

Great Falls CONNECTION

Major Benchmark for Scholarship Fund

PAGE 3

Board of the
Women's Club
of Great Falls
Scholarship
Fund, Inc. at
Havana Night
where they
raised \$53,000.

Legislators Sum Up Session

PAGE 4

Lifetime Learning (and Fun) for Seniors

PAGE 7

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NEWS



Havana Night, a benefit for the Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund, raised \$53,000.

Havana Night in Great Falls Raises \$53K for Scholarships

The Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund, Inc. announced net proceeds of \$53,000 from its new annual fundraiser, Havana Night, which took place at River Bend Club in Great Falls. The event was sold out with 150 people in attendance. All proceeds will be allocated toward scholarships for the next academic year 2022 – 2023 to students attending George Mason University and the ADVANCE program at Northern Virginia Community College.

This fundraiser's success, along with the Fund's recent establishment of its third endowment at George Mason University, marks a significant benchmark of growth and maturity as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. It is also the highest amount of money ever raised in the nearly 40-year history of the Scholarship Fund. With increased resources, the Fund will be able to award scholarships at a higher amount to more students, meeting its long-term strategic goal of making a more significant impact on the lives of students advancing toward a four year degree.

Havana Night was also a celebration of the Fund's expanding mission, which was announced in Fall 2021, to begin awarding scholarships to all students regardless of gender.

Jackie Hughes, Director of Fundraising for the Scholarship Fund, welcomed guests at Havana Night saying "This is a night to have fun while celebrating our growth in gender equality and the success of our scholarship and endowment programs, while also raising money for our students. Individually and collectively, they have consistently given us hope, year after year, for a better tomorrow. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for joining us tonight."



The decor committee excelled.

The event featured both an online Silent Auction and a Live Auction conducted by auctioneer and emcee Rick Bernstein, featuring items donated by Bentley Washington D.C., The Ritz-Carlton Tysons and The Charleston Place in South Carolina, as well as curated packages offering experiences including a private boat tour, and a privately held polo match in Warrenton, Virginia. Guests enjoyed Cuban inspired cuisine, cigar rolling presented by Cortez Cigars, and dancing with DJ Pat Premier.

Among Havana Night's top corporate donors and individual sponsors were Kate Herzig Realtor, NNData, Bic DeCaro & Associates, Jackie Hughes, Kilby Solutions, Great Falls Pilates, Data Machines, George Mason Mortgage, Spry, Mark & Erin Lobato, JDSAT, Bambi Landew, and Rohan Capture.

Havana Night was organized by the Scholarship Fund's Event Committee including Christie Lavin, Sally Anne Andrew Pyne, Jackie Hughes, Jayana Garvey, Jenny Stephens, Emma Reynolds, Lindsay Harper, Dynne Sung, Suzanne Charleston, Cory Clarke, Joanna Banks, Maggie Hammond, Megan Damron, Shelley Davenport, Becky Corcoran, Elle Dickerson, Ann Fragale, Ja-



Some of the guests at Havana Night at River Bend Club to benefit the Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund.



150 people attended Havana Night at River Bend Club to benefit the Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund.

mie Bennett, Kelly Singer, Kathleen Gwinn, Karen Deardorff, Tressa Mattingly, Natalie Valmont, Kim Moss, Missy Perkins, Lisette Kvortek, Jacqueline Reid, and Ngyun Roche.

The Scholarship Fund was established in 1983 and awards annual scholarships to deserving students who are residents of Northern Virginia. The Fund has three endowments established at George Mason University which also generate annual scholarships. To learn more about the Scholarship Fund please visit: <https://www.womensclubgfsf.org/>.



Virginia Del. Richard C. ("Rip") Sullivan Jr. (D-48).



Virginia Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34).



Virginia Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31).



Virginia Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33).

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

McLean's State Legislators Meet with Public

Detail actions in the Virginia General Assembly.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Local members of the General Assembly, Del. Richard C. (Rip) Sullivan Jr. (D-48), Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34), Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) and Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33), held a community event at the McLean Community Center on Wednesday, May 18. Sullivan began the meeting by saying that Virginia would have a historic budget and that the Commonwealth's finances were "very, very strong."

The Senate and House budgets are "dueling," Sullivan said, with the Senate budget being his preferred option. He was hopeful that some of the aspects he liked in the Senate Budget would make it into the House Budget.

"We passed 1000 bills, 750 of them, 800 passing 100 to 0, or 90 to 10 in the House; 40 to nothing or 30 to 10 in the Senate," Sullivan said.

One thing they could agree on and move forward with was solar power. As requested by Fairfax County, localities could "up their game" on installing solar on county property. For illustrative purposes, Sullivan suggested the roof of the McLean Community Center, the Fairfax County landfill, garages, and other buildings owned by the localities.

"They needed us to change some laws having to deal with caps on these agreements, and we passed that bill unanimously through both houses. That, I think, shows some growing partisanship when it comes to planning Virginia's energy future," he said.

In Virginia, there is a process to compensate someone for being in jail for a crime they didn't commit. Sullivan introduced legislation (HB 397) to improve that process. Sullivan said he worked with six men who had been in jail for eight to thirty-two years.

"I mention compensating them, and all those bills went through. The governor signed off with them. I think it's one of those



Audience members at the community event held at the McLean Community Center listen to members of the General Assembly.



From left, Virginia legislators, Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33), Del. Richard C. (Rip) Sullivan Jr. (D-48), Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34), and Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31).

unfortunate jobs we have in the General Assembly. But it shows, in Virginia, when things really matter, when it comes to taking care of Virginians, trying to right wrongs, we can come together and do that on a bipartisan basis," Sullivan said.

Del. Kathleen Murphy said that she serves on the Board of Veteran Services and held nine women veterans round tables across the Commonwealth to learn from women veterans what their needs were because they weren't being met. She was able to get funding for two women veterans coordinators when they had none. "[Women] had no voice in the Department of Veterans Affairs."

Murphy started the Rare Disease Caucus. From that, she introduced (HB-1995) Rare Disease Council and Rare Disease Council

Fund. It passed House and Senate unanimously and was signed by the governor on March 24. She said that these issues, while not taxes or stop signs, are things that had not been addressed.

Murphy said for many of her bills, she turned to Boysko because she knew that if she couldn't get them through the Republican controlled House, Boysko could get them through the Democratic leaning Senate. That included broadband, a hazing bill, and Adam's Law (SB 439).

Adam's Law passed, but the hazing bill (HB 993) "got a little hung up," Murphy said. "We've been a good team working together. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish," she said. On March 12, 2022, the House continued HB 993 to the 2022 Special Session.



Jal Meen Soni gives a welcome hug to Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33).

Adams's Law requires fraternities and sororities at Virginia colleges and universities to provide education about hazing.

According to Favola, "The story of this session is the Senate really was a brick wall." Republicans wanted to reverse major things that passed in 2020.

Favola mentioned the red flag gun law passed in 2020 that enabled a judge to remove firearms, if an individual is deemed a danger to himself or others. On Feb. 15, 2022, the Virginia House of Delegates voted 52-47 for House Bill 509 to repeal the "red flag" gun law. But when HB 509 went onto the Senate on Feb. 28, it was passed by indefinitely in Judiciary Committee.

Other bills that attempted to roll back environmental protections and reinstate voter suppression met a similar fate. A bill passed that will allow foreign licensed teachers to be hired in the school system under provisional license if they apply to get a U.S. licensure within three years, Favola said.

Boysko said she is likely to serve McLean in the Senate starting in 2023 as redistricting re-arranges House and Senate districts. Currently, for Sen. Boysko, her district comprises the Town of Leesburg and portions from all eight magisterial districts in Loudoun

SEE DETAILS ACTIONS, PAGE 10
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Wrong-Way Fatal Crash On 495 Express Lanes

Virginia State Police is investigating a two-vehicle fatal crash in Fairfax County. The crash occurred at approximately 10:15 p.m. in the northbound lanes of I-495 near Exit 46 for Chain Bridge Road.

A Mazda was traveling south in the northbound lanes of I-495 when it struck head-on a Buick Encore. The impact of the crash caused the Buick to catch fire.

The male drivers of both vehicles died at the scene.

The driver of the Mazda, Kaan T. Karabekir, 28, of Bethesda, Md., died at the scene. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

The driver of the Buick, Patrick J.C. Mullins, 32, of Catlett, Va., was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected. He died at the scene.

A female passenger in the Buick was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital and then on to Washington Hospital Center for treatment of life-threatening injuries and burns sustained in the crash.

The crash remains under investigation.

McLean Police Reports

WEAPONS DISCHARGE: 7100 block of Lee Highway, 5/12/22, 5:46 a.m. After an argument, a man displayed a firearm and shot a round into the air. No injuries or property damage were reported.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY: 1900 block of Kidwell Drive, 5/12/22, 8:20 a.m. A man approached the victim in the park-

ing lot and displayed a knife. The victim ran away, and no property was taken. No injuries were reported.

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY: 8453 Tyco Road Suite F (Arabica Tobacco), 5/18/22, 10:39 p.m. A man forced entry into the building and was confronted by an employee. The man ran and nothing was taken.

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2022 McLean Day Promised Fun, and It Delivered

Festival returns in all its glory.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

One hundred and seven years after the 1915 premiere of McLean Day, approximately 10,000 people visited Lewinsville Park on Saturday, May 21, for the return of the annual festival, according to a Fairfax County spokesperson for the McLean Community Center.

McLean Community Center presented the event after two years of cancellations and alterations due to COVID-19.

"I think it is amazing we can bring the community together despite the pandemic winding down and taking the last few years away from us," said Daniel Phoenix Singh, executive director of MCC. "We are excited to have it back."

Families and individuals seeking a day of summer fun despite the heat and humidity enjoyed the ticketed carnival rides and smaller rides for young children, food trucks and vendors, free entertainment, and performances, including those by The Alden's professional teen improv group, Unruly Theatre Project, McLean High School Chorus, and G'NASH, a McLean high school student rock band.

The McLean Citizens Association honored nine local high school students in its 24th annual award ceremony at McLean Day. According

to MCA's news release, Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust (D), Elaine Tholen, Dranesville District School Board Member, and Scott Spitzer, McLean Citizens Association President, would present the awards. This year's honorees are McLean High School students Max Blacksten, Caroline Klein, JoJo Philipps, and Sam Rakowski; Langley High School students Ivy Chen, Alexander Pomper, Kevin Lee, and Sean Lee; and Rishika Singh at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

"Teens who have, on their own and without compensation, helped out in their neighborhood or community are being recognized not only for themselves but as an example to others," stated the news release.

This year's MCC Governing Board in-person election was held from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the festival, with twelve Dranesville Small District 1A residents running for seats. Nine adult candidates contended for three adult seats, and three youth candidates sought two seats. Only residents of Dranesville Small District 1A could vote in the election. Absentee voting concluded on Wednesday, May 18.

McLean is represented on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors by Dranesville District Supervisor John W. Foust. "Events like McLean Day provide the community and local businesses a chance to come together and celebrate all that makes McLean such a terrific place to live," he said.



Shuttle buses transport people from satellite lots to the venue at Lewinsville Park.



Families photograph the map and community stage schedule for McLean Day.



Event Sponsors.



Petting Zoo — Lilly, 3, and her dad Brian.



Kids' Way- carousel.



Petting Zoo — Ava of McLean gives the bunny a one-finger pet.



Daniel Phoenix Singh, executive director of McLean Community Center.



Valentina Tucker, 3, of McLean, takes a flag from Jerry Friedlander, member of American Legion Post 270 in McLean.

SENIOR LIVING

Seniors Explore Photography in Retirement

Partnership between George Mason University's School of Theater and Photography Club retirees extends beyond intergenerational relationships.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

A group of retirees with a penchant for photography are using their skills behind the lens to help students who are hoping to make a career in front of it.

Through a partnership between members of the Photography Club at George Mason University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's (OLLI) and the University's School of Theater (SOT), club members take headshot photographs of incoming students as well as the dress rehearsals and publicity shots for each play.

"The SOT gets a selection of pictures from various productions and the OPC photographers are supporting a good project and increasing their skills. There are wins for everyone," said George Bradshaw, a member of the photography club.

"Working with the SOT is a privilege [and] a joy. I end up with a handful of photos that I enjoy sharing with family and friends."

OLLI's Photography Club is comprised of seniors who, in retirement, have time to explore their hobbies. Retired otolaryngologist Edward D. Marion, M.D., joined OLLI in 2015 after a 39-year career as a physician in private practice. "Having been an active volunteer, a part time instructor ... it was a natural extension to continue my volunteer work as a member of the OLLI Photography Club at GMU," he said.

A family tradition led to Bradshaw's interest in the club. "After retiring I decided to follow in my father's footsteps. He was a freelance photographer in New York in the '30s and '40s," he said. "So I bought a camera ... joined the OLLI Photo Club (OPC) in early 2015, and have been having a blast with photography ever since. It's a thrill for the photographers to see their images out in the public in this fashion."

The partnership between students and the seniors extends beyond photographs. "In addition to challenges and joys is the social benefit," said Bradshaw. "I get to observe young adults who will be our future leaders, see how they



This photograph of George Mason University theater students was taken by George Bradshaw as part of a partnership between the OLLI Photography Club and Mason's School of Theater.

approach their vocations, see how they react with each other as a troupe and individually, and simply enjoy brief interactions with them."

"It's not a secret ... maintain an active mind and continued interactions between people," added Marion.

Members appreciate the mental and physical challenges that come with theatrical photography. "Technically, photographing plays is a challenge in composition and lighting," said George. "It's also an intense workout, always looking at the actors through a lens with one eye, and over the camera with the other eye for full stage coverage, continually, for a couple of hours. The SOT's plays never let up on action, emotion, and amazing compositional opportunities. This experience has taught me more about using a camera and post-processing images than I could imagine any other photograph could offer."

The partnership began when representatives from the School of Theater contacted OLLI to ask Photography Club members to take shots of its students.

The partnership is consistent with institutions' mission.

"The OLLI Photography Club offers enriching experiences for our membership to share their talents and engage with the University,"



PHOTO COURTESY ED MARION

OLLI Photography Club Member Ed Marion volunteers his time to take photographs of students in George Mason University's School of Theater.

said Jennifer Disano, OLLI's Executive Director, "The OPC designs impactful program opportunities for intergenerational exchanges at the University."

Those interactions offer a glimpse into the lives of those at both ends of the age spectrum. "Once I was taking photographs, I had to crouch down to capture a certain perspective of an actor," said George. "Watching me rise slowly from that position, one student asked if I was okay. I replied that I need to replace my doctor because he can't cure old age."

Spending time with students, says Marion, affords him an opportunity to share his experiences with the budding thespians. "The life lessons for younger generations is to be curious, engage in face to face conversations," he said. "Remember that learning doesn't end with your first degree ... instead expect and plan to continue learning lifelong."

Those interested in learning more about OLLI and the Photography Club can visit https://view.flipdocs.com/?ID=10015627_172115#

Looking for resources for lifelong learning in Arlington? See <https://library.arlingtonva.libguides.com/c.php?g=1066292&p=7758981>

BY GEORGE BRADSHAW COURTESY OF OLLI

A Beautiful Mind

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CALENDAR

SATURDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER

The Reston Farmers Market (sponsored by the Fairfax Co. Park Authority) will take place at Lake Anne Village from 8 a.m.-noon. SNAP beneficiaries receive up to \$20 match. Visit <http://restonfarmersmarket.com/>

NOW UNTIL MAY 30

"Natural Habitats" Art Show. Open on weekends, 12 – 5 p.m. (also by appointment). See the beauty of nature in scenes of wildlife in their own locales in Sandra C Dovberg's newest paintings. Reston Art Gallery and Studios, located on Lake Anne Plaza by the lakeside "ART" sign, 11400 Washington Plaza West, Reston. Facebook @RAGSReston ; Instagram: @RestonArtGallery ; Web RestonArtGallery.com.

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Crafts for Kids. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Free, themed art projects for children (with guardian) are offered at Reston Art Gallery and Studios every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Visit the website: www.restonartgallery.com

MCLEAN FARMERS MARKET

The McLean Farmers Market opened for the 2022 season on Fridays at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The market will run every Friday from 8 a.m. to noon through Nov. 11. Local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; breads and pastries; prepared foods; meats: herbs; flowers, and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles of Fairfax County. Visit: <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/>

HERNDON FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays through Nov. 3, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 765 Lynn St., Herndon, VA, 20170 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon>

NOW THRU MAY 30

The Jurassic Encounter Dinosaur Walk Thru Experience. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Bull Run Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The Jurassic Encounter will transform the events center into a walk-through experience featuring more than 50 static and moving, life-like dinosaurs that both entertain and educate. Also enjoy Digging for Bones, the Dino Village, shopping, food, free photo-ops, games, bouncy house and more. Tickets start at \$19 per person (anyone two years and older will need a ticket). Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. Web: <http://feeltheroar.com>



The Herndon Carnival will take place June 2-5 in Herndon.

STARTING MAY 25

Princess Diana: Accredited Access Exhibition. At Tysons Corner Center, 1661 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. This exhibition features photos and never-before-heard stories of the People's Princess from her Official Royal Photographer, Anwar Hussein, and his sons, Samir and Zak, who are now Official Royal Photographers for the next generation of Royals. Tickets are available here: www.PrincessDianaExhibit.com/Washington.

SATURDAYS, STARTING MAY 28

Weekly Zumba Fitness. 12:30-1:30 p.m. Virtual. Come get in shape while having fun with Lan Le, a certified Zumba instructor! An invitation to attend this virtual event will be sent to registered participants 1-2 days before the event start time. Free. Email: adrienne.leo@fairfaxcounty.gov

SATURDAY/MAY 28

A Star-Spangled Salute. 6:30-8 p.m. At Reston Town Square Park, Market and Explorer Streets, Reston. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a free patriotic concert, featuring The Reston Chorale and Brass of the Potomac. Details at RestonChorale.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 28

"Sixteen Candles" Movie. 7:30 p.m. At The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway,

Centreville. Part of '80s movie night. Tickets \$20.

MAY 28-29

NVMR Train Station Open House. 1-5 p.m. At Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna. Stop by the Historic Vienna Train Station where you can see and hear HO scale model trolleys and trains including Thomas and some of his friends on display and in operation. Great family fun and activity for the young and young-at-heart. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders. See www.nvmr.org.

MAY 28-30

ViVa! Vienna!. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. At Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Voted Best Festival by Virginia Living magazine. Enjoy three days of amusement rides, carnival food and live entertainment. Those 21+ enjoy a separate but simultaneous beer garden at Backstage Brewfest. Visit the website: <https://vivavienna.org/>

SUNDAY/MAY 29

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. At the Village Centre Green, Great Falls. Featuring Diamond Alley - Dance/rock mixing contemporary and classic hits Hosted by Garai Orthodontic Specialists. Come relax at the Village Centre Green and enjoy laid-back

evenings of good music and good times with your neighbors.

MONDAY/MAY 30

Avenue of Flags. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon. Post 184 will present the Avenue of Flags. Post 184 will be holding a Memorial Day Ceremony at 10 a.m. at the Chestnut Grove Cemetery in the pine grove. The guest speaker will be Capt. J. O'Keefe, USCG. Town of Herndon Mayor Olem and Herndon Town Council members have been invited. The public is welcome to attend.

JUNE 2-5

Herndon Carnival. At Northwest Federal Credit Union, 200 Spring Street, Herndon. The Carnival will feature 22 rides, games, strolling entertainers, an assortment of food vendors, a Run Into Summer 5K Race (Sunday, June 5 at 7:30 a.m.), free shuttle bus service, and free admission. The Herndon Carnival is produced by the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department with assistance from local civic organizations and businesses. Northwest Federal Credit Union is proud to serve as the title sponsor for the 2022 Herndon Carnival. Event attendees can learn about all the Carnival at herndoncarnival.net. Register for the race at www.herndoncarnival.net/10k-5k-races.html.

STARTING THURSDAY, JUNE 2

RCC Take a Break Concerts. 7-8:30 p.m. At Reston Station, adjacent to Wiehle-Reston Metro Station, Reston. Reston Community Center will present their free Thursday evening summer concerts at Reston Station in summer 2022. Previously held on Lake Anne Plaza, these concerts offer a variety of musical styles with monthly "dance night" instruction on Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

JUNE 3-5

Tyson's Library Booksale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Bag sale on Sunday, June 5. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less. Visit the website: <https://booksalefinder.com/VA.html#X2291>

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Art Sale. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. Vale Club is having an Art Sale featuring original artwork by several local artists. All mediums and sizes. All proceeds benefit the preservation of the Historic Vale School House. Don't miss this special one day event. (Cash, Check and Credit Cards Accepted)

Incoming Superintendent Answers Questions at Town Hall

Real time multilingual presentation provides information equity.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools hosted a virtual town hall on Tuesday, May 17, with Dr. Michelle Reid, incoming superintendent participating from Washington State. The hour-long event, broadcast across the country on Zoom and Facebook Live, enabled multilingual real-time streaming to viewers. Marty Smith, chief operating officer of FCPS, served as moderator from Fairfax.

Before taking questions via the online Q & A and from the over 300 questions submitted through the event registration, Smith commented on Dr. Reid's "exemplary leadership" at Northshore School



Dr. Michelle Reid, FCPS's incoming superintendent.

PHOTOS SCREENSHOT



Marty Smith, chief operating officer FCPS.

District in closing achievement gaps and leading the system through the pandemic. He described Dr. Reid's commitment to increasing access, opportunity, and equity for

all students in public education and creating the Northshore Racial and Educational Justice Department.

During Reid's tenure at Northshore, Smith said that graduation rates increased for all students, especially English-language learners. Smith added that when Reid arrives at FCPS, she will focus on "ensuring that each student has access and opportunity to reach their greatest potential."

"Dr. Reid is also known for leading robust community engagement so that all stakeholders, including students, have a voice," Smith said.

Highlights of the Q & A lightly edited for clarity and length. FCPS did not release the names of people whose inquiries Reid addressed.

Q: Why did you choose education, and why did you choose FCPS?

A: I think there's no more important work in our country today than the work of public education... to prepare our next generation... Why Fairfax County — the fabulous educators that comprise Fairfax County Public Schools; the high performing students; the hard-working, creative, innovative students; and the strong parental support and commitment evidenced by the people attending this evening are all big draws as we work to create an amazing, humanizing, and just school division.

Q: What will be your focus and goals for your first year in FCPS?

A: One of the things that I'll be shar-

SEE SUPERINTENDENT, PAGE 11

Bike To Work Day, Month of May Tradition

An upbeat activity for an upbeat month heading into summer.

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

The sun was out, no rain and the area's bicycle enthusiasts forged their way to work from all corners of the area, including Springfield where the pit stop at Metro Park ran short of t-shirts but not enthusiasm. For some reason, there weren't as many delivered, but the riders still got exercise, fresh air, water and comradery with fellow bicyclists at the pit stop. "We ran out of t-shirts around 7:30 a.m. But everyone that missed out on the t-shirts were good sports about it," said pit stop manager Jennifer Brown.

There were about 40 people at the Springfield Metro Park pit stop, which is right off Beulah Street and for those that work in Fort Belvoir, it's on the way. One rider came from Vienna to Fort Belvoir and a bunch of riders were on the way to other locations in the office park. The pit stop was right outside Kingstowne, a family friendly area, so a few families stopped in too.

"We also had several families come in together with their kids, often with one spouse then heading off to work on their bike," Brown said.

According to Ursula Sandstrom, Trail Ranger and Outreach Director at Washington Area Bicyclists Association, there were 14,000 registrants and nearly 100 pit stops throughout the region for this year's event. The pandemic put a damper on the ride in 2020 and 2021 but certain stops this year were still crowded, added Bruce Wright, president of the Fairfax Al-

liance for Better Bicycling. In particular, there were a lot of riders at the stop in Reston. "Compared to before Covid, the numbers were probably down a little but it was good to see so many people out on bikes," he said.

Bigger BTW Picture

This year was the 21st anniversary of the official Bike To Work Day as it is known, but the League of American Bicyclists began a Bike to Work Day as part of Bike Month in 1956. Over the years, Bike to Work Day has grown into a widespread event in an effort to get commuters to try bicycling to work as a healthy and safe alternative to driving alone. In the Metropolitan Washington region, Bike To Work Day has grown from a few hundred in 2001 to an all-time high of 18,700 participants in 2017. The event is sponsored by Commuter Connections and WABA.

Advantages of commuting by bike include cost, health, reliability and the environmental advantages. BTW officials cite the Clean Air Partners research data that each year cars and trucks travel more than 38 billion miles on the roads, accounting for 30-40% of the ozone-causing pollutants.

The pit stop in Vienna at Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20.

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED



FABB's table in Vienna at Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20.



BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Join Cub Scouts. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Children in grades K-5 are welcome to join Great Falls Cub Scout Pack 55 for fun, adventure, life skills, camping and more. Visit the raingutter regatta and learn about our pack. Visit the website: <https://www.gfvscouts.com/>

VIENNA TOWN COUNCIL ADOPTS FY2023 BUDGET

At its regular meeting last week, the Vienna Town Council adopted the Town budget, real estate tax rate, and water and sewer rates for fiscal year 2023. The adopted budget:

- Reduces the property tax rate by

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

1.75 cents to 20.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value

- Funds compensation increases for eligible employees
- Provides a new pay structure for the police department to address challenges with officer recruitment and retention
- Addresses inflationary increases in operating costs, mainly through tax revenue increases related to assessed value of new construction
- Adds no new programs

The vote is the culmination of a two-month budget process involving several Council work sessions and public hearings. During the process, the Town Council asked finance staff to determine the lowest possible property tax rate

to help mitigate the tax burden on property owners stemming from large increases in real estate assessments. Due to conservative budgeting, a strong business and state recovery from the pandemic and robust real estate development, the Town finance staff determined that Vienna realized enough of a surplus last year to offset a larger tax rate reduction than the original 1 cent proposed reduction, and still maintain a rainy-day fund. This is the tenth consecutive year there was either no change or a reduction in Vienna's property tax rate. The FY2023 Town Budget takes effect July 1, 2022. The adopted budget will be posted online at www.viennava.gov/your-government/town-budget.

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Memorial Service for Robert "Bob" Alden. The family of Robert "Bob" Alden will hold a memorial service for McLean's community servant and MCC champion at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 1724 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean. Bob was a regular fixture at MCC and his namesake, The Alden Theatre, as he was among the community leaders who worked tirelessly to establish MCC, McLean Central Park and Dolley Madison Library, "the McLean Green" as he liked to call it. Bob passed away in June, 2020, but due to the pandemic, a proper service could not be held until now.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA SPRING 2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia continues to offer educational, health and wellness and entertaining programming to our Senior Community. The programming includes Adventures In Learning, Active Wellness Classes, Great Discussions Book Club, Caregivers' Support Group and much more. The Adventures In Learning program began in April and repeats every Thursday for 8 weeks. There is ongoing ALL programming all year long. Topics this session include Health & Wellness, Arts & Entertainment & Travel as well as World Affairs Past & Present.

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vdh.virginia.gov/backtoschool/

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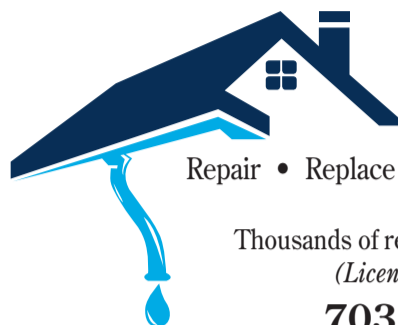
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NEWS

Detail actions in the Virginia General Assembly

FROM PAGE 4

County, the Town of Herndon, and parts of three more magisterial districts in northwestern Fairfax County. The new compactly-drawn 38th district is entirely located in the Dranesville and Hunter Mill districts in Fairfax County.

Boysko discussed broadband infrastructure and affordability challenges. She worked with Sen. Janet Howell and U.S. Senator Mark R. Warner (D-VA) to help close the digital divide in the Commonwealth "so that we can take in federal affordability dollars. ... We will be among the first in the country to make this effort so that we will be first in line."

Boysko said she worked with Del. Murphy after their constituent, Adam Oakes, died. Oakes died of alcohol poisoning from a hazing incident. Lawmakers overwhelmingly approved SB 439, also called Adam's Law, in memory of Oakes. It requires student organizations at Virginia colleges to go through hazing prevention training.

Call for Entries MPAartfest 2022 Submissions Now Accepted

McLean Project for the Arts currently seeks submissions for the 16th Annual MPAartfest, a one-day juried fine art and craft show and sale featuring the work of more than 40 local and regional visual artists. This year's festival will take place on Sunday, October 2, 2022 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm in McLean Central Park. Artists retain 100 percent of in-park sales. MPAartfest 2022 is made possible with the help of the McLean Community Center, and our partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

WHAT: MPAartfest 2022 Call for Submissions

WHO: Artists from across the mid-Atlantic region are encouraged to apply

WHEN: Early Application Deadline – June 24, 2022 (\$275); Deadline for Submissions – July 25, 2022 (\$350)

Festival Date – Oct. 2, 2022

WHERE: McLean Central Park; 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd; McLean, VA

Accepted artists will also be featured on the MPAartfest website

HOW: <https://tinyurl.com/mpaartfest2022>

MORE INFORMATION: Contact Jennifer Lillis, Gallery Manager, at jlillis@mpaart.org with questions or for more information.

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PHOTOS SCREENSHOT

Marty Smith, chief operating officer FCPS and Dr. Michelle Reid FCPS' incoming superintendent.

Incoming Superintendent Answers Questions at Town Hall

FROM PAGE 8

ing with the community on July 1 as I arrive is an entry plan, which will transparently share the work I plan to do in the first 100 days... Number one would be listening and responding to questions... Make sure that I understand how best to support the division while I will stay resolutely student-centered... We need to understand where we've been, where we are, and where we collectively would like to be.

Q: What would you do to ensure that bullied students are provided with appropriate support?

A: I was one of a handful of educators tapped by our former governor, Christine Gregoire, to write our bullying legislation for the state of Washington. I had the opportunity to train administrators around our state in effective prevention and mitigation practices... You need to interrupt and disrupt bullying behavior so that it doesn't become adult behavior. For our victims of bullying, there has to be a clear reporting protocol, clear consequences for the person bullying, and a feedback loop to make sure we continue to check in with the person who has made a report.

Q: What excites you about coming to FCPS?

A: The diversity of thought, experience, and ideas will lead to some amazing opportunities to reimagine public education. We know today that 65 percent of our students in K-12 education across this country are preparing for careers that do not yet exist.

Q: Tell us your plans for engaging students in those first 90 to 100 days that you're in the district.

A: I had an opportunity to do a town hall with students, and I will say their questions were tough. ... They're authentically rooted in their experience... (They) want to ask straightforward questions about how my work, my vision, and how our division's work will possibly impact their ability to learn and grow and achieve the dreams they have for their futures. I plan to meet with students regularly.

Q: What will you do to ensure employees feel safe reaching out to you?

A: I'm very interested in learning what educators feel, knowing their hopes and

dreams for their work in Fairfax County Public Schools, and how I might support them and their work... Right now, in our country, we're experiencing a labor shortage... We must make sure that our workplace resonates with a culture and climate that our staff values because we need each one of them, and we need them to be able to perform at their top for our students to be successful.

Q: How can FCPS or public schools generally move away from testing and assessing and back to learning, and the comment is that there's so much pressure on students to perform on our Standards of Learning tests?

A: For students to succeed on standardized testing, there has to be an alignment between the written, taught, and tested curriculum... When we have high expectations, we have to couple those with high support. If we simply have high expectations and no support, we have very frustrated, anxious people, students, families, and staff. I think that often we're not assessing perhaps some of those skills that might be most important for students' success moving on... Our students tell me that they need to be better at critical thinking and collaborating and problem-solving and authentically having ways to take their knowledge and apply it in independent ways to demonstrate their understanding more project based, perhaps Outdoor School, more sort of that.

Q: What are your thoughts on how we increase student access and interest in STEM careers?

A: My background is in math and science. I think early access to upper-level mathematics is critical. Many students are ready long before we are ready to provide that sequence. Looking at our course sequences with our educators, I think it will be very important... As we look at each pyramid within Fairfax County Public Schools, that will be one of the things I need to learn — what is available within each pyramid and make sure that students, regardless of their zip code in Fairfax County Public Schools, have the opportunities that are access equitable.

To watch the Virtual Town Hall with Dr. Reid on May 17, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQOc4i3ZjeY>.

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A Lot of Perspective



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If you allow it, cancer can be exhausting. However, I'm not referring to the physical toll treatment takes, which as many of you may not know, is often debilitating. Instead, I'm referring to the emotional toll: the worry, the fear, the uncertainty, the dying and of course, the premature death (although some might joke, any death is premature). It's been my intention to, as much as possible, ignore it all, and so far, I've done a pretty good job. Still, it's an anchor, figuratively speaking. It weighs you down, and sort of keeps you in the same place. If you let it, it can moderate your highs and deepen your lows. And being low (depressed) is all it's cracked up to be, and no way to fend off cancer, and/or try to live a semi normal life.

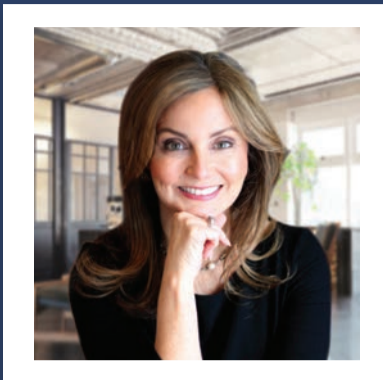
And really, trying to normalize your life despite a cancer diagnosis, with the ongoing treatment and/or the regular monitoring intervals: to scan, to complete lab work, to attend infusion appointments, et cetera, is the cost of doing business, so to speak, and hardly normal. Cancer doesn't always announce itself. Often, it appears out of nowhere with barely a symptom. And when that occurs to a lifelong non-smoker, age 54 and a half, with no family history of cancer, with both parents who lived into their mid-eighties, the absolute last thing you expect to hear from your primary care physician is: "The biopsy was malignant." So much so that when I heard it, I asked "What does that mean?" "What does that mean?" What kind of a moron am I? I know what 'malignant' means: trouble, with a capital "T." But cancer? I never imagined. Moreover, I'm not sure I even knew that an oncologist was a cancer doctor. In fact, it was my primary care doctor who set up our appointment with one for the following Thursday on this very same call. He didn't really elaborate much. He offered little information other than to suggest I bring along any family members. At that point, I began to get the message. I was not in Kansas anymore, if you know what I mean, and this initial appointment was only the beginning of what could very well be my end.

'My end?' I had just spent the last four years or so tending, along with my brother, Richard, and our family caregiver, Maria, to my father who died in early Dec. 2006, and then for another two years until early Dec. 2008, when my mother died, nearly on the exact day as my father had. I/we had been preoccupied with their lives since my father suffered his first stroke. It had been barely one month after we buried our mother, on Jan. 1st when I first experienced symptoms.

I had pain in my left rib cage which a few days later migrated to my right rib cage. That didn't seem right. And then on the weekend, when I had trouble catching my breath/inhaling, and had difficulty bending over, I had to admit that I needed to see a doctor. But cancer? No bleeping way. (I'd swear, but this is a community newspaper.)

Yet, from the depths of that initial despair, I have risen to live and breathe for another 13-plus years. I'm just glad that my parents weren't alive to hear my diagnosis. It would have been devastating for them to hear that their baby ("some baby," my mother would often say) yours truly was diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer. Hopefully, not knowing has enabled them to rest in peace. And what do I know? Cancer is bad enough on its own. You can't make it worse by giving into it. You must make peace with it or find a place for it in your life somehow. Fortunately, I'm good at compartmentalizing.

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



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