the parent liaison for Braddock Elementary, developed strong ties to families in the Annandale area.

Dranesville District:
Wade Smith

Provided valuable advice on transportation, pedestrian, and development activities that impact his immediate neighborhood as well the broader community.



Hunter Mill District: **Gloria Runyon and Sylvia Taylor**

Compiled a history of the town of Vienna's African American community revealing history that would have otherwise been unknown by many.

Lee District:
Carla Claire

Provided leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic to help Latin X community members with vital basic needs such as food, vaccines, and more.



Jim Albright
representing the
Annandale Greenway Team

Mason District:
Annandale Greenway Team

The greenway conceptualized by the team connected existing sidewalk and trail segments to connect neighbors, families, and friends building community and appreciation for the outdoors.



Mount Vernon District: **Jim Klein**

Provided suggestions and solutions to solve bicycle and pedestrian challenges in our region.



Providence District:
Mary Kent

Helped Food for Others in direct support of youth and families in the Providence District as well as Fairfax County.

Springfield District:
Jenne Lindner

Preserved our rich historical legacy as a volunteer for Friends of Historic Fairfax Court House and to preserve the historic African American Jermantown Cemetery.



Sully District:
Geoff Pohanka

Provided resources during the pandemic for transportation of food, medicine, and supplies to the infirm, invalid, and elderly population, as well as front-line workers and first-responders; provided vaccine to an underserved area community; and new winter coats to Title 1 elementary schools in the district



COVID-19 Cases Up 62% In Fairfax Health District

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Over the past two weeks in the Fairfax Health District, cases of COVID-19 have risen by 62%; and since a low on March 21, the daily number of cases has about tripled. Although not as high as the peak in cases seen in January, this change is concerning. Just during the past week, there have been 15 new outbreaks (clusters of three or more connected cases of illness) reported in the county with 12 occurring in schools and daycares.

Despite this surge in cases, hospitalizations continue to be low, and the community level remains at "low."

The BA.2 variant now is causing most COVID-19 infections in the United States. While there is no evidence that BA.2 results in more severe disease compared to other variants, it is more transmissible as shown by the increase in cases and outbreaks in recent weeks. Additionally, the virus that causes COVID-19 continues to mutate with subvariant BA.2.12 identified first in New York state and now seen nationwide.

Protect Yourself and Others

Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant to protect themselves from illnesses and help stem transmission of the virus. Health officials urge the following steps:

Rethink your risk and the risk of others around you. We all make decisions about whether to get vaccinated, wear a mask or change our activities based on what we see as our own risk of COVID-19, the risk to our loved ones and to our community. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>

With the number of COVID-19 cases increasing again, here are some questions to ask yourself:

Have you held off on getting vaccinated?
Have you or someone in your household been diagnosed with a new medical condition that increases your risk of COVID-19, started a new medication that decreases your immunity, or become pregnant?

Has an elderly parent or other relative moved in with you or is there someone you're providing care for?

Do you have a new baby; or is your child just starting daycare, school or will be going to camp this summer?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, consider getting a vaccination or a vaccine booster dose against COVID-19 for yourself and those eligible in your household. There are instances where some vaccinated people get COVID illness, but the disease will be milder and they will have a reduced chance of hospitalization.

Consider wearing a mask in indoor settings, avoiding crowds and taking other precautions to keep yourself and your loved ones safer.

While masks are no longer required in most settings, you can continue to wear a mask any time you are indoors or in crowds. Consider your risk and those you spend time with and select a mask with the best fit and protection (for example, an N95, KN95 and KF94). People with COVID-19 symptoms, a positive test or recent exposure to someone with COVID-19 should continue to isolate, wear a mask and take precautions. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

Develop a posture of preparedness. Make sure to stay up to date on boosters and vaccinations, when eligible. Vaccines are proven to be highly safe and effective in preventing serious illness. Anyone 5 years and older who lives in Virginia is still eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, which is widely available and provided at no cost at Fairfax County clinics. A first booster dose is recommended for everyone 12 years and older who has received their initial vaccine primary series five or more months ago. A second booster dose with an mRNA vaccine is available for people who are 50 and older and some immunocompromised individuals at least four months after their first booster dose. More information on boosters can be found here. Finally, make sure to get tested if you have symptoms.

Stay informed. Continue to look for updates from the Fairfax County Health Department

and other public health agencies. Monitor COVID-19 community levels in the Fairfax Health District and/or where you might be visiting. Take additional precautions if you see an increase in community levels, especially if you are at high-risk for illness.

Take time to catch up. Now is the time to catch up on other health care that help keep you and your family members healthy. Schedule appointments that may have been put off, such as dentist visits, cancer screenings, or childhood immunizations.

Prevent spread of COVID-19, and other illness, by:

Avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces

Staying home when you are sick
Getting tested when you have symptoms; order free at-home tests here <https://www.covid.gov/tests>

Informing your contacts if you have COVID-19

Covering coughs and sneezes
Washing hands frequently

If you have questions about COVID-19 vaccines, please call 703-324-7404. Call the Health Department Call Center at 703-267-3511 with Coronavirus questions. Both call centers are open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Email questions or concerns to ffx-covid@fairfaxcounty.gov. This email account will be staffed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.

REAL ESTATE

McLean & Great Falls Home Sales
1st Qtr 2022 Market Analysis
Compared to 1st Qtr 2021 & 2012
(Based on SOLD Price):

Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-3 Mil	\$1.5-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.5 Mil	\$1 Mil Under
22101	15	29	16	31	14
22102	14	11	9	14	62
22066	6	9	13	23	4
Total:	35	49	38	68	80
1st Qtr 2022 Total: 270					

Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-3 Mil	\$1.5-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.5 Mil	\$1 Million Under
22101	7	22	18	39	45
22102	5	8	7	11	65
22066	4	12	15	26	13
Total:	16	42	40	76	123
1st Qtr 2021 Total: 297					

Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-3 Mil	\$1.5-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.5 Mil	\$1 Million Under
22101	1	6	13	15	46
22102	2	5	5	8	43
22066	2	1	2	11	25
Total:	5	12	20	34	114
1st Qtr 2012 Total: 185					

Robust Real Estate Market in McLean and Great Falls

Firs quarter 2022 compared to first quarter 2021 and 2012.

BY KAREN BRISCOE

The first quarter of 2022 has been one of the most robust real estate markets in McLean and Great Falls on record. There likely could have been more sales had there been homes available for purchase. The total number of sales was 270, down 9% from the same period one year ago in 2021. The market is stronger than it was a decade ago in 2012 when there were only 185 sales.

Price appreciation was realized across the board in the zip codes representing McLean, 22101 and 22102 and Great Falls which is 22066. So much so that sales under \$1 million comprised only eighty transactions whereas in 2021 it represented 123 which is a decrease of 35%.

The most significant gains were the over \$2 m which saw an increase of number of sales from 58

in 2021 to 84 in 2022, which is a 49% jump.

Housing demand in 2022 is due to several demographic factors. As the largest segment of the US population, millennials continue to account for over half of new home purchase mortgage loan applications. Multi-generational households are still the trend in the Gen X demographic. And many baby boomers are choosing to age in place and purchase a second home.

The commitment by the Federal Reserve to address inflation has met with an increase in mortgage interest rates. Uncertainty in the stock markets and conflict abroad has led to many investing in real estate as a safe haven.

Homes priced correctly for the market and in good show condition command top dollar.

If you are considering buying, consult with an experienced agent on how to navigate the 2022 market. There are still many great opportunities.

Karen Briscoe, Lizzy Conroy, and Jenny McClintock with HBC Group at Keller Williams are active and experienced Realtors in the Northern Virginia marketplace. www.HBCGroupKW.com, 703-734-0192, Homes@HBCGroupKW.com.

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Yard Sale

MCLEAN HAMLET NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE
Saturday, 5/14, 8am-12pm
(rain date 5/21).

Conveniently located near Tysons Corner, just miles from DC and accessible from 495, 66 and 267. Tons of items from multiple houses! Furniture, household items, toys, bikes, books, car seats and more!

Announcements

Give a Kid a Book, founded by a Langley HS junior, seeks new and gently used children's books to benefit local nonprofits. Drop off donations at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., thru 5/20. More info: giveakidabook.org

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

mance Club at Reston Town Center. The Reston Community is invited to explore all that the 25,000 sq. ft. facility has to offer, touring the space and experiencing fitness classes like Mixed Fit and Flow Yoga, with live music, giveaways and raffles, including the chance to win a free year of membership and 52 weeks of personal training at The St. James. Visit the website: <https://www.thestjames.com/>

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Taste of Vienna. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center Street, South, Vienna. Over 15 area restaurants and several food trucks will be selling delicious samplings from their restaurants. There will also be a bounce house and face painting.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Bands on the Run 5K and Fun Walk. 8-10 a.m. At Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Bands on the Run, benefitting the band programs of Langley High School and Cooper Middle School, is back! All runners and walkers are invited. Run or walk the 5K course, or join us for a short family fun walk. All participants will receive an official race T-shirt. After the race, enjoy live DJ music, food and visit our sponsor booths. Visit the website: <https://www.langleyband.org/bands-on-the-run-2022-5k>

WEDNESDAY/MAY 4

Ed Begley Jr. 8 p.m. As part of RCC's Professional Touring Artists Series, Ed Begley Jr. will bring his program Living Simply So Others Might Simply Live to the CenterStage Tickets are \$15 (Reston)/\$20 (Non-Reston) and are available at the RCC Box Office or online. All ticket holders will be given a packet of wildflower seeds, and copies of Begley's book Guide to Sustainable Living will be available for sale at RCC. At 5 p.m. on May 4, Begley will join RCC and Reston Association for the dedication of a new pollinator garden adjacent to Hunters Woods Village Center.

MAY 5-6

Big Truck Days. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 5; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 6. At the Town of Herndon Public Works Maintenance Complex, 1479 Sterling Road, Herndon. Big Truck Days is an opportunity for children – and their parents – to see the town's big trucks and heavy equipment on display. Large groups should call ahead. Visit the website: www.herndon-va.gov/PublicWorks

MAY 6-7

J.A.M. Broadway Revue. At Fredgren Studio Theatre at Ballet Nova, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. J.A.M. the Revue is a crowd-thrilling dance spectacular musical revue of songs from your favorite musicals. The show starts its journey by paying tribute to some of the rocking musicals set in the '60s the '70s, high kicking its way to the sexy songs of Broadway, and ending with an electrifying finale featuring songs from Broadway's hottest modern musicals. Featuring some of DC's most talented singers and dancers. Times: Friday, May 6 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, May 7 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, May 8 at 5 p.m. Cost is \$25. Visit the website: <http://jambroadway.bpt.me>

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Spring Pottery Show. 12:30-5 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Over 25 area artists will bring their ceramic wares to Vienna. From functional to sculptural - everything is uniquely made by hand. Sponsored by The Kiln Club of Washington, D.C. More details: www.kilnclubwdc.com/events

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Celebrate Pilates Day. At RTR Pilates, 9849 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Register for one of three free trial reformer classes at RTRPilates.com/PilatesDay. Check out the studio, shop great retail, sip champagne and

meet our community.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Spring Festival. 1-5 p.m. At Walker Nature Center in Reston. There is more outdoor fun to be found at Reston Association's Spring Festival at Walker Nature Center. The festival includes live animals, fishing activities, boat rentals, crafts and booths by environmental groups. Family-friendly entertainment is provided by Reston Community Center.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Annual Plant Sale. 8 a.m. to noon. At Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church. Everything for your garden: unusual and standard plants, pots, tools, floral arrangements, gifts, décor. Visit <https://www.fallschurchgardenclub.org/> for the discount coupon and additional information about Falls Church Garden Club.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

CGC Plant Sale. 9 a.m. to noon. Outside the Virginia Bagel Shop, Stone Road Village Center, Centreville. Centreville Garden Club annual plant sale at the Stone Road Giant Shopping Center. Potted spring bulbs, various perennials and deer resistant plants. Need gardening advise... lots of experts to talk with. Come purchase some beautiful healthy plants for your spring garden.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Author Pu-Chin Waide. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Pu-Chin Waide was born in China, and moved to India with her parents, where she lived until she was 18. Writing was always a joy to her and she recently completed two collections of short stories. These stories give glimpses of the places in Asia and elsewhere where she has lived: stories which she embellished, recreated, and made 'magical.' Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/8927366>

MAY 21-22

Girls on the Run Spring Registration. GOTR NOVA will be offering an in-person, 10-week curriculum for the Spring 2022 season. Two in-person 5Ks presented by Cigna will be held on May 21st and 22nd in Sterling and Ballston, respectively. Teams will continue to be school and community-based to further our outreach efforts in being accessible to every girl across Northern Virginia. Currently, 105 teams throughout Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William are open for Spring 2022 registration through March 1, 2022. For more information about spring registration and sites for Girls on the Run of NOVA, visit www.gotrnova.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

On April 30, 2022, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., the Vienna Police Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused, or unwanted medications. Prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over-the-counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at the collection point inside the Vienna Police Department temporary facility located at 301 Center Street, South, Vienna, Virginia 22180 (The former Faith Baptist Church).

Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing it and disposing of it directly into the collection box. If an original container is used, the individual should consider removing any identifying information from the prescription label. Liquid products should remain sealed in their original container to prevent leakage.

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I Know What I Saw and Heard



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As the homeowner of a historic 250-plus year-old house located on two acres in Montgomery County, there are constant maintenance-type demands, none of which, cancer notwithstanding, I am able or even willing to do. Nevertheless, I am caretaker of a property that has been designated as "historic" with the Montgomery County Planning Commission. Though compliance with the Commission is required for renovation like doors, windows, roof, downspouts, gutters and of course, additions, day-to-day upkeep inside and outside the house, grounds included, fall exclusively on the homeowner. And so, whenever I can afford (literally) help, I am almost dutybound to pursue it.

Winds gusting during or after a soaking rain always make me nervous. On a property full of hundred-year-old trees, there is always a risk of a tree toppling to the ground, and/or maybe even hitting the house, as we are surrounded by trees. Many of which, due the passage of time, the collection of moisture and the weakening of roots have already fallen on previous occasions. And so, it happened again a few weeks back multiple trees at multiple locations – some even risking an adjacent neighbor's property, fell or were leaning, compelled me to damage control.

I called our local tree service company – with whom we have had dealings with previously, to come by and estimate the fix. They came by later that day. I can't say the price they quoted me was in the range of what I expected – unfortunately. However, after a few days delay on my part, they offered a lower price, one that was a tiny bit more palatable.

And so, it was on Thursday morning, April 14 when I wrote the following paragraph:

With apologies to Robert Duvall as Lt. Col. Bill Kilgore in the movie "Apocalypse Now" (1979); I love the sound of chain saws in the morning, especially when it's not me holding one. I was forewarned by my architect-friend/homeowner Marty who after seeing my two acres of trees, bushes, shrubs, and all advised me that I needed a chain saw, a tool he characterized as "the most respected tool in the homeowner's arsenal." As a lifelong renter, the need for such equipment had previously been beyond my purview. But here I was, proud owner of a property that required all hands-on deck, so to speak.

The next Christmas, I received as a gift, a Poulan-brand 14" gas chain saw. Subsequently, as advised, I went out and bought steel-toed work boots and rawhide work gloves. I was almost ready to saw when after numerous unsuccessful pulls of the rip-chord, I was unable even to get the chain saw started. A neighbor came by at my request to help and with his one pull, I was in the chain-saw business. And though I tried to fulfill my responsibility, I failed miserably. I didn't hurt myself exactly, other than my pride, but I soon realized I wasn't the man for the job. Ed's Tree Service are the men for the job, as they were on the 14th, and thankfully so. All I could do was see what needed to be done.

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



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Offered for...\$999,000

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SOLD!

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SOLD!

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