

Great Falls CONNECTION

A+
PAGE 8

Jean Rosenbluth escorted Walter and Evelyn Wheeler to the front of the audience as Conrad Heer, President of Colvin Run Civic Association, thanked the Wheelers for their lifelong commitment to the dance hall.

The Old Girl Never Looked Better

COMMUNITY, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

A Local Teen Author Inspires Youth Writers

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Riverbend Park: Basking in Bluebells

NEWS, PAGE 3

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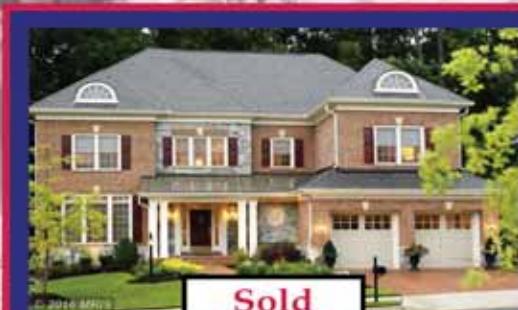
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FX9859062 - \$695,000 - Great Falls
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5BR Home. Price to Sell Prior Perc Test Had
Been for 5BR Home.



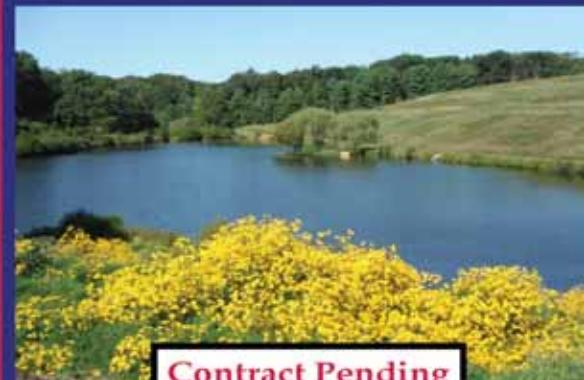
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Military Appreciation Monday (MAM)

Event at The Old Brogue in Great Falls.
We will be raising funds for the group:
The Navy Safe Harbor Foundation

and

Join us on Wednesday, April 26th at our:
Law Appreciation Wednesday (LAW)

Event at Brx American Bistro in Great Falls.
We will be raising funds for the group:
The Virginia Law Enforcement Assistance Program

Bob Nelson
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Office: (703) 636-7300

Cell: (703) 999-5812

Bob@BobNelsonTeam.com

www.GreatFallsTeam.com



NEWS

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC
703-778-9414 OR GREATFALLS@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Virginia bluebell stands between 1 and 2 feet tall and bears pendulous clusters of lavender-blue, bell-shaped flowers.

Basking in Bluebells

Easter wasn't the only celebration last weekend. Families flocked to Riverbend Park to bask in the lavender-blue of the Virginia bluebell.

The Riverbend Park Bluebell Festival on Saturday, April 15, celebrated the native plant growing alongside the Potomac River and the park's trails.

"They grow all along the floodplain," said Sue Becker of the Fairfax County Park Authority. "This is a celebration of those beautiful flowers that only last a short time. They bloom before most of the other spring flowers in the park. They're spring ephemerals."

The fleeting flowers had already sur-

passed peak bloom by the time the festival rolled around, less than a month into spring.

The festival included guided wildflower walks that toured the trails and taught participants about all the wildflowers that carpet the forest at Riverbend.

Park staff also performed puppet shows, complete with insects, birds and other animals that can be found frolicking in meadows during springtime.

Live music, food trucks, arts and crafts and an inflatable bounce house were also popular attractions of the festival.

— FALON FORBUSH



Girls grin during a puppet show put on by park staff during the Riverbend Park's Bluebell Festival: Grandma Fran Jupiter, granddaughters Lina and Ella Jupiter, 2 and 4, and grandma Karin Gelhaus, who was visiting all the way from Germany.



Sue Becker of the Fairfax County Park Authority paints a bluebell on the cheek of Anna Sinclair, 7, of Burke at the craft table during the Riverbend Park's Bluebell Festival.

PHOTOS BY FALON FORBUSH/The Connection



The Virginia bluebells are at peak bloom in early spring along the Potomac River's floodplain.



Marijke Gate of the Fairfax County Park Authority leads children on trails alongside the Potomac River on a wildflower walk to teach them about all the flowers that grow in the park, especially the Virginia bluebell.



Peter Lewis, 6, of Falls Church is eager to ask a question of his tour guide, Marijke Gate of the Fairfax County Park Authority, during a wildflower walk alongside the Potomac River.

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NEWS

Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) visiting a school at Azraq refugee camp in Jordan.



Comstock Constituents Demand In-Person Townhall

Members of the Indivisible VA District 10 Facebook group planned daily demonstrations outside of U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock's district office in Sterling last week while Congress was in recess for the Easter holiday.

However, Comstock was not in the country.

She was visiting the Middle East with three of her colleagues: U.S. Reps. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.); Juan Vargas (D-Calif.); and Claudia Tenney (R-N.Y.).

Comstock released the following statement after returning home on Friday, April 14:

"As believers around the world observed Holy Week, I appreciated the opportunity to visit and hear from those who serve our fellow man – our military men and women and national security leaders, our State Department and diplomatic leaders, and our humanitarian partners serving the refugee population. The work they have done is extraordinary and it was instructive to see how they work together to meet the challenges of the refugee population and the region, and to bring more stability to the Mideast. We met with the mothers, fathers, teachers, health care providers, and children at the refugee camps and heard from them about life in these camps and the desire of the refugees to be able to go home, and the vital support they still need. It's clear that Americas' leadership in the region is essential to marshal the international community, and our allies and strategic

partners – in order to restore stability and reinvigorate our common goal of eliminating the threat of ISIS and terrorism."

During the trip, the lawmakers met with Egyptian President Al-Sisi, Lebanese Minister of Education and Jordan Prime Minister Hani Al-Mulki.

While Comstock was visiting Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, the Indivisible group had two shifts of about a dozen people demonstrating outside of her office each weekday, according to Jan Hyland, a member of the group.

"Generally, folks spend some time holding a banner and signs for traffic along Route 7, then go up to the office to share their questions and concerns with staff — always urging a town hall," Hyland said in an email.

Each day of the groups, Reclaim Recess demonstrations had a focus:

- ❖ #ModerateMonday — Moderate Voting Record? Call to Hold a Townhall
- ❖ #ToxicTuesday — Environment and Science
- ❖ #NoWallWednesday — Immigration and Budget
- ❖ #HealthyThursday — American Health Care Act of 2017, Health and Family Issues
- ❖ #ForeignInfluenceFriday — Investigate Russia

On Friday, April 14, the group delivered a basket full of messages that it collected from the public during the week of protests.

— FALON FORBUSH



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAN HYLAND
The Indivisible group demonstrated against the Trump administration and Congress for its slow investigation of alleged Russian ties to the president and the presidential election on Friday, April 14.

NEWS

A Local Teen Author Inspires Youth Writers

BY CHRISTINA TYLER WENKS

Afamous author's story about personal struggle inspired a local teen to write and publish her first book, and now she nudges others her age to share their stories, too. Sophie Tedesco, a ninth-grader at Marshall High School, will be the guest speaker at the Great Falls Writer's Group 2017 Youth Awards Gala.

"People my age have great imaginations and great stories, but many struggle to write and produce something," she said. Her message to other writers is to find time necessary to meet writing goals.

As a seventh- and eighth-grader at Longfellow Middle School, Tedesco participated in National Novel Writing Month and wrote a 40,000-word novel that she self-published titled "Holding On." The book is

about a high-school boy who tried to rescue his sister. Writers who reached a word-count goal received two free copies of their books. Motivated by that, Tedesco spent lunchtime in the library writing.

"Having that goal helped me go the extra mile," she said.

In addition to writing novels, the avid reader crafts short stories, experiments with poetry, and explores journalism with her school newspaper. She is inspired by reading and people she meets.

As a fifth-grader, Tedesco wrote to Louis Zamperini, a former Olympian and World War II prisoner of war whose story was portrayed in Laura Hillenbrand's book and movie, "Unbroken." Zamperini responded through his daughter, and Tedesco corresponded with the famous author until his death in July 2014.

"He wrote a final novel before his death, and I was mentioned in the acknowledgements because of the relationship we had," said Tedesco about the book, "Don't Give Up. Don't Give In" by Louis Zamperini and David Rensin. Sophie says the relationship with Zamperini helped shape who she is today.

"I hope I push other writers to finish their stories," Tedesco says. "I was always writing little things, and I didn't finish. See a project through to the end."

An active member on her school's debate and cross-country teams, Tedesco's options and eyes are wide open to professional possibilities in all fields, but she's adamant that writing will always be part of her life.

Tedesco speaks at the Youth Awards Gala at 4 p.m. on April 29 at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike.



PHOTO BY HEATHER TEDESCO

Author Sophie Tedesco, a ninth-grader from Marshall High School, will speak at the GFWG Youth Writing Awards Gala at 4 p.m. on April 29 at the Great Falls Library.

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Fatal Construction Site Accident

Pedro Banegas, 50, of Sterling was accidentally killed after being run over by a dump truck in Great Falls on the morning of Thursday, April 13, according to the Fairfax County Police Department.

Preliminary investigation determined that Banegas was working on mechanical issues at the front of the truck. A 63-year-old man entered the truck and was unaware of Banegas' location and moved the truck a short distance forward. Pedro Banegas was pronounced dead at the scene.

Detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit (CRU) responded to investigate. Neither speed nor alcohol appear to be contributing factors to the incident. At this point, given the totality of the circumstances, no charges are expected to be placed in this case.

Anyone who might have witnessed this crash is asked to call the CRU witness line at 703-280-0543, or contact Crime Solvers electronically by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip

by texting "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES(274637) or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Comstock Announces 10th District Military Academy Day

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) announced the annual 10th Congressional District Military Academy Day. This year's Military Academy Day will be held on Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Loudoun County Public School Administration Building located at 21000 Education Court, Ashburn. The event is free and open to all students, parents and guidance staff who are interested in learning more about the nation's service academies.

Representatives from the following service academies will be in attendance: Army, Navy, Air Force, Merchant Marine. Representatives from the Coast Guard, Marine Corps ROTC program, the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Military Institute, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and The

Citadel have also been invited. Additionally, the American Legion and Randolph-Macon Academy will be represented. Each of the academies will make a presentation and students will be able to meet with admissions staff and ask questions. Contact Mary Ann Cannon on Comstock's staff at 703-404-6903 or by email at Maryann.Cannon@mail.house.gov.

McLean Community Garage Sale

The McLean Community Center will hold its annual Spring Community Garage Sale from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., on Saturday, April 22. The sale will be held in the parking garage located at 1420 Beverly Road. Admission to the sale and parking are free.

The sale will offer shoppers the opportunity to purchase a wide variety of household items, toys, electronics, glassware, clothing, baby items, collectibles and more at bargain prices. A limited number of selling spaces remain and can be purchased for \$45. Individuals selling personal items and some commercial vendors may participate.

For more information, or to reserve a selling space, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: www.mcleancenter.org/special-events and register online using activity number 2001.317. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, April 19, or until sold out.

This event has been made possible with the support of General Assets, Inc., Giant Food and McLean Properties.

Taste of Korea, Culture Festival

Come and sample the homemade Korean Food and experience Korean Culture at the Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington on Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1219 Swinks Mill Road, McLean. In addition to an array of popular Korean foods such as Korean barbecue and potstickers, there will be cultural programs such as Korean dance performances, paper folding, trying on traditional Korean costumes and games for children. Also there will be a rummage sale and sale of Korean knick-knacks.

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OPINION

Mother's Day

The Connection is seeking submissions for its annual photo gallery.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14 this year and as usual every year at this time, The Connection calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

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.

EDITORIAL You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

County Economy Poised for Continued Growth

To the Editor:

The April 12 article, "Uncertainty Amid Growth," might have left readers wondering about the strength and future of Fairfax County's economy.

Much of the uncertainty arises from concerns about the direction of the federal budget, because many employers in Fairfax County and northern Virginia are involved in government contracting. However, more than two-thirds of the federal procurement dollars won by Fairfax County companies in fiscal 2016 involve three departments for which President Trump has indicated he would seek increased funding: Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs.

For that reason and others, I think the Fairfax County economy is poised for continued development. In 2016, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority worked with 194 companies that added nearly 7,500 jobs to the county economy. Many of those companies are in the professional and technical industry sectors that will generate the most prosperity for the community.

Just since the beginning of 2017 the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority has announced several companies that are adding hundreds of jobs here. Some, like Favor TechConsulting or IOMAXIS, focus on work with federal customers. Others such as All Traffic Solutions and Global Guardian, focus on private-sector customers. This is the hallmark of a mature economy: companies working in a variety of sectors and

for a variety of customers and finding the kind of skilled talent they need to thrive. This kind of economic diversity is what every community longs to attain.

This work is never done, of course. In addition to Fairfax County's traditional business strengths, my office has targeted cybersecurity, data analytics and translational medicine as industry sectors with great growth potential here. The foundation is firmly in place to help Fairfax County achieve even greater economic stability and prosperity in the years ahead.

Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Fairfax County Economic
Development Authority
Tysons Corner

County Fiction* is Fact

To the Editor:

One may view fiction* as fact only if the asterisk note identifies fiction as fact. Fairfax County in its financial tables used wrong data dates on unfunded pension liabilities (UPL), except its tables often did not even include an asterisk.

Fairfax County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year 2016 shows misleading dates. The table on page 90, e.g., wrongly identifies the UPL date as "6/30/2016" — with no footnote. Embedded in 78 pages of notes is an identification of reported UPL as being "reported with a one year lag." Thus, reported UPL dates, in fact, covered the prior year.

In its 11/18/2016 release, the County CAFR 2016 covers five main pension plans. All responsible public entities have good fis-

newspapers.com.

Immediately after we publish our Mother's Day photo galleries, we will begin to ask for submissions for our annual Father's Day galleries. Each year we seem to receive many more photos for Father's Day.

We've always been curious whether that is because it is the second of the set so readers are more aware or because mothers are more likely to send in images of the fathers in their life.

Throughout the year, we ask for community submissions. Twice a year we ask you to tell us stories about your pets and how they have come into, touched and left your lives.

In late summer, we invite readers to share

what they know about their community for neighbors and newcomers alike.

And wrapping up the year, we gather writing and art from local students to fill our holiday edition. Each year, through an enormous effort by area teachers and school staff we receive more material than is possible to publish for most of our 15 editions.

In addition, regular contributions to our entertainment calendars, community bulletin boards, school notes, and business notes help us to share news in your community. We also always welcome photos and captions from community organizations (Scouts, sports teams, faith groups, school activities, etc.) and local businesses.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Fallon Forbush
Reporter
fforbush@connectionnewspapers.com

Kyle Kincaid
Editorial Assistant
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Salome Howard-Gaibler
Display Advertising
703-415-5394
salome@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising
703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theisemann
jtheisemann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheisemannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The day-long Officer Down Memorial Ride is meant to honor law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, and raise awareness of officers giving their lives while serving. Here officers lay a wreath during the 2016 event.

Officer Down Memorial Ride to Be Held April 22

Fairfax-based non-profit Officer Down Memorial Page will host its sixth annual Officer Down Memorial Ride event April 22, centered around a 60-mile motorcycle trek.

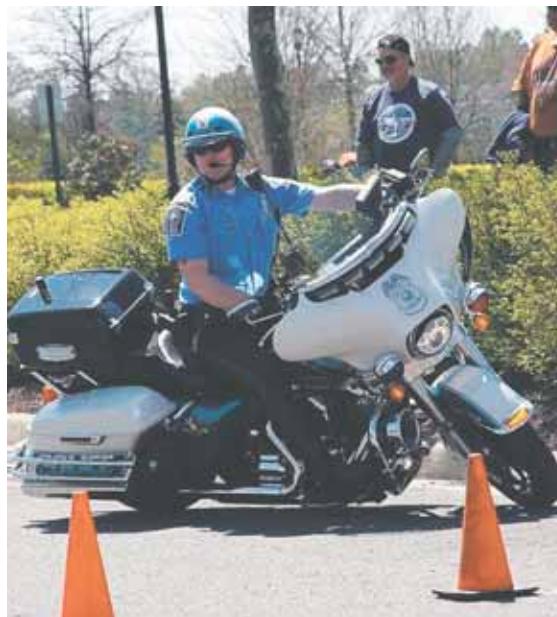
The day-long event is meant to honor law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, and raise awareness of officers giving their lives while serving.

In addition to the ride, which has seen more than 2,000 riders in past years and raised in excess of \$100,000, live music, raffles and a Police motor unit demonstration are also planned for April 22.

According to Officer Down Memorial Page, there are more than 22,000 law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

The sixth annual Officer Down Memorial Ride is scheduled for April 22 in Haymarket, Va. For more information, www.officerdownmemorialride.com.

— TIM PETERSON



In addition to the ride, which has seen more than 2,000 riders in past years and raised in excess of \$100,000, live music, raffles and a Police motor unit demonstration, like this one from 2016, are also planned for April 22.

It's Never Too Early to schedule your pool opening for 2017. Call Jonathan Ruhe & Team at Anthony & Sylvan Pools. Opening and Closing Packages (4th season free if booked before April 1) Annual Pool Maintenance Contracts 10% off if booked by April 1 703-803-7374 Ext. 3140

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Long-Term Benefits of Summer Camp

Camp experiences can enhance social and psychological development, say experts.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

As the end of the school year draws near, so does the beginning of summer camp experiences. Child development experts say that summer camps offer more than just fun; they present opportunities for emotional, social and psychological growth and development.

"Summer camps provide children with a sense of community where they can feel safe and learn through first-hand experiences," said Stacie Gottlieb, director, Bullis Summer Programs at Bullis School in Potomac, Md. "Within this setting, campers develop a sense of independence as they try new adventures in an environment different from the norm."

Children benefit from the nurturing structure of a summer camp in a way that is different from the structure they get during a school year, says Jim Supple, associate dean of students and director of Summer Programs at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "Summer camps allow children to be children," he said. "They allow them to make new friends, try new things, and learn how to be part of a group. These are attributes of camps that will promote not only healthy interaction among peers, but also building a healthy image of what type of child they want to be."

Opportunities to explore new interests and devote

intense focus to activities of particular interest to them at camp help build a child's self-confidence, says Gottlieb.

"As children explore, caring adults serve as responsible role models who help to nurture the campers by providing a safe, supervised environment of inclusion," she said. "Children gain self-confidence as they learn new things, develop social skills, expand their friendship circles and build character through planned activities. Summer camps give children a unique, fun environment to discover more about themselves and their passions."

A summer camp where children engage in new and memorable activities will sow seeds for learning during the upcoming academic year, said Shannon Melideo, Ph. D. associate dean of the School of Education & Human Services and associate professor of education at Marymount University. "For example, if your child's summer camp takes a field trip to a historical site that your son finds fascinating and then during the school year, the teacher introduces [the] same historical events and location, he has schema for the lessons. He is more likely to participate, learn more, be better prepared to read his social studies textbook, and even perform better on the exam."

Summer camp experiences that combine academic

SEE SUMMER CAMPS, PAGE 9

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLIS SUMMER PROGRAMS

Campers such as those at Bullis Summer Programs in Potomac, Md., gain life skills through summer camp experiences.

Summer Camp Learning

FROM PAGE 8

challenges and physical activity can offer fun while preventing the loss of academic gains made throughout the school year, says Melideo.

"Summer slide is the resultant learning loss students experience without educational activities outside of the academic school year," she said. "Research shows such academic regressions can be quite significant and parents have the ability to help prevent the summer slide by providing educational experiences such as high quality summer camps."

"Summer camp can be a terrific opportunity to grow your child's sense of competence and mastery over something that they love," added Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology, Northern Virginia Community College. "By picking a camp where your child has an interest, they can be mentored in a passion in ways that a typical school day often can't."

WHEN SELECTING A CAMP, Melideo advises parents to consider a complete picture of their child. "For example, while your daughter, Sophia loves softball, find a summer camp where she can refine [her] batting and pitching skills and engage with books, perform in skits, play math games, and try something new," she said.

A child's social skills can be boosted at camps which provide children with opportunities to make new friends or nurture existing friendships, says Colleen K. Vesely, Ph. D., assistant professor of Early Childhood Education and Human Development at George Mason University. "Developing new social and cognitive skills outside the physical walls and social boundaries of school can help promote healthy self-esteem in children, while spending time in nature can boost children's overall health and well-

being."

Camps offer an opportunity for children to gain skills that lead to independence. "For older children, over 8-plus years old, typically, sleep away camp offers opportunities to develop independence and self-reliance by providing children with space to navigate daily life away from the directing of parents but under the guidance of trusted adults," said Vesely.

For some parents, there are mixed emotions around enrolling a child in camp.

"Sometimes working parents feel guilty for enrolling their children in summer camps because of the need for child care during the work day," said Ivy Beringer, Ed.D., professor of Early Childhood Education and Dean for Social and Professional Sciences at Northern Virginia Community College. "However, children are usually very excited to attend summer camps. This is especially true if the children have input into the camp selection."

"Summer camps allow for continuous learning that extends beyond the regular school year [and] provide a relaxed atmosphere that stimulates their brains for creative learning without the assessment anxiety that often accompanies school classroom learning," said Beringer. "[Summer camp] enhances self-esteem by offering special interest learning in small group situations and often with a lower adult-student ratio in school settings."

"A mother recently called me with a concern that her son only wanted to attend soccer camps this summer and she felt this was too limited of an experience," continued Beringer. "My response to her was that if he was interested in improving his soccer skills she should view this in a positive light. After all, he will be outdoors in the fresh air and sunshine everyday, exercising his body, and enhancing skills in a sport he loves. What's not good about that choice?"

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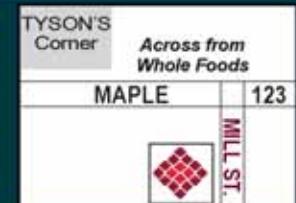
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COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Teenagers Craig Fischer and Andrea Dilao became fast friends with seniors Evelyn Wheeler and Walter Wheeler at Colvin Run Dance Hall's 85th Anniversary Celebration.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM ROSENBLUTH

Karen Reinhard and Joe Manning, Colvin Run Civic Association board member, knew how to kick up their heels and have fun on the dance floor.

The Old Girl Never Looked Better

Colvin Run Dance and Community Hall in Great Falls marks 85th anniversary.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Colvin Run Civic Association Inc., a nonprofit organization, held their 85th Anniversary Dance Celebration Saturday, April 1. They were there to recognize the association's nearly 100 years of owning and preserving a historic one-room schoolhouse the organization had turned into a vibrant dance and community hall.

Jean Rosenbluth, treasurer Colvin Run Civic Association, explained keeping the dance hall alive all these years has not always been easy. There have been challenges, especially in the late 1980s when attendance levels dwindled due to the majority of regulars aging or passing on. Acting strategically, the board changed their marketing to target a different audience — younger individuals and singles. "This changed the dance hall for good," Rosenbluth said. "It's more vibrant."

Renamed the Colvin Run Dance Hall, the former schoolhouse is conveniently located between two dynamic areas, Tysons and Reston, and is minutes off Route 7 in Great Falls. It remains surrounded by its original 1-acre of land and retains historic charm. There's an operational bell tower, tall windows and a high barrel-vaulted bead board ceiling.

Through the association's ongoing fundraising efforts and individual contributions, the organization has made many improvements to the building. The dance hall



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLVIN RUN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Colvin Run Dance Hall and Community Center retains the charm of yesterday yet boasts a professional sound system, stage and double sprung oak floor, perfect for dancing. Open to all, the hall offers dance lessons, dancing and rental opportunities.

As the mirror ball spun, Craig Fischer, 16, deftly guided his new dance partner through some fancy footwork during the dance instruction part of the celebration. Colvin Run Dance Hall is located in a turn of the century school house.

PHOTO BY
MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

sports a double sprung oak floor, viewed as the best floor for dancing as it absorbs shock and prevents injuries, and a stage. Conrad Heer is president of the Colvin Run Civic Association. "It has a professional sound system, video and food warming facilities," he said. "We rent it out for weddings, rehearsals and other special events."

As more than one hundred guests, mostly singles ranging in age from teens to seniors, arrived for the celebratory Anniversary Dance, Rosenbluth shared a bit about the building's history. It served as a classroom from 1908-1931, until dwindling atten-

dance forced Fairfax County School Board to close it. In 1931, the Circuit Court ordered the building and land to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. That bidder was the newly formed Colvin Run Civic Association, created with the sole purpose of, as Rosenbluth said, "Purchasing the schoolhouse for community use."

Bill Rosenbluth, vice president of the Colvin Run Civic Association, said that even with the Great Depression looming, eleven concerned individuals came forward with \$200 promissory notes and two with \$100 notes, to present the winning bid of \$2,600 to the Circuit Court.

Attending the event were Evelyn and Walter Wheeler, in their 90s. Heer recognized them for their lifelong commitment to the dance hall. Heer said Evelyn has been coming to the dance hall for 70 years, beginning when she was 14, and Walter served as president for many years. "Whenever we have a problem, we call Walter," Heer said.

Heer next introduced Michael Kearney, "A person who has done much for the community." Kearney told how coming to Colvin Run Dance Hall has brought such extreme joy into his life. "I've met some very wonderful people here, the nicest I've ever met. In 2014, I met the love of my life."

The 85th Anniversary Dance featured the band Mike Surratt and the ECB. Their multi-genre music ranged from Glenn Miller and sock hop to 70s and beyond. Along with Alan Jones on sax and clarinet and Joe Stec on drums, the band wowed guests as they danced late into the night under the mirror ball.

During Kearney's final remarks, he summed up the special aspects of the dance hall. "There's joy in the building that makes you feel good. It brings the community together ... people that expect nothing in return," he said. "Here's to the next generation to take it on."

For more information, visit www.colvinrun.org.



SCHOOLS



PHOTO BY LAUREN SPILIOPOLOUS

Kevin Kaldeo, Sebastian Silvestro, Steven Yi, Jacob Daniel, Robert Luebke, and Zack Tam won the best performance award for dancing to 500 Miles.

Cooper Middle Hosts Lip Sync Battle

BY SERENA KARAM

Some people that simply love to perform on stage, but can't sing for their life. Luckily, Cooper had their back. This year, on April 5, Cooper Middle School had their very first lip sync battle. This lip sync battle helped raise money for StillBrave Childhood Cancer Foundation.

StillBrave is a nonprofit organization that provides non-medical, supportive care to children with cancer and their families. If a family is struggling to be there for their child, they will do whatever they can to help ease their burden. If a family is having financial difficulties, StillBrave will strive to help with their bills and/or provide gas cards, grocery cards, and similar items.

"Knowing that all the money made at this event went to an organization as great as this one, made me even more excited to attend ... and I'm so glad that I did," said Kate Heebink (Grade 8).

A lip sync battle is a competition in which you sing along with a song and create a dance to perform on stage. There were five categories for the winners and prizes were given out as well.

The overall winners of the lip sync battle were Kevin Kaldes, Sebastian Silvestro, Steve Yi, Jacob Daniel, Robert Luebke, and Zach Tam, all performing to the song "500 Miles."



PHOTO BY NIKHITA RASTOGI/GRADE 7, COOPER MIDDLE

The winners at the lip sync battle celebrate their success.

Hundreds of dollars were raised for the organization. The founder of the organization was there to talk about his journey and how StillBrave came to be. The performances were outstanding and were very fun. A lot of people think that children our age cannot change the world, but if you look at the turnout of this event ... Cooper's students probably proved them wrong.

For more information about StillBrave or give a donation, visit stillbrave.org/.



PHOTO BY LAUREN SPILIOPOLOUS

Bella Zeleke, Sara Wellborn, and Cayla Edelstein won the best song award.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment announcements to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper.

ONGOING

A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Various times through April 23 in Vinson Hall's Community Building Ballroom, 1735 Kirby Road. The McLean Community Players' production of William Shakespeare's comedy. \$18-\$20. Visit www.McLeanPlayers.org or call 1-800-838-3006 for more information.

Ed Behrens' Photographs. Various times through April 30 at Katie's Coffee House, Village Centre, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. The showing will celebrate Ed's ten years as a member of Great Falls Studios, his very active 80th birthday. Call 703-759-0927 for more.

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean.

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia. a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. Visit www.goldengirls.org.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. \$15 per session. 571-213-3192 or www.edimprovement.org.

Fishing Rod Rentals 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Colvin Run Mill open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

Fundamentals of Watercolors. Mondays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Lorrie Herman will help students get comfortable working with watercolors and understanding this medium. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Still Life Painting. Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Still life provides a great tool to hone skills. Recommended for students of all levels. Visit www.greatfallsart.org.

Evening Painting. Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks focuses on oil painting fundamentals with two sessions each of still life, landscapes, and portrait/clothed figure from a live model. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Intro to Jewelry Design. Tuesdays 9 a.m.-noon at The Arts of Great Falls,



Layla Gray Exhibits at Great Falls Library

Romantic landscapes, visually-satisfying still life and imaginative abstracts are featured in an exhibit featuring local artist, Layla Gray, at the Great Falls Library Large Conference Room, throughout April 2017. Painted exclusively in oils, these Impressionistic paintings capture beautiful international scenes, as well as colorful still life of flowers, fruit and vegetables. Additionally, a carefully-selected grouping of abstract paintings is included. Great Falls Library is located at 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

756 Walker Road, Great Falls. JJ Singh teaches a class for anyone interested in exploring the world of metal clay and its design possibilities. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 20

Quilt Restoration. 10:15 a.m. at the Fairfax Antique Arts Association, Green Acre Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Presentation and samples provided by Clara Sue Ashley and Chris Young of the Quilt Shop of McLean on the varying processes that can be used. Members are encouraged to bring in family pieces. Call 703-273-6090 for more.

John McCutcheon Concert. 8 p.m. in the Barns at Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk music's Renaissance man from Georgia. \$25-28. Visit www.wolftrap.org for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

Family Fishing Rodeo. 9 a.m. at Wildwood Park, 700 block of Follin Lane SE. The creek will be stocked with hundreds of trout, bring a fishing rod, bucket, plastic bag, and ice. \$3. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

Spring Community Garage Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the parking garage located at 1420 Beverly Road. The McLean Community Center will hold its annual Spring Community Garage Sale. Free admission. Call 703-790-0123, or visit www.mcleancenter.org/special-events for more.

APRIL 22-MAY 31

Artists Show. Various times at the Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. "Levels of Abstraction," show featuring the works of Hiromi Ashlin, Genna Gurvich, Sandi Ritchie Miller, and Buck Nelligan. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net or call 703-450-8005 for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 23

Amadeus Orchestra. 4 p.m. at Saint

Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A pre-concert lecture by Music Director A. Scott Wood will begin at 3:15 p.m., 45 minutes prior to the start of the concert. \$30, students 17 and under and active military are admitted free of charge. amadeusconcerts.com

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

Blood Drive. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Long and Foster, 1355 Beverly Road, McLean. Long and Foster is partnering with Children's National for a blood drive, the blood mobile will be located in the front of the building. Call 703-790-1990 or visit www.cnmcblooddonor.com.

Tree Celebration. 4:30 p.m. at Meadow Lane Park, 400 Courthouse Road SW. In celebration of Arbor Day, Mayor Laurie DiRocco will be joined by Cub Scout Pack 1116 to plant an oak tree. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

Dinner and Whisky. 7 p.m. at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Tyson's Corner, 8521 Leesburg Pike. Introducing a five-course dinner paired with Johnnie Walker Whisky. Call 703-848-4290 or visit www.ruthschris.com/Restaurant-Locations/tynsons-corner for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 28

Community Service and Scholarship Awards Gala. 7 p.m. Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Urban League honoring champions in the community for leadership and community service and awarding student scholarships. Call 703-836-2858 or visit www.nvul.org.

Fairfax Genealogical Society. 7:30 p.m. at Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station Hall, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Sarah R. Fleming presentation "From the Ashes—A Burned County Case Study," efforts to piece together evidence to determine ancestors; reviews strategies and records used despite a courthouse fire. Call 703-644-8185 or visit www.fxgs.org/events.

ENTERTAINMENT



Live Music

Willy Porter in concert at Jammin' Java in Vienna on Monday, May 1. Performing with his singing/songwriting partner, Carmen Nickerson. Visit www.jamminjava.com/ for more.

APRIL 28-30

Spring Art Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday at Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. ValeArts "Fresh Paint," Spring Art Show features guest artists Mary Beth Gaiarin and Andrea Cybik among others. Visit www.valearts.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Rummage Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Donate gently used items in the Fellowship Hall April 24-28 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 703-281-3987 or visit www.GoodShepherdVa.com.

Fairfax County Anniversary. 8:30

a.m.-3 p.m., Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St. "A Place Called Home: Fairfax County. A 275th Anniversary Event" is a day-long exploration of the history of Fairfax County. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-293-6227, ext. 6.

Korean Culture and Food Forum. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, 1219 Swincks Mill Road, McLean. Cultural programs such as Korean dance performances, paper folding, trying on traditional Korean costumes and games for children. Call 703-863-2259 for more.

"Preserving Family Heirlooms". 10 a.m. at Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station Hall, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Tina Beard presents a brief

SUNDAY/APRIL 30

Green Expo. 2-5 p.m. at the Windover Heights Historic District, 277 Windover Ave., Vienna. The yards and gardens of approximately 50 homes in the Town's northwest historic district will be open to visitors as part of the annual Walk on the Hill. Open air artist, jazz ensemble, Hickory Grove performances and historic tour. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

MONDAY/MAY 1

Love Your Baby Day. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Beloved Yoga, 1137 Walker Road, Suite 2, Great Falls. Learn about the many aspects of the prenatal and postnatal journey and support available to have a healthy pregnancy, and raise a healthy and happy baby and family. Visit www.belovedyoga.com for more.

history of paper manufacturing and photography while describing how to store and preserve such items, and techniques for preserving historic and modern scrapbooks. Call 703-644-8185 or visit www.fxgs.org/events.

Taste of Vienna. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department fire station at 400 Center St. S. Free admission and live entertainment. Proceeds from the sale of food and beverages will benefit the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. Visit tasteofvienna.org for more.

Homeless Community Forum. 1-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Representatives from local government, nonprofits, and faith groups gather for a community forum on homelessness in Fairfax County. Call 703-281-1767, or visit unityoffairfax.org for more.

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Tickets: Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006 OR www.McLeanPlayers.org

Audio description for the visually-impaired will be offered by the Metropolitan Washington Ear at the matinee performance on Sunday, Apr. 23, 2017. See the Accessibility page on MCP's website for more details.
The McLean Community Players, Inc. is funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

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Credit The Card



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm not a big spender, maybe a medium spender — on my best day. My brother is a big spender, my father was, too. My mother, probably who I most likely take after: 'medium' and judicious, again, like me (or is it me like her?). Nevertheless, the money got spent and if there was more of it, it likely would have got spent, too. It's not as if I was deprived growing up, I got the things that mattered — in the long run. I just didn't get everything money could buy.

But that was before credit cards. Well, before Visa, MasterCard, Discover and Capital One. Sure, there were department store cards: Filene's, Jordon Marsh, Kennedy's — in Boston, and off course there were gas cards: Esso, Amoco and Arco, and I suppose I recall knowing about American Express and Diner's Club, but they weren't used by everybody everywhere, certainly not by the Louries. Now, plastic is the currency by which many of us pay to play, and some of us use to merely stay in the game.

And for me, it sort of is a game: how long can I go without charging something and how much can I charge and still be able to pay the balance off when the next monthly credit card bill arrives? As I contemplate my daily/weekly/bi-weekly/monthly inflow and outgo, I associate my efforts at restraint and attempted control with that of a levee, if I understand their function correctly — which I might not: bend and not break? Like some NFL team defenses are often described.

The problem arises — for both me and the levee, when the levee/spending restraint breaks (quite the opposite of brakes/stops). That's when the damage occurs. That's when the balance overflows. That's when good, bad and indifferent money follows. In for a dime, in for dollars, some of which don't make sense. Once that resolve is weakened, and once that wallet is opened and that credit card is handed over, I feel very much the addict. Once I've started — and stopped denying myself the pleasure of the purchase, I find it extremely difficult to get off the spending bus. Invariably, it's taken me awhile to get on so whether it's sensory deprivation, deferred gratification or premature escalation, there are no more skid marks on that slippery slope. The race is on, so to speak and until I hit my imaginary financial wall, my credit card balance is going onward and upward.

Sure it feels good to spend money I don't have without considering the pay-back consequences. Presumably, the benefits derived from the purchase will help soothe the savage, impoverished beast as he jiggles and then jiggles the dollars in order to find some cents. I imagine that's what makes the world go 'round: short term pain for long term gain. Still, it doesn't feel much like progress and progress is what feels good to me. Although, these new Rockport leather slip-ons with the "cushiony" soles and orthotic inserts are improving my disposition and lessening the pain in my feet and fatigue in my legs, it still costs me money not in my wallet.

I admit, I am enjoying the support and comfort my new shoes are providing. But I'm also keenly aware that I haven't received the credit card bill yet reflecting there and other slippery-slope purchases made that same weekend. And when the piper has to be paid, I may not like my new shoes — among other items, nearly as much as I do right now. Right now, the shoes are free. Soon they won't be.

Further complicating this spending-not-spending dilemma is the fact that I'm a 62-year-old cancer patient; how do I deprive myself of any creature comforts when I have recurring highly stressful situations that give me, and my life-expectancy, pause. Naturally, I'd rather pay my way — and my share, but at what cost? I suppose cash in hand is still worth two in the bush, but if a credit card is all I have ... ? Either I use it or lose it. The pain and/or pleasure will likely follow regardless.

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

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Obituary

Mary Barbara Scholz passed away on Thursday April 6, 2017 at INOVA Fairfax Hospital after an extended illness. She was predeceased by her parents Fritz Joseph and Mary Elizabeth Scholz, who were lovingly cared for by Barbara, during their health challenges. She is survived by her brother Fritz J Scholz III of Leesburg, Virginia. Barbara affectionately known as BB by family, grew up in Roanoke, Virginia, graduated from Mary Baldwin and received a Master's Degree from the University of Virginia. Her Career in Education took her to Germany, Oregon, Maryland and finally to Fairfax County, Virginia, where she retired as High School English teacher. Anyone knowing Barbara understood her passion for reading and her love for dogs, as she had many in her home and heart. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In Lieu of Flowers, the family request that memorial contribution be made to the humane Society of Fairfax County, 4057 Chain Bridge Rd. Fairfax, Virginia 22030. Please share condolences with the family www.LoudounFuneralChapel.com

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21 Announcements

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ABC LICENSE

Board Room VA, LLC trading as The Board Room, 925 N Garfield Street, Arlington, Arlington County, VA 22201-2179. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off; Mixed Beverage Restaurant (seating capacity 151 seating or more) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Mark R. Handwerger, Managing Member authorizing advertisement. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.gov

ABC LICENSE

Board Room VA, LLC trading as The Board Room, 925 N Garfield Street, Arlington, Arlington County, VA 22201-2179. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Brewery; Wine and Beer On and Off; Mixed Beverage Restaurant (seating capacity 151 seating or more) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Mark R. Handwerger, Managing Member authorizing advertisement. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

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ABC LICENSE

Flik International Corp. trading as Flik International, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Caterer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Scott Davis, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

ABC LICENSE

Flik International Corp. trading as Flik International, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On & Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Scott Davis, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

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I, Janeen Adi Madan, currently residing in Arlington VA, have changed my name from Janeen Adi Madan to Janeen Madan Keller. (As per order approved by the Circuit Court of Arlington County, dated April 4, 2017).

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Zone 1: The Reston Connection

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Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet

The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North

Centre View South

Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac

The Arlington Connection

The Vienna/Oakton Connection

The McLean Connection

The Great Falls Connection

To have community events listed in the Connection, visit connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

THROUGH SUMMER

Vienna Street-sweeping Program. The Town of Vienna began its annual street-sweeping program beginning March 20. The Town is divided into eight sections for purposes of the sweeping program. During the first pass through Town, the Public Works Department asks that residents not park on the street. Find the "sweeping" sections at viennava.gov/sweeping. Additionally, signs will be placed on streets marking a window of 7-10 days during which the truck will come through. Contact public works at 703-255-6380.

TUESDAY/APRIL 25

Autism Awareness Month. 7-8:30 p.m. at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Glen Finland's memoir, "Next Stop," is a moving account of a family caring for a child with special needs. Finland will share her own hard-won lessons as well as strategies and insights she has learned about the individual dynamics of families who have children with special needs. Register online at bit.ly/2nLCy9s or call 703-204-3941.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

Autism Awareness Month. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other cognitive disabilities may not recognize danger, react well in an emergency or be able to seek help. Attend this workshop to learn safety risks for individuals with special needs, proactive steps to reduce the risk of potential dangers, information on the new Yellow Dot Program and more. Register online at bit.ly/2ogNf84 or call 703-204-3941.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at McLean District Station, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Drop off unused or expired medications at a Fairfax County Police district station (pills or liquids only, no pressurized canisters or needles). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb or email wwwcsb@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

TUESDAY/MAY 2

Town Elections. 6 a.m.-7 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna. Town of Vienna residents will cast votes for three Vienna Town Council seats. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 7

Talk about Planning "Life Celebrations" 2 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Program Bldg Rms 3 & 4, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Mary Albrethsen, licensed funeral director and embalmer, will discuss current trends in the funeral industry at the semi-annual meeting of the Memorial Society of Northern Virginia. All are welcome. Call Ron Brandt, 703-765-4779 or gronbrandt@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmaf.org. The Center's website is www.scmaf.org

ONGOING

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call Dora Lockwood at 401-864-4778 for more.



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