



# McLean CONNECTION

# Thousands Enjoy McLean Fireworks

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Bala Deepa Balasubrahmanyam of McLean (right), who was born in India, and her sons Pranav, 11, and Krishiv, 2, watch the fireworks display as they are set off.

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PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

## Kohlenberger Honored As Friend in Deed

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**Lia Chandra, 15, of McLean (left) swings with her friend and McLean High School classmate Lily Cooper, 16 (right), on the playground before the fireworks show.**



**Retired Army Veteran Bob Molepske, commander of the McLean Post 270 of the American Legion, gave out 500 American flags to those who attended the celebration.**

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

## Thousands Enjoy McLean Fireworks

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**A** total of 1,348 shells burst in the 20-minute fireworks show in McLean on Independence Day. The spectacle, “McLean’s 2017 Independence Day Celebration” was put on by the McLean Community Center at the Churchill Road Elementary School.

Not including neighbors who could view the blasts from their own homes, more than 3,000 people were estimated to have watched the display from the school by walking to the site or by taking school buses that were provided to shuttle passengers from St. John’s Episcopal Church on Georgetown Pike and the McLean Baptist Church on Chain Bridge Road.

Before dark, children played on the school’s playground and families lounged on the grass while listening to music played by a DJ. People also took advantage of the Churchill Road Park that adjoins the school property by throwing flying discs and playing ball.

Food trucks were also on site for those who worked up an appetite, including:

- ❖ ice cream from Westray’s Finest Ice Cream;
- ❖ shaved ice from Tiki Treats DC;
- ❖ lobster rolls and seafood by Red Hook Lobster Pound; and
- ❖ grilled cheese sandwiches from the Big Cheese truck by Java Cruiser.

The MCC budgeted \$62,000 for the event to pay for security, rental equipment, school property rental, transportation and of course the fireworks, which were done by East Coast Pyrotechnics, according to Catherine Nesbitt, the MCC’s special events manager.

“Due to the expense of the fireworks, we always put in a rain date for the following day in case we are unable to shoot the night



**Christel Saab of McLean throws a flying disk to her son Damien, 10, in the Churchill Road Park while the DJ plays music before the fireworks show.**



**Damien Saab, 10, of McLean catches a flying disk in the Churchill Road Park while the DJ plays music before the fireworks show.**



**Henry Zhou, 7, of McLean rides a scooter around the track at Churchill Road Elementary School as people claim spots in their lawn chairs and blankets for the fireworks show.**

of July 4,” she said.

Though bursts of rain showers poured over the county in the early evening, the

weather cleared up in time for the show to go on as scheduled.

The annual fireworks show, which are

usually launched from property at Langley High School, were set off from the Cooper Middle School, since the high school is undergoing renovation work.

“Until we can look at returning to Langley High School for this event, the Cooper Middle School site remains the only suitable shooting site in McLean with the proper safety distances approved by the Fire Marshall,” Nesbitt said.

Laurelie Wallace, chair of the MCC Governing Board, took time from her speech before the fireworks went off to address the community center’s own 18-month renovation, which began in March.

“As many of you know, the McLean Community Center is currently being renovated at the Ingleside [Avenue] location,” Wallace said. “Just a brief update to let you know that the project is currently underway, on budget and on time,” she added.

Wallace then led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced the playing of a recording of the Star-Spangled Banner by Whitney Houston, which was recorded when she sang the national anthem to kick off the Super Bowl in Tampa, Florida, on Jan. 17, 1991.

“Happy birthday, America,” Wallace said as the fireworks began to boom.

## Problems for Public Health

**Increasing the number of uninsured is bad for the rest of us, and the economy.**

**T**he proposed plan in the U.S. Senate to give the wealthiest Americans massive tax cuts by cutting health coverage for people who are poor, have disabilities and elders, would also affect the rest of the population, and the economy.

People without health insurance face economic uncertainty. When they do incur medical bills, they often cannot pay them in full. This increases costs to providers and decreases the ability to participate in the economy.

People without health insurance are sicker than people with insurance, but they also often can't afford to stay home from work, often exposing others to preventable illnesses. They are less likely to have flu shots and other routine immunizations that protect all of us, including those with the weakest immune systems and those who cannot be vaccinated.

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine was in Springfield this week talking to people who depend on Medicaid coverage. He and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner have been active in opposing these major cuts to health care.

This bears repeating — here are some other consequences of proposals in the Senate bill:

- ❖ Millions of people lose their health insurance — 22 million fewer would have health insurance by 2026 according to the Congressional Budget Office analysis.

- ❖ In Virginia, more than 14,000 veterans could lose coverage under Medicaid.

- ❖ States could opt out of the law's essential health benefits measure, which requires insurers to cover 10 main benefits, including hospitalization, prescription drugs and other services. That is, companies could sell health insurance that wouldn't actually be health insurance. Would Virginia be a state that opts out? Quite likely.

- ❖ Loss of coverage for pre-existing conditions, including cancer survivors, people who had transplants, people with asthma, arthritis, high cholesterol, hypertension, obesity, mental health issues, ADD, etc.

- ❖ Ending annual and lifetime coverage caps would also impact people who get health insurance from their employers and the private insurance market. For example, a serious accident or an illness that requires repeated surgeries or bone marrow transplants could put any one of us over the coverage cap.

- ❖ Medicaid pays public schools for many services for special education students, but the Senate bill removes schools from eligible Medicaid providers, costing Virginia an estimated \$40 million annually; \$3 million in Fairfax County; \$2 million in the City of Alexandria.

- ❖ \$800 billion plus in cuts to Medicaid puts the funding for most people who are currently in nursing homes at risk. Many of these are people who were middle class and but outlived

their savings and coverage.

- ❖ In Virginia, the proposed changes to Medicaid would cost the state \$1.4 billion over seven years.

- ❖ Medicaid pays for much of the fight against opioid addiction, including treatment. Cuts would be devastating to efforts to counter the wave of overdose deaths and other effects of addiction.

- ❖ Coverage for mental health treatment, including addiction treatment, is threatened both by cuts to Medicaid and by changes in the private insurance market.

- ❖ There will be greater need for Medicaid over time. More seniors will be poor, as fewer people who are retiring have pensions or adequate retirement savings. The demand for nursing home beds will be increasing as the population ages.

Read last week's editorial, "Killing the Poor to Pay Millionaires," here: [www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jun/27/opinion-editorial-killing-poor-pay-millionaires/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jun/27/opinion-editorial-killing-poor-pay-millionaires/)

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS

### Send in Your Pet Photos Now

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of July, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 20.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a pet? Is your business about pets?

Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

Email to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com) or submit online at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets).

## Heartbreak and Hope **U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly hosts Alzheimer's Town Hall.**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**A**lzheimer's disease will touch every American family at some time or other. There aren't many other conditions you can say that about. Today, Alzheimer's kills more people each year than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined," said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) to the attendees of the Town Hall meeting at the headquarters of the National Capital Area Alzheimer's Association in McLean on Monday, June 10.

Connolly was one of several speakers on the agenda, that included representatives from the National Alzheimer's Association, the Agency on Aging from Fairfax and Prince William counties, the Virginia Alzheimer's Commission, and

the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.

Cindy Schelhorn, senior director of communication with the Alzheimer's Association, opened the event and Connolly began the session with a personal story about the disease's effect on his own family. "My Irish immigrant grandmother survived the boat journey to America, even being robbed on the ship. She worked hard. She saved. She was able to bring her own mother and her brothers over from Ireland. She wasn't able to fight off Alzheimer's."

Connolly told of his grandmother's strength from years of hard work "and walking to Mass everyday." In some ways, said the congressman, her physical fitness proved to be less than a blessing after the disease struck. "She lived

a long time with Alzheimer's. Watching her fade away before my eyes was one of the most difficult things I had to deal with growing up. The worst is knowing your loved one knows something isn't right, but there is nothing they can do."

**THE CONGRESSMAN** has co-sponsored the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act and the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act, supported the RAISE Family Caregivers Act and is a member of the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's. But he is concerned. "The President's FY 2018 Budget, and many of the bills currently on the table would wreak havoc, throwing people out of nursing homes

SEE HEARTBREAK AND HOPE. PAGE 10



## NEWS

# Kohlenberger Honored As Friend in Deed

## McLean Community Leader Paul Kohlenberger receives 2017 'Friend in Deed' Award from The Friends of the McLean Community Center.

Paul Kohlenberger has been named the Friends of the McLean Community Center (FMCC) organization's 2017 "Friend in Deed." Kohlenberger is the 26<sup>th</sup> person to receive this award "with gratitude for outstanding leadership and support of the McLean Community Center." FMCC President W. Glenn Yarborough, Jr. presented the award at the group's annual meeting on Monday, June 5. At the completion of the McLean Community Center's renovation, Kohlenberger's name will be added to the list of award recipients on the "Friend in Deed" plaque, which is displayed in the Center's main lobby.

Kohlenberger, who is president

of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce and of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, is a longtime resident of McLean who is active in a number of community organizations. He has been instrumental in promoting the FMCC through helping establish the group's website, offering new program ideas, promoting membership initiatives and documenting the Friends history and role in the building of the McLean Community Center (MCC). Some of his program ideas have included the Friends' 50th Anniversary Reception held in 2014 and the "Meet the Candidates" receptions, which provide a platform for community members to meet the candidates running for election to MCC's Governing Board. In addition,



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCC

**Friends of the McLean Community Center President W. Glenn Yarborough, Jr. (right) presents the award to Paul Kohlenberger.**

Kohlenberger, a two-term member of the MCC Governing Board, served for three years as the Liaison from the Board to FMCC.

According to Yarborough, Kohlenberger has been instrumental in assisting the organization to progress in a number of ways. "Paul always has new ideas to move the Friends of the MCC for-

ward. He goes the extra mile by always making himself available to help — be it day or night. Most of all, Paul's love and dedication to the McLean community and the Center has always been most evident."

For more information on Friends of MCC or to volunteer, visit [www.friendsmcc.com](http://www.friendsmcc.com).

## McLean Little League Hosts Softball Tournament

McLean Little League is hosting the 2017 Virginia State Softball Tournament from Thursday, July 13, through Tuesday, July 18. Teams from all over Virginia will play at the fields in McLean. Sponsors who helped bring this tournament to McLean include:

❖ Grand Slam Sponsors: Giant Food, PNC Bank, Moe's, The Werth Family

❖ Home Run Sponsors: Wegmans, Red Five, Wawa, Sheetz, McLean Properties, American Legion Post 270, The Marenberg Family

❖ RBI Sponsors: Color Service Printing, Rocco's, Kim Dermatology, Lebanese Taverna, Staybridge Suites Tysons, Burke and Herbert Bank, Wheat's Landscaping, Chick Fil-A Tysons

Area residents are encouraged to consider volunteering for the event. McLean Little League is looking for adult and teen volunteers — an opportunity for teens to work on their community service hours. Snack bar volunteers must be 13 and older and there can be only two teen volunteers in the snack bar at one time. Multiple days and times available. To sign up, visit: [www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4ea4a62ca5fb6-2017](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4ea4a62ca5fb6-2017)

McLean Little League is inviting the community to come out to the games to see the best softball players in the state battle it out.

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# Local REAL ESTATE

## April, 2017 Top Sales in McLean

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DEB STEVENS/  
THE ALMANAC

IN APRIL 2017, 114 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN  
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2 6700 Lupine Lane — \$3,400,000



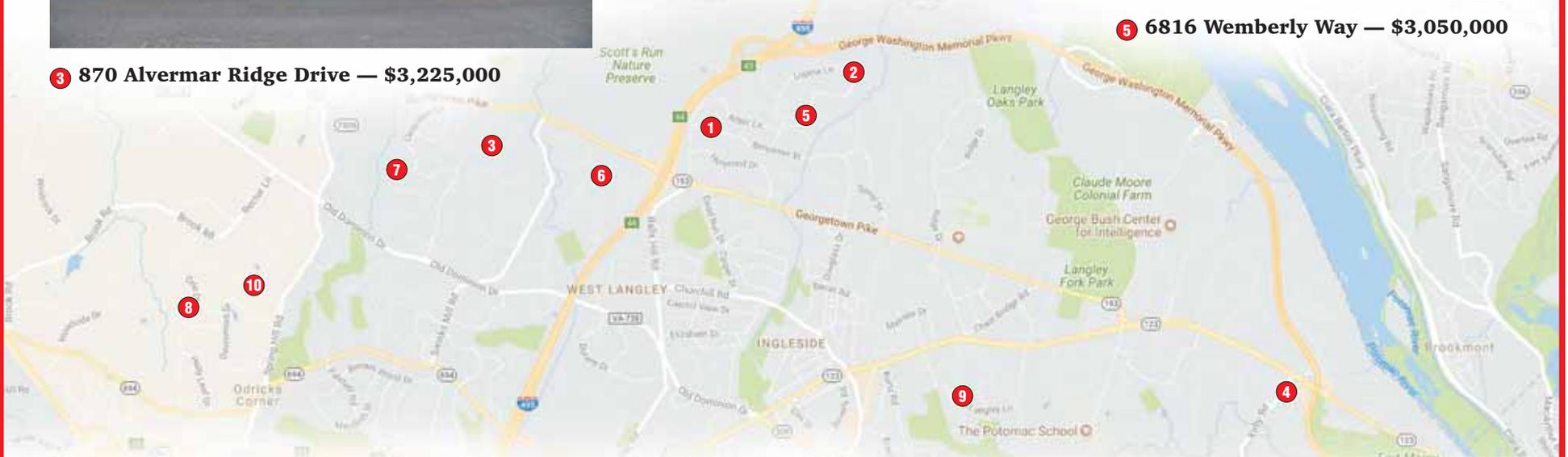
3 870 Alvermar Ridge Drive — \$3,225,000



6 921 Saigon Road — \$2,825,250



5 6816 Wemberly Way — \$3,050,000



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1 7100 BENJAMIN ST	6	7	2	.....	MCLEAN	\$4,500,000	Detached	0.97	22101	LANGLEY FOREST	04/03/17
2 6700 LUPINE LN	7	7	2	.....	MCLEAN	\$3,400,000	Detached	0.99	22101	PARKVIEW HILLS	04/04/17
3 870 ALVERMAR RIDGE DR	8	7	2	.....	MCLEAN	\$3,225,000	Detached	0.93	22102	THE RESERVE	04/28/17
4 1317 KIRBY RD	6	6	2	.....	MCLEAN	\$3,150,000	Detached	0.57	22101	WESTMONT	04/11/17
5 6816 WEMBERLY WAY	6	5	2	.....	MCLEAN	\$3,050,000	Detached	0.56	22101	LANGLEY FOREST	04/13/17
6 921 SAIGON RD	6	6	2	.....	MCLEAN	\$2,825,250	Detached	0.60	22102	SAIGON	04/14/17
7 7845 WESTMONT LN	7	7	2	.....	MCLEAN	\$2,807,000	Detached	1.53	22102	GARFIELD PARK	04/14/17
8 8403 BROOKWOOD CT	6	6	1	.....	MCLEAN	\$2,600,000	Detached	0.82	22102	WOODLEA MILL	04/12/17
9 6514 LANGLEY LN	4	5	1	.....	MCLEAN	\$2,390,000	Detached	1.09	22101	SALONA VILLAGE	04/03/17
10 8309 WELLER AVE	5	5	2	.....	MCLEAN	\$2,350,000	Detached	0.51	22102	WOODHAVEN	04/21/17



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# Home LifeStyle

## Redefining Space

Designer thinks outside the proverbial box.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**A** local interior designer believes in thinking outside the box when it comes to making the best use of space in one's home.

"My advice to homeowners is to embrace spaces within their homes as if they were never assigned," said Joe Van Goethem of Joseph Van Goethem Interior Design in McLean. "Depending on location, a space previously designated as a walk-in closet can be purposefully transformed into an intimate guest bedroom, home office, or multipurpose wine cellar and bar."

Van Goethem followed his own advice when he transformed a walk-in foyer closet in his home into a multipurpose wine cellar, complete with a wine refrigerator, beer cooler, ice maker and cigar humidor. "Why a walk-in closet if it's seldom used, and only to become an open invitation for hidden clutter?" he asked. "Envision new, functional possibilities for every space within your home."

Van Goethem, who not only designed the space, but also completed the construction himself, believes that "playing with scale and attention to every detail are key when considering the transformation of a confined space such as a walk-in closet," he said. "[The] closet had a nondescript narrow solid door, glued-down wood veneer floor, shelving and hanging rods, and one light fixture."

In finishing the project, Van Goethem widened the door framing to accommodate a new French door and added storage space for a concealed television. He also installed an intercom to allow those in the cellar to communicate with those in the kitchen.

"I ripped up the old floor [and replaced it] with Spanish marble tile flooring," he said. "I added a baseboard and crown moulding, and created a grid of moulding on the walls which I painted with Farrow & Ball's Purbeck Stone. I installed Extra

**"My advice to homeowners is to embrace spaces within their homes as if they were never assigned."**

— Joe Van Goethem of Joseph Van Goethem Interior Design



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE VAN GOETHEM

**Interior designer Joe Van Goethem transformed a walk-in closet in his McLean home into a wine cellar.**

Fine Arrowroot Grasscloth hand crafted wallcovering by Phillip Jeffries within the recesses of the grid."

Van Goethem said his goal was to make the design of the new cellar consistent with the aesthetics of the rest of his home. The space includes a large drum light fixture and side lamps. An oversized cabinet holds the stemware and barware. He added a commissioned seascape painting by California artist Jonathan Koch and modern teapots by Washington, D.C. ceramicist Joe Hicks.

"Details are important in design, but they are everything ... when transforming a small space like the repurposing of a walk-in closet," said Van Goethem.

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07/27/2017 at 12:00 PM

### Speaker:

**James Simsarian, MD**  
Neurology Center of Fairfax

### Location:

Capital Grille  
1861 International Drive  
McLean, VA 22102

Event Code: TR426891 (1407059)

### PLEASE RSVP\*:

- [RelapsingMultipleSclerosisEvents.com](http://RelapsingMultipleSclerosisEvents.com)
- 1-866-703-6293
- [MSRSVP@ahmdirect.com](mailto:MSRSVP@ahmdirect.com)

\*Registration is limited to two people per RSVP. Photo ID may be requested at event entrance.

**Complimentary parking or valet available.**  
**A light meal or snack may be provided.**

## ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment announcements to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### ONGOING

#### Great Falls Farmers Market.

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email [kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org](mailto:kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org) for more.

#### The Light of Day Paintings.

Through July 15, various times Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Featuring landscape paintings by Michael Godfrey, Christine Lashley, Tricia Ratliff, and Rajendra KC. Call 703-450-8005 for more.

#### Julie Cochran Photography.

Various times through July 29 at the Vienna Arts Gallery, 513 Maple Ave. W. Exhibit called "Lotus-Palooza." Call 703-319-3971 or visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org) for more.

#### Sunny Days Art.

Artists exhibition through July 29 at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Sunny Days exhibition. Call 703-319-3971 or visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org) for more.

#### "Summer in the City" Art Show.

Normal business hours through Aug. 15 at Brightview, 10200 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Members of Great Falls Studios will exhibit their work in a show. Call 703-759-2513 for more.

#### Stories and Sprinklers.

Wednesdays through Aug. 2, 1:30 p.m. at 144



### Art at Katie's Coffee House

Coty Dickson will display her oil paintings depicting "Local Scenes We Love" during the month of July during normal business hours at Katie's Coffee House, Great Falls Village Centre, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Visit [oldbrogue.com/katies-coffee-house](http://oldbrogue.com/katies-coffee-house) or call 703-759-2759 for details.

Maple Ave. E., Vienna (behind the Freeman Store). Hear a story. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) or call 703-255-6360.

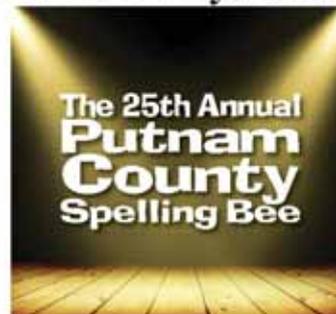
**Free Tai Chi.** Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison

Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit [www.FreeTaiChi.org](http://www.FreeTaiChi.org) for more.

**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

### McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

## Opens Friday, July 14!



Music & Lyrics by William Finn Book by Rachel Sheinkin

Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

Additional material by Jay Reiss Originally directed on Broadway by James Lapine

Produced by Annie O'Neill Galvin and Diane Sams

Directed by Kevin and Pamela McCormack

Choreographed by Kathleen McCormack

Music Directed by Lori Roddy

## July 14-30

Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.; Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Performances at Vinson Hall Retirement Community

Community Building Ballroom

1735 Kirby Road, McLean, VA 22101

Tickets: Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006 OR [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org)

Audio description will be offered by the Metropolitan Washington Ear on Sunday, July 23, 2017.

The McLean Community Players, Inc. is funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Traveling Players to Present Three Classical Plays

**A one-day festival takes place July 21 at The Madeira School.**

**A**fter weeks of learning classical theatre, practicing movement and vocalizing, and fending off gnats and mosquitoes, Traveling Players' youth ensembles will present a festival of three classical plays on July 21, 2017.

The schedule for the full day is:

- ❖ 4:30-5:30 "Atum's Eye"
- ❖ 5:30-6:30 "The Blue Monster"
- ❖ 6:30-7:30 intermission for dinner (picnicking is welcome)
- ❖ 7:30-9 p.m. "As You Like It"

Tickets are \$10, available at the door. Guests may want to bring picnic items, lawn chairs, insect spray, and flash lights. Camping chairs will be available for rent. In the event of rain, the performances will be held in Madeira's Chapel Auditorium.

The outdoor festival is the final stop on a performance tour by each ensemble, and features a trio of classic plays.

In "Atum's Eye," adapted from an Egyptian creation myth by Judy White, a father's search for his missing children leads to a quest across time and space, through an-



PHOTO BY NOAH PILCHEN

**The Blue Monster 2012. Traveling Players' youth ensembles will present a festival of three classical plays on July 21, 2017.**

cient tombs and the underworld... and onto the set of a very unusual gameshow.

In "The Blue Monster," by Carlo Gozzi, true love is tested by magic transformations, deceitful nobles, and a seven-headed hydra. The playfully dramatic script mixes fast-talking comedy with fairytale spectacle.

In Shakespeare's "As You Like It," faithful cousins and vengeful siblings, city clowns and country clowns, poetic trees and pro-saic sheep, all tell the story of how we find

true love (and our true selves) in nature.

Traveling Players Ensemble's mission is to bring great theatre into the great outdoors. To do this, they offer summer camps for elementary, middle and high school students, where they learn to practice their craft with the barest of props, directed by experienced theatre professionals. They also spend most of their time outdoors, even camping out once a week.

The combination of expert training and

outdoor settings creates an experience for the campers that is unique in the world of theatre programs.

The camp still has a few select openings in its programs which continue through the summer, including camps in August.

Traveling Players is in residence at The Madeira School in McLean, where they will host a second festival on Friday, Aug. 18. Also at the Madeira School, on Aug. 11, Traveling Players' most experienced performers will perform Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors," alongside a remount of "Atum's Eye."

Founded in 2003, Traveling Players has been invited to perform at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Colonial Williamsburg, Shenandoah National Park, Reston's Multicultural Festival, and the International Children's Festival at Wolf Trap. Traveling Players Ensemble was selected as one of 25 model summer arts programs by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Traveling Players is supported in part by the Art Council of Fairfax County, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For directions to Madeira, visit [www.madeira.org/about-madeira/contact-us/](http://www.madeira.org/about-madeira/contact-us/).

For more information, visit [www.travelingplayers.org](http://www.travelingplayers.org) or call 703-987-1712.

## CALENDAR

welcome. Play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. Visit [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org).

**Bingo Night.** Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S., Vienna. \$10. [www.vvfd.org/bingo.html](http://www.vvfd.org/bingo.html).

**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/](http://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](http://www.greatfallsart.org) for more.

**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](http://www.greatfallsart.org) for more.

### THURSDAY/JULY 13

**Driftwood in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15-25. Visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com) for more.

### FRIDAY/JULY 14

**Bat Watching.** 6-7:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Learn about bats, sit around the campfire and make s'mores. \$8. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/).

### JULY 14-30

**Summer Musical.** 8-10:30 p.m. or Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. at Vinson Hall Retirement Community, Community Building Ballroom, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean. McLean players present "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." \$23-25. Email [publicity@McLeanPlayers.org](mailto:publicity@McLeanPlayers.org), call 703-304-3176 or visit [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org).

### SATURDAY/JULY 15

**Model Railroad Exhibit.** 1-5 p.m. at Northern Virginia Model Railroaders, 231 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna. Model train and trolley activities that realistically depict an actual railroad that existed in North Carolina in the 1950s. Visit [www.nvmr.org](http://www.nvmr.org).

### JULY 15-16

**Summer Colonial Market Fair.** 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Games, children's activities, music and educational demonstrations such as the blacksmith, spinning, candle-making and splitting rails. Children and

Seniors: \$4; Adults: \$8; children under 3 free; directions and more at [www.1771.org](http://www.1771.org).

### SUNDAY/JULY 16

**American Legion Breakfast.** 8 a.m.-noon at the American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St. N., Vienna. Buffet includes omelets, blueberry, pancakes, sausage, bacon and more. \$9, ages 12 and under, \$3. Call 703-938-6580 for more.

**Da Capo Barbershop Quartet.** 5 p.m. at McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Barbershop quartet style music with various music styles. Part of The Alden at the McLean Community Center's 2017 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org).

**Concerts on the Green.** 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. The Oxymorons are featured. Visit [www.celebrategreatfalls.org](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org).

### MONDAY/JULY 17

**JD Eicher Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Call 877-987-6487 or visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com) for more.

### FRIDAY/JULY 21

**Chillin' on Church.** 6:30 p.m. at Church St., Vienna. Water games, Harlen Simple band playing rock/funk/blues. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) or call 703-255-6360.

**Delta Spur Concert.** 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson's Concert Series. Visit [www.tysonscornercenter.com](http://www.tysonscornercenter.com) or call 703-893-9401 for more.

### SUNDAY/JULY 23

**Mountain Music Concert.** 5 p.m. at

McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Slim Harrison and the Barnstormers, American folk musicians, will be joined by The Rockcandy Cloggers. Part of The Alden at the McLean Community Center's 2017 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org).

**Concerts on the Green.** 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Local Honey is a local band featured. Visit [www.celebrategreatfalls.org](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org).

**Summer on the Green Concert.** 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Nitehawks Swing Band. Free. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) or call 703-255-6360.

### MONDAY/JULY 24

**AARP Dinner Group.** 5-8 p.m. at Mylo's Grill, 6238 Old Dominion Drive. AARP has reserved a section of Mylo's Grill for members and their guests to enjoy dinner together with a 15 percent discount on their entire check. Call 877-926-8300 or visit [states.aarp.org/MylosGrill](http://states.aarp.org/MylosGrill) for more.

### WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

**Meet the Cooking Author.** 6:30 p.m. at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Lecture by John Shields, author of "Chesapeake Bay Cooking," host of the PBS series Coastal Cooking, and owner of the renowned Gertrude's in Baltimore. \$65. Call 703-442-9110.

### THURSDAY/JULY 27

**Daniel Nahmod in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. New Thought singer/songwriter performs original music with a poetic and evocative message of peace, love, and compassion. \$20. Call 703-281-1767

or visit [unityoffairfax.org](http://unityoffairfax.org) for more.

### FRIDAY/JULY 28

**Summer on the Green Concert.** 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Wayne Tympanick Quartet. Free. Visit [viennava.gov](http://viennava.gov) or call 703-255-6360.

**LeAnn Rimes Concert.** 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson's Concert Series. Visit [www.tysonscornercenter.com](http://www.tysonscornercenter.com) or call 703-893-9401 for more.

### SATURDAY/JULY 29

**Big Splash Party.** 1-3 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Water games and slide. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) or call 703-255-6360.

### SUNDAY/JULY 30

**Kara and Matty D Concert.** 5 p.m. at McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. A couple plays songs from all eras, with vocal harmonies. Part of The Alden at the McLean Community Center's 2017 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org).

**Concerts on the Green.** 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Jr. Cline and The Recliners are playing classics and rhythm and blues. Visit [www.celebrategreatfalls.org](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org).

### SUNDAY/AUG. 6

**Big Bang Boom Concert.** 5 p.m. at McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Children-friendly music. Part of The Alden at the McLean Community Center's 2017 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org).

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**Announcements**

**NEWS**



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**The panel at the Alzheimer's Town Hall included U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), and representatives from the National and local Alzheimer's Association, Area Agencies on Aging, the Virginia Alzheimer's Commission, and the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.**

**Heartbreak and Hope**

FROM PAGE 4

and adult care centers, and severely limiting care and resources for our vulnerable seniors." A threatened 18 percent cut in the funding for the National Institutes for Health "would gut federally funded research ... it certainly would bring us no closer to a cure," said Connolly. "And right now, there is no cure. There really isn't much in the way of treatment."

"There are about 140,000 Virginians estimated to be suffering from some form of dementia," said panelist Sharon Davis with the Virginia Alzheimer's Commission, and she says the effect of the disease takes a toll on the family as well as the afflicted. "I have spent more than half of my adult life as a caregiver." Davis's husband is now a live-in patient at a memory-care facility, suffering from early-onset Alzheimer's. Her mother lived for 18 years with the disease.

"It's a tragedy. It's a disease that robs them of what should be the best years, time they have earned to relax and enjoy." As Davis pointed out, it's also a disease that can have devastating emotional and financial impacts on families, as many struggle to cope physically and financially to provide usually round-the-clock care.

Stories of heartbreak and challenges continued, but Karen Hannigan with Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging wants to get the word out that there is help and support, for the patient and the families and caregivers.

"We operate based on the 'No Wrong Door Initiative' model," said Hannigan.

That model means that persons who call for help don't encounter a "sorry, wrong department and we can't help" response. "No matter what, we guide you. Our staff are 'field-trained.' We know the system. Let us do the navigating and take away at least that much stress from the situation."

Negotiating the government regulations, the gaps between Medicare and Medicaid, the insurance maze, and trying to find appropriate resources while dealing with the actual disease and its effects on the patient, and possibly on the family as caregivers, can be overwhelming. "Call us, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at 703-324-7948," said Hannigan. "You don't need to know all of the information. We do. Just tell us your story."

The National Alzheimer's Association also offers a helpline. "It's free care consultation. It's nationwide. We work with agencies around the country and can help you get to the right people," said Jane Priest, program manager with the association. "24/7, call us at 1-800-272-3900, or visit the website at

[www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)."

Along with more assistance for patients, caregivers and families, Priest and others on the dais and in the audience want to see more focus on education and training, as well. The National Alzheimer's Association and the regional chapters are dedicating more time and resources on outreach programs. Annandale resident Catherine Bergstrom who attended the event welcomes this initiative.

Bergstrom related the experiences of her husband who had to be hospitalized. "This was a hospital, and they still did not know how to deal with a patient suffering from this disease."

Sharon Davis of the Virginia Alzheimer's Commission added her own stories of her husband's treatment at hospitals and medical facilities that worsened his mental state, instead of improving the situation.

"And what about a patient that can't communicate to the emergency room staff because of their condition?" asked Connolly, or even worse, the Alzheimer's sufferer who doesn't have a caring family member who can help "interpret" during medical transactions or who can advocate on the patient's behalf?

**THE OUTREACH PROGRAMS** of the Alzheimer's Association seek to train the general public, as well as doctors, caregivers, law enforcement personnel and others on how to recognize if someone is suffering from Alzheimer's or dementia, and how to best react and assist.

Currently, there are no "Dementia Friendly Communities" in Virginia. The model, which seeks to raise awareness of the disease and of dementia in general and offer training and tips for real-life encounters is being tested in other jurisdictions nearby. Toni Reinhart, owner of Herndon-based Comfort Keepers that provides in-home senior and elder care services, wants to change that. This month, she is gathering local service and community leaders in her area to make Herndon a "proof of concept" project. "Herndon is so community-focused. Our leaders are very service-oriented. I think it's the best place to get this rolling in Virginia."

Connolly applauded all of these efforts, as he pledged to continue to fight for Alzheimer's funding. "There are 1.1 million people in Fairfax County. Eleven percent are over 65. The fastest growing population is over 80. This is an issue that won't just go away. We need to take action now. Contact your members of Congress — and not just the 'friendlies!' We have a 'moon-shot' for fighting cancer. Well, we need a 'moon-shot' to fight Alzheimer's disease."

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# BULLETIN

To have community events listed in the Connection, visit [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

## THROUGH JULY 31

**Backpacks for Students.** Various times at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Christ the King's Team Service is collaborating with Reston's aid to families organization Cornerstones and school supplies collection organization Kids R First to help youngsters in the community. Collections will run through July; drop off in the church lobby. Visit [www.gflutheran.org](http://www.gflutheran.org) or call 703-759-6068.

## SATURDAY/JULY 15

**Free Health Screening.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Chain Bridge Corner Giant, 1454 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Customers can receive free blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screenings. Visit [www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com) for more.

## SUNDAY/JULY 16

**Intro to Connection Practice.** 4:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Learn simple, science-based tools for feeling and expressing peace, responding with empathy and insight, and building resiliency to life's ups and downs. \$20. Call 703-281-1767 or visit [unityoffairfax.org](http://unityoffairfax.org) for more.

## JULY 20-22

**36<sup>th</sup> Annual NFED Family Conference.** 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at The Westin Tyson's Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. An opportunity for families affected by ectodermal dysplasias to gather information on the syndromes and treatment options; to network with other affected families; and to educate legislators on Capitol Hill about ectodermal dysplasias. Visit [www.nfed.org](http://www.nfed.org) for more.

## THROUGH JULY 28

**Vendor Application Deadline.** Reston Community Center is seeking arts and crafts vendors, food vendors and civic organizations of all cultures for the 17th Annual Reston Multicultural Festival. The festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Interested groups or individuals should fill out the appropriate Vendor Application Form, available at [www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf).

## THROUGH AUG. 18

**Artist Application Deadline.** Visual artists who wish to participate in the 17th Annual Reston Multicultural Festival art exhibit "Art Mirrors Culture" should visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com). The festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Interested groups or individuals should fill out the appropriate Vendor Application Form, available at [www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf).

## 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](http://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.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**Are You A Caregiver? Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna Caregivers' Support Group** takes place first & third Thursday of each month. February 2nd and 16th, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838 [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net).

**Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group.** 703-941-7000, [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) or [havenofnova@verizon.net](mailto:havenofnova@verizon.net).

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## A Near Catastrophe, Always



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I bring our two cat carriers up from the basement in order for "The Buff Boys" to acclimate in anticipation of their impending visit to the veterinarian, I can't help but think back to the spring of 1976. That's when an appointment to mend my male cat, Tillie, nearly went very wrong.

To this day, the circumstances still haunt me. Tillie had been a surprise birthday gift given to me in September 1975, along with a puppy I named Gus (both named after a W.C. Fields' movie, "Tillie and Gus").

Tillie was an all-black domestic short hair. Gus was a German Shepard/St. Bernard mix. He was beautiful. He had a white-ish beige coat, floppy ears and a curly tail.

Introduced to one another at 6 weeks old, Tillie and Gus were the best of friends/siblings. Though I made sure they spent their evenings inside, during the day, both were outside. (We had a fenced-in yard so Gus was confined. Tillie however, as you might imagine was not. He had the run of the neighborhood.)

Sure enough, one day, Tillie got into a cat fight. His tail had been bitten and was beginning to abscess. I knew I had to take him to the veterinarian. However, I was in college and had very little money to spare. Nor did I have a credit card either. (Those were the days before credit card companies solicited college students.) In a financial bind, I called my parents and asked for money (I did work in the dining hall all through college but lived in a house off campus and had the usual room and board-type expenses). They sent me \$25. (In my mind, I can still see the check.) In addition to whatever other money I could scrape together, I guess it was enough so I took Tillie to the "vet" for repair. He stayed overnight. The next day, I got the call that he was ready for pick-up. That's when the event occurred that has affected me/my animal-owning life going on - four decades plus.

I went by myself. I had a car; a 1970 Ford Maverick, but no cat carrier. I was, apparently, planning on simply holding Tillie in my arms as I had done the day before. However, the pick-up was not nearly as uneventful as the drop-off.

Once I got outside the building, Tillie began squirming (his tail had been shaved and had stitches where the abscess/bite had been inflicted) and broke free from my grasp. He ran off about 20 yards - or so to the rear of this modest one-story building and stopped just shy of a chain-link fence which separated where we all were to another neighborhood - beyond my reach. My fear: had Tillie climbed over that fence somehow, he likely would have been gone forever.

Slowly I approached Tillie, repeatedly calling his name as quietly and reassuringly as I could, trying not to rattle, startle or scare him in any way; presuming post-surgery, in an unfamiliar place, possibly in pain, it might not take much from his father to cause him to scamper off and disappear.

As I casually walked toward him, amazingly, Tillie sort of stood still, enough for me to scoop him up. Which I did and then carefully walked back to my car and drove us both home without any further ado - except for the rest of my taking cats-to-the-"vet" life. And yes, that means now.

And though I'm not stupid enough to transport cats without cat carriers anymore, I am only at ease once we're back home and have let the cats out of their boxes and released them into the house (all our cats are indoor cats). Throughout this process, I must check the latches on their carriers a half-a-dozen times; in the house, in the car, in the parking lot outside the "vet's" office, in the waiting room, in the examining room and then again afterwards; back in the waiting room while I pay, in the car on the way home and finally in the driveway as I prepare to carry the carriers/cats across the yard and into the house. Once inside with the cats/carriers in hand, finally I can relax. Home at last.

Forty-one years ago; it seems like yesterday, or maybe tomorrow if the "vet" can see us. And that's what worries me. Been there and unfortunately, have done that.

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



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