

Great Falls CONNECTION

Cotton candy is a hit at the Vienna Juneteenth celebration.

Inspiring Juneteenth

PAGE 6

Drowning on Difficult Run

PAGE 2

Serene Setting For Farmers Market

PAGE 4

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Shots Fired Inside Tysons Corner Center

Officers on scene for shots fired at 7900 Tysons Corner Center. A fight broke out between two small groups, one man displayed a firearm and fired three shots from the weapon. No one was shot.

"It makes our hearts sink down to the pit of our stomachs," said Police Chief Kevin Davis of gun vi-

olence in a shopping area known to be a safe place.

"Saturday, Fairfax County Police responded to an incident of gun violence where shots were fired at Tysons Corner Center. This occurred during peak mall hours, terrifying countless patrons and putting thousands at risk," said Chairman Jeff McKay. "Thankfully, this situation ended with no

shooting victims nor serious injury."

McKay added he was confident in law enforcement preparedness for such a situation because he had participated in an active shooter drill in a mall in the past. "Mall management, residents, and visitors were also critical in ensuring that this situation resolved peacefully."

The mall was closed for the day and evening Saturday after the incident, but reopened on Sunday.

"We need comprehensive gun safety measures to keep this violence in check and guns out of the hands of people who wish to cause harm," McKay said. "I hope my federal and state partners recognize that more needs to be done."

Teen Dies in Single-Vehicle Crash in Oakton

An 18-year-old man has died from injuries sustained in a crash that occurred just before 11 p.m. Sunday night, June 21, in Oakton. Officers responded to a single-vehicle crash in the 3200 block of Fox Mill Road near Barksdale Drive. Franklin Aquino of Chantilly was the driver of a 2007 Mazda 3. Preliminarily, detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit determined he was traveling south on Fox Mill Road. As the Mazda crested the hill, Aquino lost control and went off the road to the right, striking a tree.

Aquino was taken to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

A juvenile passenger was transported to a hospital with injuries not considered to be life threatening and remains hospitalized. Preliminarily, speed is considered a factor in the crash.

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

This is the 5th non-pedestrian related fatality in the County to date in 2022.

Year to date, in 2021 there were 5 non-pedestrian related fatalities.

Detectives Investigate Drowning in McLean

Detectives from Fairfax Police Major Crimes Bureau are investigating after a 29-year-old man drowned yesterday in Difficult Run Stream in McLean. Officers responded just after 6 p.m. on Monday, June 20 to the 8800 block of Georgetown Pike for a drowning. Fire and Rescue personnel found the man a quarter mile off the roadway on a nearby trail. The man was transported to a hospital with injuries considered life threatening. German Salinas, 29, of Sterling succumbed to his injuries Tuesday afternoon while at the hospital. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct an autopsy to determine cause and manner of death.

Detectives determined the man was swimming in the stream that connects to the Potomac River. While swimming, he became submerged underwater and did not resurface. Friends pulled him out of the water and attempted life-saving measures. Detectives do not suspect foul play.



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Sanford Friedenthal of Great Falls: "It's probably a classic response. [My father taught me] integrity. That was first and foremost in our home. I learned that from him. I have two sons and will hopefully pass that on to them. I feel that I do. I'm confident I do because they have tremendous integrity themselves. They all have kids, so they will pass it on."



Jeffrey Kretsch, volunteer in Great Falls (Turner Farm Park): "My father taught me to be honest and help others. As my sister once told me, he gave some money to someone, and she said, 'Don't you know that guy could be drunk?' Dad responded, 'It would reflect more on me if I didn't do it.'"



Steve Smith at the McLean Farmers Market, playing blues and country music on his guitar: "My dad differed from Mom because he looked at the big picture of an issue and then was able to make good decisions. This is my third Father's Day without him. This one is the hardest."



Brian Land of Vienna: "My father taught me how to deal with situations in a less emotional way than my mom. My mom gave lots of advice, some of it guided by emotion. My dad provided advice when I asked and more thoughtfully guided me."

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Locals Share Memories of Dad

Father's Day 2022

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

For Father's Day 2022, local residents shared a memory of their fathers, perhaps something their dads did that they liked and hoped to emulate or how their fathers addressed matters in a manner that differed from their mothers.

Andrew Hinkle of McLean with his wife Amy and their children Lucy, 1 ½, and Henry, 2 ½, at the McLean Farmers Market. "I've been coming here since I was born, and now I'm bringing the next generation as a dad. My father taught me to be present with my kids and wife and to do little things like this (shopping at the McLean Farmers Market). My grandfather started the McLean Hardware Store in 1948. Now I'm a dentist."



Phillip Pifer of Great Falls: "He impressed upon me through his actions and, later words, the value of patience and support. Patience didn't mean he had no expectations, but when expectations were not met, there was a patient discussion. He rarely got angry. He might become impatient, but his anger was always directed at the behavior, never my sisters and me. He was incredibly supportive of education and our interests. He didn't try to impose his expectations on us other than high standards of achievement in whatever field we chose. ... He didn't cause us to comply with his wishes because he knew he wanted us to be independent."



It's a Walk in the Park at McLean Farmers Market

Get your
produce
Fridays for
the weekend.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Farmers Market is one of 10 markets across Fairfax County that Fairfax County operates under its Park Authority. Each is different and has a distinct personality and community that it serves.

"I think what people like a lot about the McLean Farmers Market is that it is in Lewisville Park, in a treed area that feels like a park," said Caroline Hockenberry, Farmers Market Coordinator for Fairfax County Park Authority, on May 17 while she oversaw the day's event. "You are in this very serene setting."

The McLean Market is open Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon through November 11. It features 16 vendors who offer fresh veggies, ripe fruit, savory bread, coffee, plants, and much more. For additional information on market rules and vendors, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean>.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets> to learn more.

PHOTOS BY
MERCIA HOBSON
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



Caroline Hockenberry, Farmers Market Coordinator for Fairfax County Park Authority.



Shopping under the tree canopy at the McLean Farmers Market.



Shopping under the tree canopy at the McLean Farmers Market.



Juliette, 5, helps her mom, Samantha pick out the berries at the McLean Farmers Market.



Shopping under the tree canopy at the McLean Farmers Market..



Shopping under the tree canopy at the McLean Farmers Market.

Ban Battle Botched

Inside the failed effort to ban assault weapons in Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Banning assault weapons was a major priority for gun-violence prevention advocates in early 2020, just before the pandemic struck and Democrats were seizing control of the General Assembly for the first time in a generation. Gov. Ralph Northam had campaigned on the issue, and he made banning assault rifles one of his major legislative priorities for the session. Three members of the Alexandria delegation introduced bills to make it happen. Hopes were high when lawmakers arrived for the General Assembly session in January 2020.

"We had momentum," said Brian Moran, who was secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security at the time. "We thought the stars were aligning."

But the star-crossed effort fizzled when Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee sent it to the Crime Commission, which never took it up. The next year, the issue vanished as lawmakers moved on to other topics. Now Virginia has a Republican governor and a Republican majority in the House of Delegates, leaving the effort to ban assault weapons out of reach -- at least until after the 2023 election. Meanwhile, gun violence in America is skyrocketing and the number of mass shootings conducted with assault rifles grows year after year as the General Assembly fails to take action.

"I was disappointed that a lot of people didn't have the courage to do the right thing," said former Del. Mark Levine (D-45), who introduced the assault weapons ban that passed the House and was scuttled in the Senate. "And the promises that had been made to me in February and March of 2020 that we would seriously consider it for continuation all went away when covid came."

ASSAULT WEAPONS are often the weapons of choice for mass shooters in America. It was the type of firearm used to kill 21 people, including 19 children, in Texas last month. A version of the AR-15 rifle has been used in 11 mass shootings in the last decade, including the Texas Walmart shooting in 2019; the Florida high school shooting in 2018; the Las Vegas concert in 2017; and the Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. The steady rise in the use of assault weapons on mass shootings is what prompted Northam to call for an assault weapons ban after he was elected governor.

"I know what weapons of war do to human beings," said Northam, who served in the Army Medical Corps. "And it's my thought and opinion that we don't need weapons of war in our society."

When Democrats took control of the House and the Senate after the 2019 election, they finally had a moment to make

that agenda a reality. Senate Democratic Leader Dick Saslaw introduced a sweeping bill that would ban all assault rifles, including ones that people already owned. That prompted national attention and helped attract thousands of gun-rights enthusiasts to Richmond for a massive protest that featured many people walking the streets of the capital city heavily armed and openly carrying.

"I believe that unarmed citizens are peasants," said Tiffany Gonzalez, who drove 12 hours to be in Richmond for the gun rally. "The left is focussed on power, money, control and corruption."

THE GOVERNOR'S version of the assault weapons ban was more measured, and it had a grandfather clause that would allow owners of existing assault weapons to keep them without fear of prosecution. In the House, the governor worked with Levine. In the Senate, they worked with state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30). But the Senate Judiciary Committee never heard Ebbin's version of the bill because he withdrew it.

"We felt it had a better chance in the House to pass, and so it was a strategic decision," said Moran, who was leading the governor's efforts to prevent gun violence in the General Assembly. "We had a chairman in the House who was favorable, so the idea was that we would get it out of the House in good shape, which is what we did."

Levine's bill passed the House of Delegates with a vote of 51 to 48. But then it ran into trouble in the Senate Judiciary Committee, where senators raised concerns that Levine's version of an assault weapons ban was unconstitutional and unenforceable. Advocates for preventing gun violence said that was incorrect, pointing out that the bill under consideration was modeled on a Maryland law that had been upheld by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. But four Senate Democrats voted to send the bill to the Crime Commission instead of the Senate floor: John Edwards (D-21), Creigh Deeds (D-34), Chap Petersen (D-) and Scott Surovell (D-36).

"We voted to refer it to the Crime Commission to be studied and get the hard work done so we could look at it in 2021," said Surovell in a text message. "The Crime Commission executive committee refused to add it to the work plan."

NOW ADVOCATES for preventing gun violence are in a fix. They missed their window of opportunity in 2020 and 2021. Now they're facing a hostile governor and House of Delegates, who are trying to undo some of the new gun violence prevention measures the Democrats put in place while they were in the House.

"If the public were able to see the damage done by these weapons to human beings, I think far more people would stand up and demand that we have greater restrictions on them," said Paul Friedman, executive director of the gun violence prevention nonprofit Safer Country. "The public needs to have a better idea of what these weapons can do, and what they have done. Without that, it's too antiseptic for a lot of people to grasp."

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**PUBLIC HEARING ON
MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER'S
DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 6:30 P.M.

The McLean Community Center (MCC) is seeking public input as it finalizes its strategic plan based on public feedback gathered from district residents over the last several months. MCC has hired AMS Planning & Research to help craft the plan and invites residents of Dranesville Small District 1A to express their ideas about the future programming and strategic priorities of the center at this public hearing.

Your opinion is important!

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Juneteenth, Day of Reflection, Celebration

Vienna's celebration kicks off Liberty Amendment month.



Congressman Gerry Connolly.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Vienna's Juneteenth Celebration, held at First Baptist Church on Saturday, June 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., kicked off the town's second annual Liberty Amendment Month.

"Over the past century and a half, Juneteenth has evolved into a day of not only celebration but of reflection," said Minister Kennard Jones, Director of Youth and Adult Engagement at First Baptist Church of Vienna, at the Opening Ceremony.

Mayor Linda J. Colbert of the Town of Vienna introduced the guests, including U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly; Mercury Payton, town manager of Vienna and founder of Liberty Amendments Month; and keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Vernon C. Walton, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Vienna.

Colbert paid tribute to the 130 Liberty Amendment Committee members, including 30 local organizations, businesses. Liberty Amendments Month started on June 18 and runs through July 19, 2022. Each week focuses on one of the Constitutional amendments—the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th—extending rights and liberties to U.S. citizens who were formerly excluded from the Constitution.

Colbert said that liberty is a fundamental human right. It transcends differences in race, religion, gender, and culture. "No other nation emphasizes the importance of liberty like we do, and as Mayor of Vienna, I have used the hashtag One Vienna," Colbert said that to her, it meant that even though they are individuals with differing back-

grounds and personalities, they are one community that values and respects each other, supports each other, and comes together to celebrate Juneteenth and the Liberty amendments.

Ahn Phan, the Northern Virginia outreach representative for U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), read Warner's letter. In it, he stated that Juneteenth marks the 157th anniversary of the effective end of slavery in the United States, when Union forces arrived in Galveston, Texas. The soldiers delivered the news that the enslaved were now free. Although President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, the news did not reach Galveston until June 19, 1865.

"Today, many Americans are still waiting, waiting for this nation to reckon earnestly with our past and fully address the ways that our history of racism has harmed our present...While Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom, it is also an opportunity to reflect on our history. This reflection can and should inform our work to achieve full equality for all our citizens," Phan read on behalf of Warner.

Connolly said that Fredrick Douglas, "a brilliant orator who turned hearts all over America, black and white," spoke about the need to empower the enslaved in the four Liberty Amendments. He added that knowledge, the intellectual state, leads from slavery to freedom freeing and liberating the mind to understand better history, the good and the bad. According to Connolly, in our country, there is a movement "to suppress the teaching of that racial history."

"That is wrong... Let's rededicate

SEE VIENNA'S, PAGE 7



Andrea Payton, wife of Vienna Town Manager Mercury Payton, and some of their children at the Juneteenth Celebration Liberty Amendment Month Opening Ceremony 2022.



Participants listen to speaker's remarks.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Minister Kennard Jones, Director of Youth and Adult Engagement at First Baptist Church of Vienna.



Mayor Linda J. Colbert of the Town of Vienna.



Rev. Dr. Vernon C. Walton, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Vienna.



Mercury Payton, town manager of Vienna and founder of Liberty Amendments Month.

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Vienna's Celebration Kicks Off Liberty Amendment Month

FROM PAGE 6

ourselves to the power of knowledge. Let's rededicate ourselves to the liberation of truth. Even if it's painful, we will be better for it, and America will be stronger," Connolly said.

Payton said that two years ago, the United States was filled with tension because many individuals' lives were cut short, and their families suffered the pain of losing a loved one. His cousin Joelle was killed and shot to death in Alexandria in 2003, so he understands the pain. It is a similar pain the nation felt in the summer of 2020.

"There was tension throughout our nation because many citizens felt as though their constitutionally guaranteed rights were not theirs still to claim. But then, here in Vienna, we began to talk to each other. Some of those conversations were painful but necessary," Payton said. He told how they began to heal by sharing frustrations and injustices in their lives. Formal and informal discussions reminded them that "we all have basic human rights," expressed in these great four amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

The Rev. Walton said he wrestles with the "untampered celebration and unfortunate commercialization of Juneteenth." He remembers the men and women aboard slave ships who did not go voluntarily and whose remains are at the bottom of the ocean. He remembers the mothers "who watched their children snatched and separated from them." And he remembers enslaved workers who could still hear music in the air. "There must be a God somewhere," he said.

"This celebration is born out of a painful reality rooted in deceit and deception," Walton said. Walton urged everyone not to avoid difficult conversations but to use discomfort to challenge levels of unacknowledged privilege.

To have resolve, people must work together and pray together, vote on their convictions, and not the party, Walton said. People must refuse to maintain the status quo. "Diversity and inclusion will be more than words, and justice will reign."

Walton said that he could hear an echo from Washington, D.C., the national monuments, and the National Mall that dates to August 1963, the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"That sound sometimes keeps me up at night... Sometimes haunts me and keeps me from being able



The Juneteenth Celebration featured 45 vendors. Artisan Catherine Queen-Newton of Treasures of the Queen shows a necklace to Jeanne Taylor of Burke. "I'm mesmerized by her work and wondrous artistry," says Taylor.



Kofi Annan, the owner of Soul Rebel, leans out the concession win-dow of his food truck to serve his customers.



Sen. Chap Petersen: "All Americans are celebrating together. [Juneteenth] is in every corner of our nation."

to go to sleep. That sound often breaks my heart when I realize it's not yet come to pass," Walton said, echoing King.

Walton echoed King: "If America is to be a great nation, this must come true ... when we let freedom ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, from McLean to Alexandria, from Tysons to Gum Springs, from Great Falls to Herndon, from McMansions to tent cities, We will be able to speed up that day when all



Ahn Phan from U.S. Sen. Mark Warner's office reads Warner's letter.

of God's children, Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants, and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last, free at last.' Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."

Visit the Town of Vienna website for information on Liberty Amendments Month with in-person activities, mini-fests for all ages, and pop-up and virtual events, including self-guided walking tours, scavenger hunts, and more.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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McLean Community Center and AMS Planning and Research want to hear from YOU as they work to establish the center's new strategic plan.

After months of surveying and holding listening sessions with residents of Dranesville Small District 1A, patrons of MCC programs, civic organizations and other stakeholders, AMS has drafted a strategic plan. Now we need your input.

Take a few minutes to fill out the online survey and you will be entered to win one of five \$60 vouchers that can be used toward any MCC-sponsored activity. Your responses will be confidential.

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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU JULY 4

Paper Jewels. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza West, Reston. Julia Malakoff presents her newest mixed media artworks to stimulate the senses of sight, smell, and taste through vivid colors and textures in her solo show, "Paper Jewels," featured at Reston Art Gallery and Studios (RAGS) from June 2 until July 4. Malakoff's own senses of smell and taste were altered by a case of Covid in 2020, but as a professional artist she has been able to put her imagination to work to ease the challenges of being a long-hauler, and to bring joy. Visit <https://juliamalakoff.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

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/>

MCLEAN FARMERS MARKET

The McLean Farmers Market opened for the 2022 season on May 6th, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The market will run every Friday from 8 a.m. to noon through November 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. For more information, see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/>



The Town of Vienna will hold its Independence Day Celebration on Friday, July 1 in Vienna.

Center, McLean. Part of the Outdoor Family Movie Night on the last Friday of the month. Make sure to bring your chairs and blankets for a movie under the stars! Complimentary popcorn and soft drinks will be provided (while supplies last).

SATURDAY/JUNE 25

2000s So Fetch. Part of the Summer Concert Series. 7-9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Join Tysons Corner Center on a tour through the decades! Listen to your favorite songs on the plaza while enjoying drinks and takeout from our plaza retailers. These events are free to attend.

SATURDAY/JUNE 25

Washington Sinfonietta Performs. 7:30 p.m. At Falls Church Episcopal Church, 166 East Broad Street, Falls Church. The Washington Sinfonietta will present its final concert of the 2021-2022 season, "A Romantic Voyage: A Dedication to Cindy Pettigrew." The concert will feature works of the Romantic period, including Carl Maria von Weber's Overture to Der Freischütz, Franz Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony No. 8, Richard Strauss's Serenade in E-flat Major (Op. 7), Beethoven's "Emperor" Piano Concerto No. 5, and Debussy's Clair de Lune. Internationally renowned pianist Rachel Franklin will be the featured soloist on the Beethoven and Debussy pieces. Advance tickets for the performance are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, plus a small service fee, and are available at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5457402>. Tickets at the door will be \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students.

SUNDAY/JUNE 26

Garba 360: Live Dance Instruction and Band. 3 p.m. At The Alden, MCC Community Center, McLean. Garba360, a South Asian social dance experience with live music. An essential component of the nine-day, fall Hindu festival Navratri, Garba is an intoxicating, high-energy folk-dance style from the Indian state of Gujarat. This community event has been reimagined for all to participate in the fun any time of the year! This engagement of Garba360 is funded through the Mid-Atlantic Tours program of Mid-Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

SUNDAY/JUNE 26

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. At the Village Centre Green, Great Falls. Featuring Four Star Combo - High-energy 1950s Rockabilly and Honky Tonk. Hosted by 1Roof - Roofing, Siding & Gutters. Come relax at the Village Centre Green and enjoy laid-back evenings of good music and good times with your neighbors.

SUNDAY/JUNE 26

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. 3 p.m. At McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd, McLean. Featuring Garba360 Live Dance Instruction and Band. An essential component of the nine-day, fall Hindu festival, Navratri, Garba is an intoxicating, high-energy folk dance style from the Indian state of Gujarat. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

JUNE 28-JULY 24

"Memory and Illusion" Art Exhibit. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. At Jo Ann Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center - Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Experience a retrospective show of more than 50 original paintings in a variety of mediums, representational to abstract, dramatic to whimsical, by Reston-based painter Sandra C. Dovberg. Website: sandracdovbergart.com

FRIDAY/JULY 1

Town of Vienna Independence Day Celebration. At Yeon Park, Vienna. The U.S. Navy Concert Band will perform at 8 p.m., and a 20-minute fireworks display will begin at 9:30 p.m. Visit www.viennava.gov/fireworks.

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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>

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

The Great Falls Farmers Market Outdoor Market is open every Saturday, Spring and Summer, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. For vendors and weekly highlights see <https://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

FRIDAY/JUNE 24

Broadway in the Park. 8 p.m. At Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Experience a night of stellar show tunes and memorable performances under the stars this summer at Wolf Trap. Two of Broadway's Tony-Award winning leading ladies, Kelli O'Hara ("The King and I") and Adrienne Warren ("Tina: The Tina Turner Musical"), join some of your favorite Signature Theatre artists for an incredible night of musical theater featuring songs from "West Side Story," "The Wiz," "Gypsy," "Funny Girl" and more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 24

Paint and Sip Night. 6-9:30 p.m. At Vienna Volunteer Fire Dept., 400 Center Street South, Vienna. The Auxiliary to the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a fun Paint and Sip Night with artist Linda Jackson. Join in this fundraising event for a night of painting, food, drinks, prizes and fun. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m., and painting starts at 7 p.m. Tickets for painting are \$35.00 and includes all supplies to create your masterpiece. Dinner tickets are \$10, and drink tickets are \$5.00. Raffle tickets will be sold as well. Register now at <https://vvfdauxiliary.square.site/>

FRIDAY/JUNE 24

"Karate Kid" Movie. 7 p.m. At Tysons Corner

News

Vienna Wireless Society Participates in 2022 National Field Day, June 25-26

Public invited to see how it works, try it out.

Local amateur radio operators ("hams") will join thousands nationwide on the weekend of June 25-26 to show off their amateur-radio and emergency-communications capabilities. The Vienna Wireless Society (VWS) with members around Northern Virginia will have its Field Day site at Burke Lake Park.

Enter the park at the traffic light just south of the Burke Lake Golf Center on Route 123. Look for tents immediately on the left of the road before the park entrance.

The annual "Field Day" is organized nationally each year by

contacts will be made over any distance from miles to overseas. Satellite-relay contacts will also be made. National and International participation assures lots of action on the airwaves.

The modern ham operates in Morse Code, voice and digital modes. The digital modes allow hams unrestricted wireless texting to other hams anywhere and independent of the Internet. All operations are supported by a local-area network for logging contacts.

There are over 700,000 Amateur Radio operators in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Their slogan, "When all else fails..." is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 35,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event and nearly 1.3 million contacts were logged.

VWS hopes that people will come and see for themselves how modern ham radio works and what a great hobby it is with a great group of people. There are many license levels for becoming an operator, and plenty of help available to pass the tests. There is no longer a Morse code requirement to be licensed. To learn more about Amateur Radio, visit ViennaWireless.net

Field Day is a contest, an emergency preparedness exercise, a public relations demonstration, a great event for clubs, and a fun way to get on the air.

The Vienna Wireless Society participates in this event every year at Burke Lake Park. Operators set up stations that run on battery or generator power and use antennas strung over trees or portable masts. The setup will consist of two Morse code, two voice, as well as a VHF station. There will be periodic contacts with orbiting satellites and a "Get on the Air" station for visitors to try their hand at operating.

Equipment setup begins at Burke Lake Park Friday afternoon June 24. Operations will commence at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 25 and continue until 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 26.

Young and old, families, technology clubs and scouting groups are encouraged to visit the Vienna Wireless Society Field Day site.

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the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Visitors are invited to see the hams in action and have their own radio experience at the "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station where licensed hams will help you to make a contact. Who knows how far you may get?

Field Day gets licensed hams out of their home stations and into outdoor tent stations, simulating requirements for portable, off-the-grid communications in case of emergency. Amateur radio operates independently of any other communication utility and has proved its value in many disasters. Many hams have certifications for emergency communications in support of public agencies, and ham radio is a resource recognized by the Department of Homeland Security. Local ham clubs support the Marine Corps Marathon and many other public service events throughout the year.

VWS operates several transmit-receive stations from tents during the event. Power is provided by portable generators, batteries and solar panels. Over several frequency bands, two-way

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SWIM AND DIVE ROUNDUPS



Max Thompson en route to breaking a 17 year old team record in the 11-12 boys 50 meter breaststroke. Max also broke the team record for 50 Butterfly (29.84).

Shouse Village Sharks

The Shouse Village Sharks fell to the Brookfield Breakers 226-193. Double race winners were William Bouharoun, Amelia Erwin, Nya Lewin, Declan Redfern, Max Thompson, and Teresa Yoshihara. Single race winners were Nicholas Alexandrescu, Evie Coleman, Lena Johnson, Emma Judkins, Melina Valencia, and Charlie Williams. Max Thompson broke two 11-12 boys team records: 50 Breaststroke (35.68) and 50 Butterfly (29.84).

Hunter Mill Sharks

In the first A meet of the summer season, the Hunter Mill Sharks (HTM) fell to the Springboard barracudas (203-217). Single winners were Gray Aylward, Hayes Aylward,

Alexandra Samsot, Andrew Stephenson, and Fletcher Windham. Double winners were Sydney DeLacy, Alexandra Dicks, Hunter Guthrie, Adrienne Jenks, Chase Jenks Sophia MacDonald, Elyse Rosade, and Madeleine Ulen.

The following HTM relays took first place: 9-10 girls medley (Emma Beemer-Ross, Calley Hegerty, Adrienne Jenks, and Morgan Samsot), 11-12 girls medley (Lillian Lawson, Sophia MacDonald, Elyse Rosade, and Alexandra Samsot), 11-12 boys medley (Hayes Aylward, Hunter Jenks, Brian Pickersgill, and Charles Stipanovic), 13-14 girls medley (Skylar DeLacy, Sydney DeLacy, Harper Hunt, and AnaSofia Zanellato), the 15-18 girls medley (Lauren Brown, Alexandra Dicks, Sydney Guthrie and Lauren Kostakis) and the 15-18 mixed age girls free (Sydney DeLacy, Alexandra Dicks, Adrienne Jenks, and Elyse Rosade).

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.

SERIES CELEBRATES HISTORY AND AMERICAN LIBERTIES

The Town of Vienna's second annual Liberty Amendments Month is set to begin on June 18 and will offer events and activities commemorating local history as it relates to the four Liberty Amendments that granted full citizenship rights to people who were previously excluded from the U.S. Constitution. The month-long series of events is presented by the Town of Vienna and partner government, business and non-profit organizations that embraced the concept during last year's inaugural celebration and wanted to continue the conversation and commemoration this year. More than 21,000 people attended 65 commemorative activities during last year's Liberty Amendments Month.

Events from June 18 through July 19 include kids' events, educational events, mini-fests, pop-up and virtual events, live entertainment and the Town's Independence Day celebration at 8 p.m., July 1 at Yeonas Park. Details for all events are listed in the online Liberty Amendments Month calendar: www.viennava.gov/Liberty.

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Left To My Own Devices – Literally



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I guess I had no real idea about the true seriousness of my condition as a stage IV, papillary thyroid cancer patient until I received an unsolicited phone message from my healthcare provider earlier today. The message was from a staff member at my HMO advising me that due to a grant, I would be eligible to receive – at no cost, to include monitoring for one year, a medical alert device. If I accept their offer and utilize the device, I'll have more than "the clapper" to ask for help. I'll have a real-life medical alert GPS enabled device, whose sole function is to assist me in the event of a mishap or misstep so I will never be left waiting or wanting should I need emergency/immediate assistance and be unable to request it myself/can't get up (press a button for help, I guess). Apparently, in my greatest hours of need, I will now have a resource which could save my life. This wouldn't bother me if it wasn't part of a pattern.

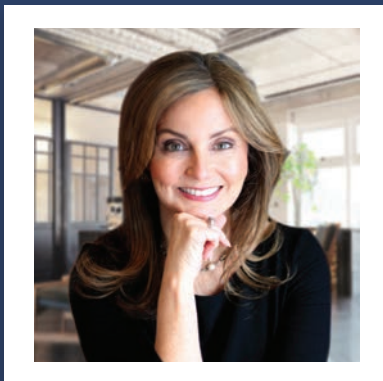
First, I received an email reminder from my internal medicine doctor reminding/encouraging me to get/update my medical directive – which I don't have by the way. A 'medical directive,' if you're not familiar with such matters, is basically a set of instructions for whomever (family/health-care team) provided by the patient directing his or her end-of-life decisions. As you might imagine, it eliminates a whole host of potential problems/complications. It's a prudent precaution to have in place so that decisions can be made in accordance with the wishes of the patient. And who among us wouldn't prefer that their wishes – especially at death, be honored and respected.

Then, a few weeks later, earlier today in fact, I receive this message about a medical alert device. Since no one is telling me anything – directly, am I to assume that someone is not telling me something, indirectly? I mean, I am a cancer patient over a certain age. I imagine I'm in a higher risk category, certainly higher than someone under 65 who hasn't been diagnosed with cancer. I get that I'm at a greater risk but is there something else that I'm not being told. I was told I was "terminal" once before when I was initially diagnosed with stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer back in late February 2009. Having been re-diagnosed a few years back as a stage IV papillary thyroid cancer patient, am I once again "terminal?" And if I am, can someone please tell me. I'd like to know without reading between the lines. I'd like to exactly read what's on the line. I don't want to guess. I don't want to wonder. As I've said to my oncologist before: "Give it to me straight, doc. I can take it." I can tell you – from personal experience, it's the not-knowing which is difficult. Taking one's disease day-by-day and not being too high or too low and trying to roll with all the various punches and not put any carts before any hearses, has enabled me to balance out my life in spite of the ongoing cancer noise.

I don't want to overreact but receiving these two health-related offers kind of remains me of the joke about the man who was clinging to life sitting atop his house as flood waters raged. As help was offered in one manner or another, he kept turning everybody down saying God would provide. Eventually, he drowns and upon seeing God at the pearly gates asks God why he didn't send help while he was stranded on the roof of his house. God said: "I sent the rowboat. I sent the helicopter." "What were you waiting for?" God asks: "A sign," said the drowning victim.

I don't think I'm drowning, exactly, but I seem to be getting offers to help someone who might be drowning. I wish I knew the reason for this recent outreach. I hope I'm not neglecting a sign.

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



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