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Organizers of the Wheels-to-Africa bike collection and Bands for Bikes rock concert Jack Lichtenstein of McLean and Winston Duncan of Arlington at the last year's event at the Old Firehouse in McLean.

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Photo by Steve Hibbard/The Connection

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News

Troop 869 of McLean Promotes New Eagle Scout

David DiMeglio of Boy Scout Troop 869 in Mclean was awarded his Eagle Scout medal at Trinity United Methodist Church on Sunday, July 23, 2017. David's Eagle Scout service project included the design and construction of three choir book cases for St. Luke Catholic Church in McLean. David's musical interests and piano playing have been inspired by the St. Luke music program. David attends Thomas Jefferson High School. He is a member of the Fish, Hamlet and TJ swim teams.

Community Foundation Scholarships

Photo Contributed

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia has awarded scholarships to 89 students, totaling $304,700, to support their continuing higher education beginning in the fall. The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia manages and administers the funds for 25 scholarships that support Northern Virginia students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. The Booz Allen Hamilton Vision Scholarship was awarded to Lucy Zheng of McLean High School going to Duke University.

School Notes

Send school notes to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Erik Wagner, of McLean, was awarded the Criminology Outstanding Performance Certificate for the 2016-17 school year at Randolph-Macon Academy in May 2017. At that time, Erik was a junior at the Academy. Erik is the son of Karl Wagner of McLean.

Soraya Todd, of McLean, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in political science with highest honors from Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pa.).

McLean resident **Nicholas G. Hallmark** was named to the Rhodes College (Memphis, Tenn.) dean's list for the 2017 spring semester.

Charlotte Fernlund, of McLean, graduated from High Point University (High Point, N.C.).

Rebecca Lear, of McLean, graduated from High Point University (High Point, N.C.).

Michael Macesich, of McLean, graduated from High Point University (High Point, N.C.).

Chandler Moskowitz, of McLean, graduated from High Point University (High Point, N.C.).

Alexander Rock, of McLean, graduated from High Point University (High Point, N.C.).

Nicholas Mohey-El-Dien, of McLean, graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy (Front Royal, Va.). Nicholas will be attending Flagler College this upcoming fall. Nicholas is son of Mr. Marwan Mohey-El-Dien and Mrs. Laura Guarisco.

Ariella Ranz, a resident of McLean majoring in writing for film, TV and emerging media, was named to the dean's list in Ithaca (N.Y.) College's School of Communications for the spring 2017 semester.

McLean Connection Editor Kemal Kurspahic
703-778-9414 or mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

Low-Turnout High-Stakes Special Election for School Board

Countywide at-large seat to be determined by Aug. 29 special election; early voting is underway.

By Michael Lee Pope
The Connection

Could there be a worse time to hold a special election? August is a time when people do anything they can to get out of the region, which transforms into a swampy sauna in late summer. Nevertheless, election officials are preparing for an Aug. 29 special election to fill the at-large seat vacated by School Board member Jeanette Hough in May. If Hough had waited just a few more days to resign, voters would have been able to vote in the general election this November. But the timing of Hough's resignation will prompt a late summer special election, a phenomenon experts say helps Republicans.

"Oftentimes a lower turnout election is going to feature a wealthier and whiter electorate," said Geoff Skelley at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "But if the political energy of the moment is particularly high, which I would say it is right now, it could potentially go a different way."

Fairfax County School Board members serve in non-partisan seats. But Democrats and Republicans endorse their preferred candidates, and Hough had been endorsed by Republicans. Traditionally, Democrats have a harder time with special elections because the electorate tends to be more conservative than the general population. So the timing is good for Republicans, although not necessarily perfect.

"The disparity would be even more pronounced early in August," said Stephen Farnsworth at the University of Mary Washington. "By late August, people tend to be done with their vacations. If you have students going off to college, for example, you are likely dealing with that by late August, if not mid-August.

No Democrat has ever won a summertime special election in Fairfax County, which means this special election is the Republicans to lose. Two candidates who have not been endorsed by either party will also be on the ballot.

CHRIS GRISAFE, 37, is a native of Lake Havasu City, Ariz. He was raised in California, and he's lived in Northern Virginia for 12 years. He currently lives in the Penderbrook neighborhood of the Providence District. He does not have any children in the school system, but he has served on Superintendent's Business Advisory Committee, the Bonds Committee and the Adult Education Advisory Committee. He has a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy from Loyola Marymount University and a master's degree in business administration from Virginia Tech. Professionally, he is a national security specialist. In 2011, he waged an unsuccessful campaign for the Providence District seat on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. He is the candidate endorsed by the Republican Party.

"I think we can be better served than we have been," said Grisafe. "It's important for us to understand how we are impacting student achievement and to prioritize investments for the classroom. I don't think we can gain that insight unless we are doing independent program evaluations."

On the issue of the budget, Grisafe would like to make government more accessible, increasing the amount of information that's available to the public while making it easy to get and understand. He said that would go a long way to help members of the Board of Supervisors understand the management of resources at Fairfax County Public Schools. It could also help School Board members when they need to make a case for increasing funding.

"The biggest critique I've heard from the county supervisors is that there's not transparency in the schools budget," he said. "For example, if you go to the annual report it shows variances on the board documents. But if you really want to understand position numbers, you have to drill down five or six clicks into a different part of the website."

On the issue of class size, Grisafe was dismissive of the idea that the average class size was a metric that means all that much. On the campaign trail, he recently met the parent of a 4th-grade student at Chesterbrook Elementary School whose student was in a class with 33 students.

"The county has a policy for elementary schools not to exceed 29 students," he said. "And there are a number of schools that are exceeding that and basically violating the policy which isn't being enforced."

On the issue of trailers, he said he doesn't know enough to have a position.

"I guess I would want to understand the impact trailers have on the quality of education," he said. "I don't think that trailers are ideal. I haven't studied the trade offs here for trailers."

On transgender bathrooms, he does not support the Obama-era policy of requiring schools to allow students to use the restrooms of the gender they identify with. Rather, he said, the potential conflicts should be handled on a case-by-case basis.

"I think the way the schools are handling the situation now where it's on a case-by-base basis with the schools is what it needs to be for right now until we answer some broader questions of what follow-on policies flow from that," he said. "I personally would like to see more unisex bathrooms."

On the issue of J.E.B. Stuart High School's controversial name, he said he doesn't have a position one way or the other on the name.

Sandra Allen, Independent

Chris Grisafe, endorsed by Republicans

Karen Keys-Gamarra, endorsed by Democrats

Michael Owens, Independent

But he does have a position on the way the school system handled the issue, which he described as a "quintessential example" of a process that should never be repeated because it's been so divisive.

"If you're going to make a moral case of J.E.B. Stuart, then we need to make that same moral case for the rest of the schools," he said. "Do we now, because George Washington had slaves, remove any monuments to him? I don't know. I would want to know how is this helping the community and bringing us together."

KAREN KEYS-GAMARRA, 57, is a native of St. Louis. She has lived in Fairfax County since 1990, first in Huntington and later in the Sully District. She is the parent of three boys who graduated from James Madison High School in Vienna. She has a bachelor's degree in English and communications from Tulane and a law degree from Washington University School of Law. Professionally, she is an attorney who volunteers as a court-appointed special advocate and a guardian ad litem. She ran an unsuccessful campaign for School Board in 2015, and she's currently a member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission. She is the candidate endorsed by the Democratic Party.

"I initially started advocating educational issues with my own children, and then it carried over into my work," said Keys-Gamarra. "It just stuck out to me how critical educational issues are to the success of kids."

On the issue of the budget, Keys-Gamarra said the relationship between the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County School Board needs improvement. She said her experience on the Planning Commission gives her an insight into the inner workings of Fairfax County, especially in the Sully District which she represents.

"I really don't see the Board of Supervisors as an enemy, and I think that sometimes — at least to the public — it appears that may be the view," she said. "I don't think that's a healthy approach, and so I think that with my background I may be able to bridge the gap and bring a little more conciliation to the table."

On teacher salaries, Keys-Gamarra said she hears from teachers all the time about how difficult it is to live in Fairfax County earning the kind of money that comes with teaching in the public school system. She said Fairfax County needs salaries that are comparable to rival jurisdictions.

"I'm hesitating to give you a yes or a no because I don't want the impression to be given that ... we have to walk in and blow up the budget because this has to happen," she said. "It all has to be balanced against one another but that would certainly be a concern for me."

On the issue of trailers, she's particularly concerned about young children being educated in trailers that don't have bathrooms. On the campaign trail, she's been hearing from parents who are concerned that their children have to wait longs periods of time before they can go to a main building to use the facilities. Keys-Gamarra points out that Fairfax County has a shortage of land, which means that schools can't always get the larger size trailers.

"It may be a reality of the resources that we have had and how we've been making decisions," she said. "Some teachers and some students may actually like having that kind of privacy that may have a bathroom in there and air conditioning."

On the issue of class size, Keys-Gamarra said the average class size for Fairfax County elementary school — 22.4 students — is not necessarily a problem. On the campaign trail she's not hearing parents complain about a class size of 22 students. But she is hearing parents complain about class size of 28 or 29 students in a classroom. She said she would like to see the county do something about it, although she's doesn't have a specific proposal.

"I can't throw out a number," she said. "There are certainly concerns regarding class size, and I have those concerns as well."

On transgender bathrooms, she would not commit to agreeing with the Obama-era policy of requiring schools to allow all students to use the bathroom of the gender they identify with. Keys-Gamarra said she agrees with the current policy of handling issues as they arise on a case-by-case basis instead of having a countywide policy.

"I'm not stepping in that," she said when asked about her position. "I really hate to think of children and families being used as a political football."

On the issue of the controversial name of J.E.B. Stuart High School, she said she admires the students who are raising the is

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Photo by Greg Hotsenpiller

From left: Eric Stein, Jack Lichtenstein and Bryan Bedell of The Unexpected band will be performing at the 4th Annual Bands for Bikes Concert, Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017 in McLean.

Organizers of the Wheels-to-Africa bike collection and Bands for Bikes rock concert Jack Lichtenstein of McLean and Winston Duncan of Arlington at the last year's event at the Old Firehouse in McLean.

Photo by Steve Hibbard/ The Connection

Bands Rock for Bikes in McLean

Block Party and Bands for Bikes concert on Saturday, Aug. 19, 4 - 8 p.m.

Wheels to Africa is a youth-led all volunteer 501c(3) that collects used bikes for needy children. The organization was founded in 2005, by a 10-year-old Arlington boy named Winston Duncan, after he visited Africa on a mission trip with his mother. During the visit, Winston was struck by the distances children had to walk for basic needs like food and water. He decided to take action, and, since then, Wheels to Africa has donated more than 5,000 bikes to children in some of the most remote villages of Africa.

After hearing this story, long-time friends Jack Lichtenstein and Morgan Poirier from McLean teamed up to organize their first benefit for Wheels to Africa in 2014. They called it "Bands for Bikes." These two rising 12th graders are organizing their fourth annual "Bands for Bikes" concert as a fun way for their friends and community to once again support Wheels to Africa.

Lichtenstein and Poirier will be hosting their event in conjunction with the Old Firehouse Teen Center's Annual Block Party, which will feature food trucks, games and an outdoor stage. The two boys have been hard at work with Lichtenstein recruiting and marketing area musicians and teen bands to play at the event, and Poirier organizing many needed volunteers.

Some of the bands volunteering to perform for this great cause are "The Drop Off," featuring Kat Cannon, Miranda Fletcher, Lauren Lewis, Sarah Champness and Lichtenstein, and "The Unexpected," consisting of Eric Stein, Bryan Bedell and Lichtenstein, who are returning to perform for their fourth year. Claudia Swope, who studies at Berklee College of Music in Boston, will also take the stage.

Over the past three years, Lichtenstein and Poirier have collected hundreds of bikes and thousands of dollars in donations for Wheels to Africa. The community has been very supportive of the boys' efforts. Bach to Rock, the music school where many of the musicians study, is a co-sponsor of the benefit. 1-800-PACK-RAT will provide storage containers for the bikes and is also a co-sponsor. The Old Firehouse Teen Center Annual Block Party and "Bands for Bikes" concert are scheduled to take place at 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean on Saturday, Aug. 19, 4-8 p.m. Used bikes can be dropped off at OFTC between 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

All ages are welcome, concert admission is free and a bike donation is not required to join in the fun. Community service is available for teens. For more information, email w2africa@gmail.com.

Photo by Fallon Forbush/ The Connection

McLean Rotary Club Supports Cameron's Chocolates

From left, Rotarians Vance Zavela, president of the McLean Rotary Club Foundation, Inc. and Jan Auerbach awarded Ellen Graham a $2,100 grant for her business, Cameron's Chocolates, and its work supporting individuals with special needs. The company is an enterprise of Every 1 Can Work, a nonprofit organization that employs people with developmental and intellectual disabilities and supervises them in the production of chocolate and other food-related products and services. A sampling of chocolates was provided to the Rotarians to try during their meeting.

Photo Contributed

Community Foundation Scholarships

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia has awarded scholarships to 89 students, totaling $304,700, to support their continuing higher education beginning in the fall. The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia manages and administers the funds for 25 scholarships that support Northern Virginia students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. The Booz Allen Hamilton Vision Scholarship was awarded to Lucy Zheng of McLean High School going to Duke University.

Traveling Players Present Summer Theatre Festivals

A Great Falls-based theatre company to perform Aug. 11 and 18 at Madeira.

Photo by Noah Pilchen

Traveling Players' youth ensembles will present "The Blue Monster" on Aug. 18 at The Madeira School in McLean.

The Traveling Players Ensemble, a non-profit educational theatre company based in Great Falls, will present two family-friendly theatre festivals. On Friday, Aug. 11, 5-9:30 p.m. guests will enjoy "Atum's Eye" by Judy White and "Comedy of Errors" by William Shakespeare at The Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

On Aug. 18, 3-9 p.m. the Traveling Players Ensemble will host the last of its family-friendly summer theatre festivals, also at The Madeira School. This festival will feature "The Blue Monster" by Carlos Gozzi, "The Forced Marriage" by Moliere, "As You Like It" by William Shakespeare, and "The Frog Prince" adapted from the Brothers Grimm fairy tale.

Admission for either evening is $10 per person at the door. Guests are invited to bring blankets and a picnic dinner.

For more information about the events or other Traveling Players' programs, call 703-987-1712 or visit www.travelingplayers.org/.

School Board Candidate Forum at McLean High

The McLean Citizens Association along with the League of Women Voters and the Fairfax County Council of PTAs will host a candidate forum for the Fairfax County School Board special election. The candidate debate will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 23 at McLean High School. The public is welcome. The special election to fill the vacant school board seat will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

Potbelly Sandwich Shop Opens Catering Kitchen in Tysons

Potbelly Sandwich Shop recently opened a Potbelly Catering Kitchen in Tysons Corner to bring fresh, fast and friendly service at scale to group meetings and events in Northern Virginia.

One of only two Catering Kitchens nationwide, the Potbelly Catering Kitchen opened last week to serve the areas of Tysons Corner, Fairfax, Reston, Vienna and Ballston.

"From family celebrations to corporate events, school functions and more, the Potbelly Catering Kitchen allows us to feed crowds from 25 to 6 zillion," said Jackie Kurkjian, National Director of Catering and Backline Sales for Potbelly Sandwich Shop.

Catering packages include the Full Belly, with a sandwich, deli salad, chips and an oatmeal chocolate chip cookie. The Perfect Belly offers a trio of sandwich, chips and cookie, and the Basic Belly includes a sandwich and chips. Individual lunch boxes, salads, soup for a group and more are also available. To see the full menu, visit www.potbelly.com/catering.

The new Potbelly Catering Kitchen will be open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those interested can get a quote online or call the shop at 703-720-5123. Minimum orders of 25 people are required.

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Opinion

An Open Letter to Readers and More

Buy an ad in our annual Newcomers and Community Guide.

Last year, when I wrote an editorial similar to this one, there was some controversy about it inside the Connection. But many community organizations, civic organizations, businesses and elected officials responded positively, and it made a difference.

I have a special favor to ask, once again:

Buy an ad in our Newcomers and Community Guide.

To put on my publisher's hat (not my editor's hat) for a minute, if you have a marketing budget, and you value coverage of local newspapers (not just ours), why wouldn't you spend a portion of that budget (any portion) supporting that platform?

Show your support for our organization which continues to be here to support the forces of good in our communities.

Our annual Newcomers and Community Guide is a pullout section that will appear in the the Aug. 23, 2017 edition of all 15 Connection Newspapers, published by Local Media Connection. Deadline is Aug. 16.

We are creating a quality special issue, and we need your help. Whether you invest in a small ad in a single paper (super affordable), or a full page in all 15 of our papers (super value), we appreciate your help this month.

For the same reasons that organizations, businesses and campaigns know they want local newspaper coverage, newspaper advertising is an effective way to reach voters, residents, clients. The Connection reaches more than 200,000 readers, in print and online, including remarkable demographics. Our readers include local and national decision makers in the public and private sector.

According to an independent study cited by the National Newspaper Association: 86 percent of voters who cast ballots in the election four years ago read newspapers in print or online; 79 percent of voters ages 18 to 34 read newspapers in print or online; 91 percent of voters who contribute to campaigns read newspapers in print or online.

Editorial

The deadline for the Newcomers and Community Guide is Aug. 16. Digital enhancements and support are available. For more information, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

See www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising

Share Tips about Community

We need help from our readers with ideas for our annual Newcomers and Community Guide.

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. What should someone new to your neighborhood know about? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? A great place to see the sunset? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Guide to the Parks, information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or send as a letter to the editor via the website at http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/ by Wednesday, Aug. 17.

— Mary Kimm
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Local Impact of Immigration

"Lifeblood of our astounding economic success story."

By Gerry Connolly
U.S. Representative (D-11)

White House Advisor Stephen Miller took pains last week to point out that Emma Lazarus' sonnet, "The New Colossus," was not affixed to the Statue of Liberty when she was unveiled in 1886. He, of course, was right in fact but wrong in spirit.

The famed "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses" lines were added 20 years later, but have come to represent the American ideal that we are a nation of immigrants, enthusiastically welcoming those from any background who want to come here, work hard, and play by the rules. Here in Fairfax County, we not only embrace that ideal, we recognize it as the lifeblood of our astounding economic success story.

President Trump and the senators pushing the RAISE Act, a bill to severely restrict legal immigration into the United States, would have you believe a dramatic increase in immigrants leads to economic decline and lower wages, not to mention higher crime rates and a host of other social ills. If anyone from the White House made the 15-mile trip to Fairfax County, they would learn the opposite is true.

In 1970 less than 4 percent of Fairfax's population was foreign born. Today that number is 30.7 percent, more than double the rate in the country at large. But that dramatic increase in immigration did not lead to the kind of dystopia the President envisions. Instead, since 1970, Fairfax County has become an economic colossus that drives our state's economy and is envied across the globe. Household income is among the highest in the nation, crime rates remain at historic lows, and our community hums with the kind of economic dynamism that drives innovation and long-term productivity growth.

How did we get here? Undoubtedly we've capitalized on our proximity to, and our partnership with, the federal government. But the facts are quite clear that the dramatic increase in foreign-born immigration has accelerated our economic success. Immigrants in Fairfax are primarily working age, more likely to start a business, less likely to commit crimes, and contribute to economic growth in both high-skilled and low-skilled fields, creating technology firms worth billions and caring for the elderly as home care workers. Immigrants have revitalized many of our older neighborhoods, adding $7,383 to the value of each and every home in our county, according to the Partnership for a New American Economy. The results speak for themselves. Foreign-born immigrants have fueled our success.

But Fairfax is not alone. Small towns, rural communities, and large cities across the country have capitalized on the economic vitality and opportunities created when immigrants show up and get to work. Welcoming "the homeless, the tempest-tost" is the moral thing to do, but right here in President Trump's own backyard we've proven that's it the smart thing to do.

Blood Donations Urgently Needed

The American Red Cross urges blood donors to give in the final weeks of summer to help overcome a chronic summer blood shortage.

In August, regular donors may delay giving as final summer vacations are planned and back-to-school activities ramp up. To fully meet the needs of hospital patients in the coming days and weeks, donations are urgently needed from new and current donors. Those who donated blood earlier this summer may be eligible to donate again. Blood can be safely donated every 56 days, and Power Red cells can be donated every 112 days.

As a special thank you, those who come out to give blood or platelets with the Red Cross now through Aug. 31 will be emailed a $5 Target eGiftCard.

Appointments can be scheduled by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). To help reduce wait times, donors are encouraged to make appointments and complete the RapidPass online health history questionnaire at redcrossblood.org/RapidPass.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Aug. 15-31

❖ **Reston,** Friday, Aug. 18, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive.

❖ **McLean,** Thursday, Aug. 31, 1-5 p.m. at the Federal Highway Administration, 6300 Georgetown Pike.

McLean Connection

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2015 Virginia Press Association Award Winning Newspaper

COMMENTARY

More on Civic Engagement

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum
State Delegate (D-36)

Never in my years in politics have I gotten as many questions from people as to what they can do to be more active in political affairs. While the circumstances at the federal level that have given rise to this question are deplorable, there is a need to take advantage of this new or renewed interest on the part of citizens to get involved with their government. For folks who have been involved as volunteers in political campaigns or as advocates in issue-oriented organizations, the lack of awareness and knowledge of the governmental processes on the part of their new helpers and associates is astonishing.

Even so, it is absolutely essential that the new interests be acknowledged and respected and activities and mentoring take place to ensure that the maximum number of people participate in civic affairs and upcoming elections.

I was pleased that a civic engagement fair that I sponsored on a Saturday morning earlier this year attracted more than 300 attendees. The goal of the event was to match up organizations with potential volunteers and members.

New movements like Indivisible have sprung up around the country with the local Herndon-Reston Indivisible attracting as many as 400 attendees at one of its early meetings. The group has formed several very active interest groups.

Strong interest in more involvement in civic affairs is of course not limited to this region or state; it is national in scope. The most recent issue of the Council of State Governments publication, Capitol Ideas, has civic engagement as its theme. It looks at such concerns as "the key to repair trust in government" and "how technology reshaped civic engagement." If one word was used to summarize the articles in this edition of the journal read by state government officials nationwide, it would be education.

An article titled "Civic Education: A Key to Trust" includes a harsh review of the way civics is taught in the public schools: "Unfortunately, the nation's schools have been generally unhelpful in providing the kind of information that can teach their students how their governments actually work." The result is that only 23 percent of eighth graders scored at or above proficiency in civics, according to research by the National Assessment of Educational Progress in 2014.

Improving civic education in our schools is critical to expanding engagement in the future, but action needs to be taken to involve more adults right now. The most obvious place to start is with voter participation in elections.

Among the 35 nations involved in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States ranked a shameful 31st in voter turnout. Laws need to be changed and increased emphasis needs to be given to removing barriers to voting and to getting people to the polls.

The recent influx of citizens interested in working for civic engagement can do a great deal to improve our political system — starting by encouraging others to vote on election day.

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McLean REAL ESTATE

Photos by Deb Stevens/The Almanac

June, 2017 Top Sales

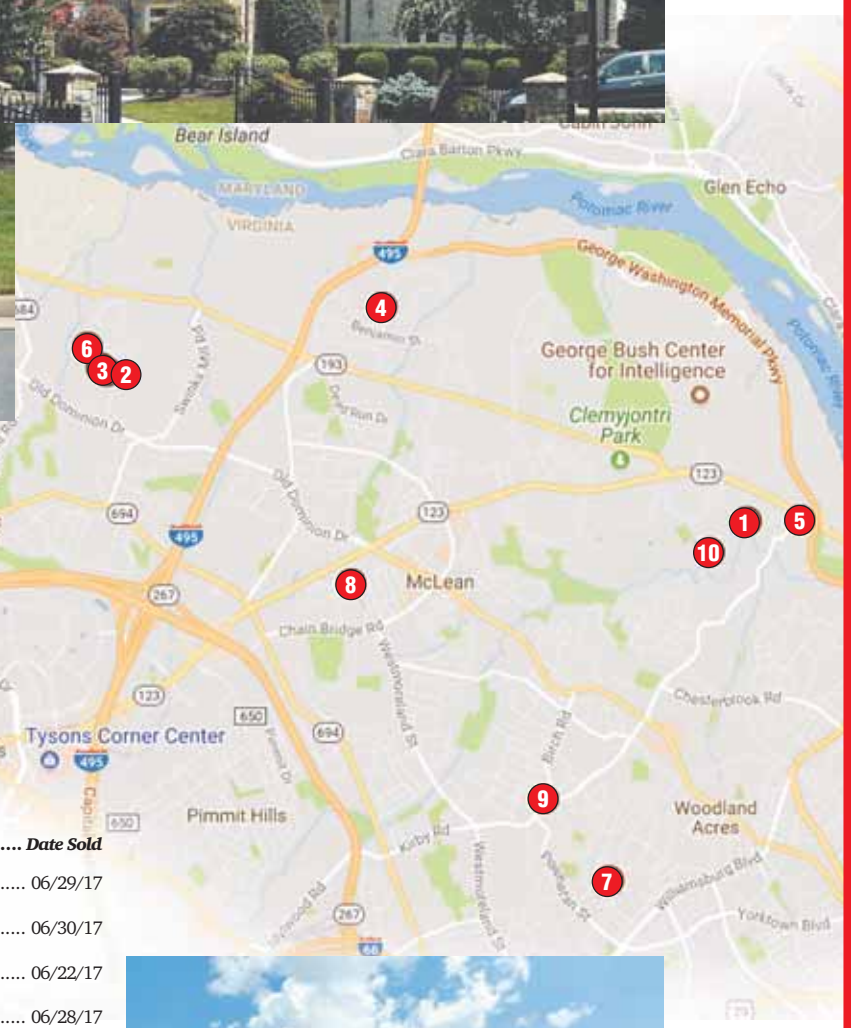
In June 2017, 141 homes sold between $4,127,907-$170,000 in the McLean and Falls Church area.

3 1017 Founders Ridge Lane — $3,650,000

4 6919 River Oaks Drive — $3,412,200

5 1303 Kirby Road — $2,450,000

2 7805 Meritage Lane — $4,025,000



8 1414 Pathfinder Lane — $1,950,000

7 2087 Grace Manor Court — $2,235,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 6035 RAMSHORN PL	5	7	4	MCLEAN	$5,300,000	Detached	4.10	22101	SURRY HILL	06/29/17
2 7805 MERITAGE LN	7	8	2	MCLEAN	$4,025,000	Detached	0.88	22102	THE RESERVE	06/30/17
3 1017 FOUNDERS RIDGE LN	6	7	1	MCLEAN	$3,650,000	Detached	1.28	22102	THE RESERVE	06/22/17
4 6919 RIVER OAKS DR	5	5	2	MCLEAN	$3,412,200	Detached	0.51	22101	RIVER OAKS	06/28/17
5 1303 KIRBY RD	5	6	4	MCLEAN	$2,450,000	Detached	0.45	22101	MCLEAN KM	06/30/17
6 7846 WESTMONT LN	5	5	1	MCLEAN	$2,450,000	Detached	0.99	22102	GARFIELD PARK	06/23/17
7 2087 GRACE MANOR CT	7	6	2	MCLEAN	$2,235,000	Detached	0.38	22101	FRANKLIN PARK	06/02/17
8 1414 PATHFINDER LN	5	5	2	MCLEAN	$1,950,000	Detached	0.25	22101	BROYHILLS MC LEAN ESTS	06/12/17
9 6505 CHESTERFIELD AVE	6	4	2	MCLEAN	$1,875,000	Detached	0.26	22101	CHESTERBROOK GARDENS	06/05/17
10 1322 MERCHANT LN	6	5	2	MCLEAN	$1,850,000	Detached	2.55	22101	MERCHANT	06/08/17

Copyright 2017 MarketStats for ShowingTime. Source: Bright MLS as of July 15, 2017.

Sea-themed serveware in blue help create an elegant tone for summer entertaining.

Photo courtesy of Molly Pritchard

Setting a Summer Table

Warm weather design ideas.

By Marilyn Campbell

From a backyard barbeque to a simple brunch, there's still plenty of time to celebrate warm weather with table designs that embody summer's trends.

"We're still in summer and the weather is going to be warm for quite some time," said Amanda Mertins, president of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria. "An indoor or outdoor tablescape style depends on the occasion. Birthdays, holidays [and] retirements, all evoke a different feeling."

Start with fresh foliage inspired by the natural surroundings.

"Go out into your garden and use flowers [or] greens on your table," said Mertins. "Simple summer dinner party tables look great with lots of candles in votive holders, mason jars and glass lanterns. Remember to hang some of them in the trees for romance."

Incorporate a personal touch into each place setting, advises Hope Hassell, Case Design/Remodeling. "It will make each guest feel truly welcomed and you will look like the perfect hostess. It's as simple as printing off some photos from your phone or just adding place cards."

"Keep it casual by presenting family-style dishes down the center of the table," added Kimberly Asner, designer at Country Casual Teak. "Mix in mood-setting candle lighting and colorful, fresh-cut flowers in multiples for the most impact … keep arrangements below eye level for easy conversation."

For alfresco dining, practicality is key, says Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. Dinnerware needs to be both durable and aesthetically appealing. "Bamboo dishes … are perfect for outdoor dining," she said. "They won't break if dropped and are a great alternative to melamine."

Summer offers an abundance of options for using color, says Hassell. "Not only do you have so many options of in-season flowers, but you also have the nature around you to provide the backdrop."

The color blue establishes the type of serene atmosphere that Molly Pritchard of Arlington-based interior design firm, Design Lines likes to create at her summer parties. "Especially light blue because everything about it represents summer," said Pritchard. "It's cool and clean and neutral, especially when paired with white or cream. It creates a seaside feel which is very summery."

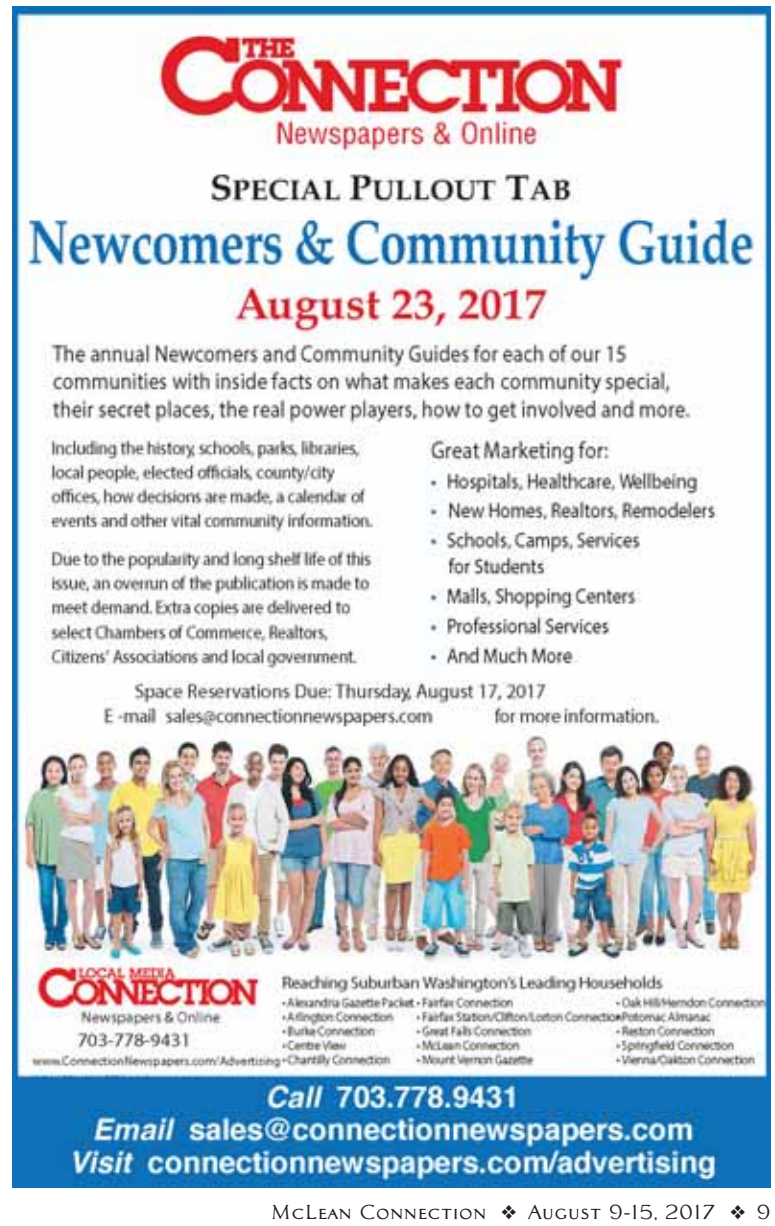
IN ADDITION TO COLOR, motifs can set the stage for summer dining. Designers at JT interiors in Potomac suggest using white dinnerware, emblazoned with a lemon, to turn an everyday meal into a summer soirée. The tableware can be accented with an array of accessories including platters, coasters, bowls and tea towels. "It creates a very summery look, and it's white and clean. Lemons and water are summery, like lemonade."

Summer table décor need not be expensive, says Hassell. "Simplicity can be stunning," she said. "The thoughtful placement of a sprig of rosemary can add just enough without having to go overboard."

Originality is a quality that Mertins encourages. "Think outside the box," she said. "Having a brunch? Use a vintage quilt as the tablecloth. Hosting a baby shower? Use silver rattles as decor and baby silver cups for the flowers. The effort you put into your party table will go a long way to the overall success of the party."

Photo courtesy of of Patina Polished Living

Adding a fresh flower arrangement to a table design, like this one by Patina Polished Living, will enhance the overall success of the party.



Early Voting Underway in Special Election for School Board

From Page 3

sue. She agrees that the name should probably change, but she doesn't want to use the school system's limited resources to make it happen.

"I think the thing that probably sticks out to me is that he denounced his citizenship as a United States citizen," she said. "I am on record as supporting the name change. I am not on record as saying that we need to take Fairfax County's funds to pay for that."

SANDRA ALLEN, 48, is a native of Bolivia. She's lived in the United States more than 40 years, immigrating as a child. She came to Fairfax County about 35 years ago, and currently lives in Vienna. She has two boys who attend James Madison High School, a rising 10th grade student and a rising 11th grade student. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Marymount University. She worked in budgeting and finance at the Department of Defense before leaving the workplace to become a stay-at-home mother.

"I'm concerned that there's not a voice present for the minority students," said Allen. "There's not a single person in any sort of leadership roles within the school system, ... and I've seen that a lot of the decisions that are being made without the input of the moms — the minority moms."

On the issue of the school budget, she said she would like to see better management of the finances. She acknowledges that she has not studied the budget in depth, but she said schools should focus on appropriating money to students rather than security. Budget documents show Fairfax County spends about $5 million a year on 55 school resource officers. Allen said that's money that could be spent elsewhere.

"I think we should stop making the schools an extension of juvenile detention centers where there's police presence during cafeteria time," said Allen. "We can reappropriate that."

On teacher pay, Allen describes the $71,000 average pay of Fairfax teachers is "doable." She said she would like to speak to more teachers before offering a definitive opinion, but she adds that teachers could be rewarded with salary increases based on performance. She said she would like to look at the benefit packages to see if some young professionals might be able to trade some of their benefits for higher pay.

"A lot of the young teachers don't need those excessive packages or excessive benefits," she said. "And they probably would do much better having higher pay, so doing a cafeteria plan could be an option."

On the issue of trailers, Allen said trailers have provided a good education for children across the county. But, she said, parents should be able to force school officials to find classroom assignments inside a brick-and-mortar building for their children.

"I don't have any issues with trailers," said Allen. "But if a parent does choose to and sees that that's not to the benefit of her or his student," schools should be required to accommodate that.

On the issue of class size, Allen said the average elementary school class size in Fairfax of 22.4 students is not a problem, although she adds that she's willing to hear from teachers if they feel that number should be lower.

"I think that number is probably about right," she said. "I support the teachers' perspective on this, and if they feel students are not getting attention we may need to change that number."

On the issue of transgender bathrooms, Allen disagrees with the directive from former President Barack Obama that students should be able to use the bathroom of the gender they identify with. Instead, she said, schools should engage in a capital campaign to build new restrooms across the county.

"We need to provide the privacy that is necessary for the child, and I think that schools should create that environment of privacy by providing a third option — a neutral bathroom," said Allen, who said she understands how much money would be involved in making that happen. "Schools work with private institutions for funding. When there is a will to change something, there is a way to find a solution."

On the issue of J.E.B. Stuart High School's controversial name, Allen agrees with the students to are pressing to have the name changed. But when asked how she would finance the change, she said she would not support spending money on it.

"I support it. I didn't say it would be something that would be doable," she said. "We have to pick and choose what our priorities are."

MICHAEL OWENS, 43, is a native of Baltimore. She's lived in Fairfax County more than 20 years, first in McLean and later in Falls Church. She has a bachelor's degree in history from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor's degree in English from Towson University. She also has a master's degree in English from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in education from Marymount University. Professionally, she is a usability and accessibility expert working on web-based applications for the consulting firm known as Design for Context in Washington, D.C. She is a former Fairfax County teacher who currently has one daughter in the school system who is a rising fifth grader at Belvedere Elementary School. She is the president of the parent teacher association there.

"I'm concerned because we have limited resources now, and we are going to have even more limited resources in the future," she said. "We need to make really important decisions, and we need to do so prudently."

On the issue of the budget, Owens said the school system is unlikely to get increased funding from the Board of Supervisors. So she would like to see a more efficient use of existing resources. For example, she said, the school system spends too much money on athletic programs like football that could be funded with outside money.

"I would like the athletic teams to actually raise money for the other programs within the school," said Owens. "The athletic teams could support the after-school chess club. Let's see the kids helping each other."

On teacher pay, Owens said she would like to see higher salaries — 10-to-20 percent higher. She understands the financial difficulties facing teachers because she was a single mother whose only income was the paycheck she got from Fairfax County Public Schools. In fact, she said, it was that economic pressure that caused her to leave the teaching and become a consultant.

"I left teaching not because I didn't enjoy the students or the parents or even the administrators. I left teaching because I couldn't afford to teach and live here. And that's pretty sad," she said. "I think it's really important that the people who are teaching your children and interacting with your children every day live in your community."

On the issue of trailers being used as classrooms, Owens said Fairfax County has too many students in portable classrooms. But she also said that there was little the School Board could realistically about it.

"I don't think anybody likes trailers," she said. "But that might not be something that we can do anything about, at least in the short term."

On the issue of class size, she said all parents would like to see a smaller student-to-teacher ratio. When asked about it, she circled back around to the question about trailers to make a point about her priorities if elected.

"I'd rather see us have more trailers and smaller classes than fewer trailers but more kids in each class," said Owens.

On the issue of transgender bathrooms, Owens is the only candidate in who supports former President Barack Obama's directive ordering schools to allow students to use the bathroom of the gender they identify with rather than the gender they were born with.

"The kid that feels comfortable going into the girls room to use the facilities, they need the right to do that," said Owens. "The kid who's going to the bathroom to cause trouble no matter what bathroom they're going into, that's a whole different issue."

On the issue of J.E.B. Stuart High School name, she understands those who want to change the name. But she was quick to add that the cost would be half a million dollars, and she said it's not appropriate for the school system to spend that kind of money when there are other budget priorities.

"This is not an emergency, and it's not a moral imperative," she said. "I understand if a student doesn't want to wear his name across their chest. But I don't want to pay to change it."

Faith Notes

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday at noon.

Youth Activities at Wesley United Methodist Church. Activities are open to all 6th-12th graders. Youth Sunday School meets every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the upper room. Youth Bible Study will meet every Sunday at 4:30 p.m. off-site. Following bible study, ride together to the church for youth group. Email the Youth Ministry Staff for the address. The Anchor meets every Sunday from 6-8 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Join us for dinner, games, worship, and diving deeper into the Word. During the summer, Youth Sunday School meets most Sundays at 9 a.m. in the upper room.

To receive the newsletter or for more information contact youth@wesleyvienna.org.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, at the intersection of Lewinsville and Brook roads in McLean, invites you for a casual Saturday Service at 5 p.m., followed by conversation and fellowship or for Sunday Services at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Sunday School for Youth and Children takes place during the 10 a.m. Service. Check www.stthomasmcleanva.org for special events and services through the year. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, 703-442-0330.

Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna, offers a monthly Healing Eucharist with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing (first Sunday of the month, 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Chapel). The Healing Ministry is led by the Rev. Valerie Hayes and Alexandra MacCracken and includes a team of lay healers who have gone through intentional training and formation. Contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at vhayes@holycomforter.com.

Yoga Class with a Christian Focus is held Saturdays, 3-4 p.m., McGill Hall or the Library at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. This group is suitable for those with beginner and/or intermediate yoga experience. Dress comfortably and bring a mat. Feel free to bring a towel, block(s) or strap. Contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

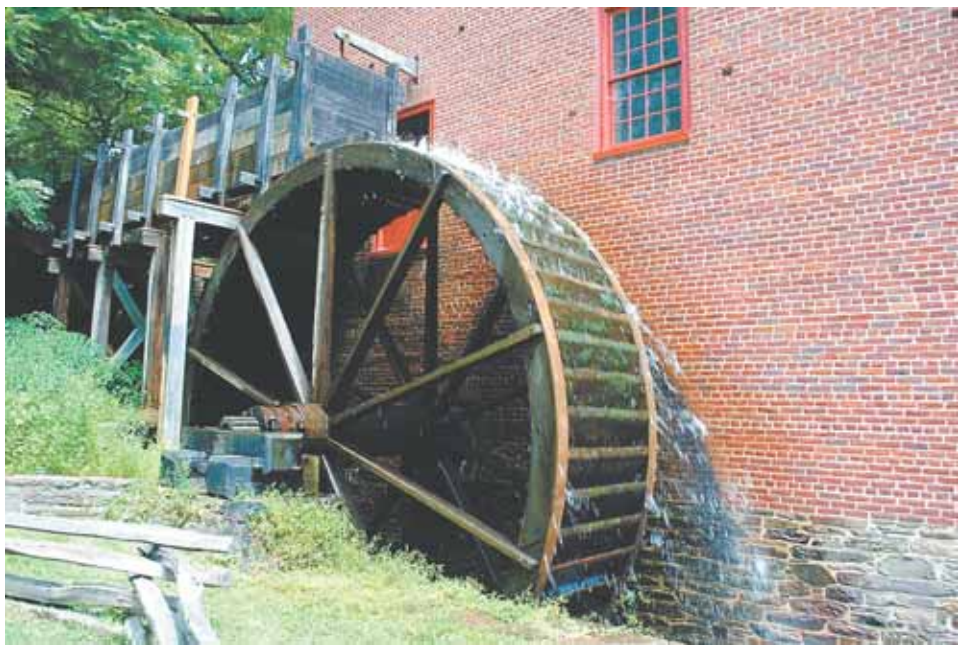
Mom's Group meets second and fourth Thursday of the Month, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Join the group for coffee and fellowship. The group meets in the Lillian Croy Room, near the Church Office. Childcare will be available just across the hall in the Childcare Center. If you are interested in joining the group, contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521 so that we can plan appropriately for materials and childcare.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, has Sunday services at 7:45, 9 and 11 a.m. with nursery care provided. In the summer, they offer musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including an 8 a.m. worship service without music and a 10 a.m. worship service with nursery care. 703-759-2082.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

McLean Bible Church. Fitness Class at Body and Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. Email bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.



Photos by Maggie Giordano

The 20-foot overshot waterwheel, which was rebuilt in 2002, reproduces the original waterwheel that powered the mill machinery.

Northern Virginia Carvers member, Jack Edwards, has been carving his carousel horse for four years. He only works on it during Colvin Run Mill carving sessions.

Experiencing History at Colvin Run Mill

The final big event of the summer seasons will be a free day for the public, held on Aug. 20.

The Colvin Run Mill has hosted recurring weekend programs throughout the months of June, July and August. It is located at 10017 Colvin Run Road and is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On the first and third Sundays of those months, they have offered grain grinding demonstrations from noon to 3 p.m. The tour is $7 for adults, $6 for students 16 or older, and $5 for children and seniors.

They have also offered woodcarving lessons with the Northern Virginia Carvers on the first and third Sunday of each month as well. Free lessons are offered to the public of ages 12 and up from noon to 4 p.m. Community members who partake are only charged for the wood blanks used for carving. Blacksmithing demonstrations were held on June 4, 18, and July 2. They were at no charge. These educational events are carried into the fall months as well.

Some other events that were held during the summer months included a Mini Millers Camp, a doll camp, and a visit from the "Virginia 49th Infantry."

The final big event of the summer seasons will be a free day for the public, held on Aug. 20. It will take place as a commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the mill being placed on the national registry of historic places. Community members will get a chance to partake in activities such as wood carving lessons and the opportunity to view the opening of the Miller's house after its restoration.

For more information about these events, visit www.fairfazcounty.gov/parks/colvin runmill or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/partakes.

— Maggie Giordano

The site is open daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; except Tuesdays.

Gemma Stokoe and her son, Robin, traveled from Falls Church with the Mom's Club of Falls Church North to watch the mill grinding.

Jadea Le, Grace Le and Madison Le came from Falls Church to enjoy the free carving lessons from the Northern Virginia Carvers.

The storekeeper, Pam Gennati, sells various items to customers such as candles, educational books, candy and post cards.

Tom Milton, Fairfax County Park Authority volunteer, pours the wheat as part of the demonstration.

Entertainment

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. 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.

"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.

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.

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.

First Sunday Jazz Brunch 11-2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at Bazin's on Church 111 Church St N.W., Vienna. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/

The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. $10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

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. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. $15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

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.

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.

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

AUGUST

Fairfax Family Golf Month. At Oak Marr Golf Complex is located at 3136 Jermantown Road, Oakton. In August, parents pay for their 9-hole round of golf and accompanying children and teens (ages 8-17) will receive a round at no charge. This is also good at Jefferson District Golf Course is located at 7900 Lee Highway, Falls Church, and Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 9

Understanding Political Polarization. 7-9 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. A "Meetup," where people from diverse backgrounds will try to better understand their own and others' values and beliefs across the usual political boundaries. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/ or email billrfj09@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 10

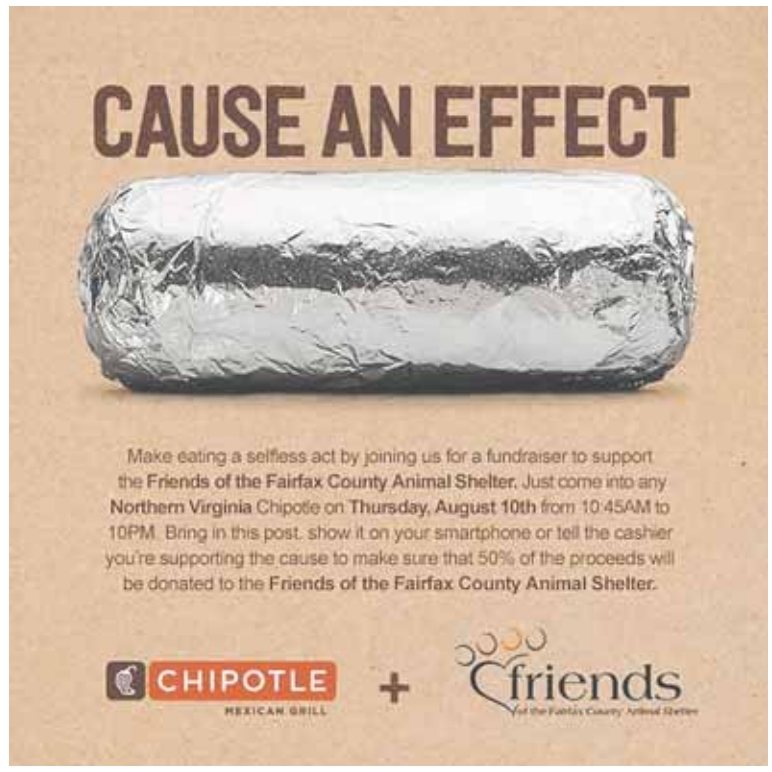
Animal Shelter Food Drive. 10:45 a.m.-10 p.m. at Chipotle Mexican Grill, 213 Maple Ave. E., Vienna; 8461 Leesburg Pike, Suite A; 2946 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton; 7923L Tysons Corner Center, McLean; 6707 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Supports the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FFCAS). When customers dine at any of these locations and mention the fundraiser at the register, Chipotle will donate 50 percent of the sales to the FFCAS. Visit www.ffcas.org/.

FRIDAY/AUG. 11

Pair of Plays. 5 p.m. at The Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Traveling Players perform Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors" at 5 p.m., and "Atum's Eye: the Dawn of Time," by Judy White at 7 p.m. Guests are invited to bring a picnic dinner. $10. Visit www.madeira.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/AUG. 11-12

"Hair." 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road SW. Vienna Youth Players (VYP) is putting its own spin on what youthful frustration with society looks and sounds like in its production of the 1968 Broadway musical "Hair," which features classics like "Aquarius" and "Let the Sunshine In." $14. Visit viennava.gov/webtrac.



Giving at Chipotle

On Thursday, Aug. 10, Chipotle Mexican Grill is contributing to the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. All purchases between 10:45 a.m.-10 p.m. at Chipotle Mexican Grill, 213 Maple Ave. E., Vienna; 8461 Leesburg Pike, Suite A; 2946 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton; 7923L Tysons Corner Center, McLean; 6707 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Supports FFCAS. When customers dine at any of these locations and mention the fundraiser at the register, Chipotle will donate 50 percent of the sales to the FFCAS. Visit www.ffcas.org/ for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

Emergency Food Drive. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the at the McLean Giant, 1454 Chain Bridge Road, McLean and Pimmit Hills Safeway, 1688 Anderson Road. For the SHARE Pantry. Call 703-356-6336 or visit thehungerchurch.org.

Dan Navarro Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. $20-25. Call 877-987-6487 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

Meteor Astronomy. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Observatory Park at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Class covers meteor basics – what meteors are, their origins, best time to view, fireball reporting and visual and video observing techniques. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm/.

SUNDAY/AUG. 13

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Tom Principato in concert. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

Aztec Two-Step Concert. 6 p.m. at Jammin Java, 27 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Folk-rock duo celebrates the release of their new album "Naked." $25 Visit jamminjava.com/ or call 877-987-6487.

TUESDAY/AUG. 15

"Dining with Dorothy." 12:30 p.m. at the Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Dining with Dorothy events are Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna events held periodically throughout the year as opportunities for mature adults to meet and socialize with new people along with old friends. Call 703-281-0538.

Surviving Your Split Lecture. 7:30-9 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave, E, Vienna. Martha Bodyfelt how to reduce breaking-up stress, avoid the most common mistakes, and gain clarity on what to expect. Call 703-938-0405.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 16

Understanding Political Polarization. 7-9 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. A "Meetup," where people from diverse backgrounds will try to better understand their own and others' values and beliefs across the usual political boundaries. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/ or email billrfj09@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 18

Chillin' on Church. 6:30 p.m. at Church St., Vienna. Water games, Mudlark band playing rock and blues. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Teen Center Party. 4-8 p.m. at Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. 27th Anniversary Block Party includes live music, air-brushed tattoos, street performances, an Old Firehouse Living History Exhibit, concessions and various amusements. Bring a bike to donate to Wheels to Africa, a youth-led nonprofit that collects bikes for children in need throughout Africa. Free. Visit www.mcleancenter.org/teens.

Awards Reception. 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. "The Human Condition" judge Laura Goyer. Free. Call 703-319-3971 or visit ViennaArtsSociety.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 20

Colonial Mill Demonstration. Noon-3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Demonstration on how grains were milled in years past. $7 for adults, $6 for students 16 and up with ID, and $5 for children and seniors. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Capriccio String Quartet. 4 p.m. at McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road. Benefit for the McLean Baptist Church Community Missions Power Pack Program which provides weekend packs of food to alleviate hunger for student who receive free or reduced-fee meals during the week. Call 703-356-8080 or visit www.mcleanbaptist.org.

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Vinyl Invention, a Great Falls based group that plays high energy rock and '70s favorites. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 30

Back-to-School Quote-Along Movie. 7 p.m. at the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road. The Alden begins a series of quote-along movies with a back-to-school viewing of "Mean Girls," Tina Fey's 2004 high-school comedy. Call 571-296-8385 or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

SEPT. 7-9

Quarterly Book Sale. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Tyson's Library, 7700 and 7704 Leesburg Pike. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Visit tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com or 703-338-3307.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 15

Chillin' on Church. 6:30 p.m. at Church St., Vienna. Water games, Chump Change band playing rock. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

Antiques Road Show. 10 a.m.-noon at Colvin Run Historic Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. To have an item evaluated, attendees must provide a picture and description of the provenance (how long it has been in the family, what is already known about it) by Aug. 31. Pictures and details should be sent to Yasha Arant at yasha_arant@yahoo.com or Yasha Arant, 104 Sue Ann Ct, Sterling, VA 20164. Visit greatfallssenior centergfsc.wildapricot.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Fun Fall Bazaar and Market. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls UMC Annual sale Shops, bake sale, books, silent auction, children's activities, Appraisal Roadshow, and BBQ dinner. Call Lois 703-759-2843.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 24

Teddy Bear 5K and 1K. 2-6 p.m. at Pimmit Hills Park, 7230 Idylwood Road. All proceeds from this event go to Falls Church-McLean Children's Center. Visit potomac.enmotive.com/events.

MONDAY/SEPT. 25

Charity Golf Tournament. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Westfield's Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Annual Family PASS golf to benefit the working homeless Families of Fairfax County. Visit www.familypassfairfax.org.

Jessica Honesty, former South Lakes and Westfield High basketball player, poses on her set for "The J-Hon Show" at Fairfax Public Access Sunday morning.

Photos by Colin Stoecker/ The Connection

Show with Honesty

Former South Lakes, Westfield High basketball star anchors community news and feature show at Fairfax Public Access.

By Colin Stoecker
The Connection

Jessica Honesty, 30, former South Lakes and Westfield High student, now of Stafford, Va. went from playing basketball to anchoring her own community news and feature show at Fairfax Public Access. And she is not looking back. "I can't stop," she said.

"I had zero experience when I started out in journalism, it's something of a passion when you take the time to do your own thing."

She may have a degree in broadcast journalism, but her first real passion in life was playing basketball. "I've spent eight months here taking class, originally I was interested in sports, but this show is about versatility and community events in addition to sports," she said.

Honesty played basketball for 14 years and was drafted to play D1 on the college level. She played for South Lakes her freshman year and started as a sophomore at Westfield High school. Until she broke her foot playing as a senior.

"Once she was injured all of the schools started to turn away their offers," said her father Kenneth Honesty, 58, retired. "The phone calls just stopped coming in."

But her show continues to show signs of growth as she grows into her new passion — TV. She wants to be a TV host and personality.

"On Facebook I'm doing pretty well. We have 6,000 views on the teaser videos, and the show reaches 250,000 people around Fairfax county on TV."

At her height of basketball performance, she received a scholarship to East Carolina. There she discovered her passion for journalism and communications.

The newspapers used to call her "the Truth" as well as the announcer, and her other nickname was J-Hon, short for Jessica Honesty.

Her success at Fairfax Public Access has taught her a lot about perseverance in a job market and industry that is not forgiving or even helpful to newcomers.

Jessica Honesty and her mother Pamela Honesty flip through old newspaper clippings on the set of "The J-Hon Show," at Fairfax Public Access on Sunday.

"There's always something stopping you. I took from my high school basketball career that this is my dream, this is my passion. I will get that experience and keep going."

Pamela Honesty, 55, a staff accountant and Jessica's mother believes that the show has a positive message. "It's motivational for the kids with Jessica's sports background, and playing up to their expectations. It's a positive outcome."

The show runs about 10 times a month. So far she has produced four shows and has done all of the editing herself. Coming up she will feature Cornerstones of Reston. Also she will feature the Buffalo Soldiers, a community motorcycle group, with focus on positive impact.

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Sports

Claire Newberry

Photo by Ed. Messina

Oakton Otter Divers Finish Season With 3-2 Record and in Second Place

Sixteen Oakton Otter divers competed in the NVSL Division 3 championship meet on Sunday, July 30, each attempting to secure a spot in the NVSL All-Star meet.

The following divers placed first or second and qualified for All-Stars: Katie Vaughan (Junior Girls, second); Sarah Gurley (Intermediate Girls, first); Spencer Dearman (Intermediate Boys, first); and Blaise Wuest (Intermediate Boys, second). The following divers qualified to be alternates at All-Stars: Megan Shipley (Freshman Girls, second alternate); Jon Anthony Montel (Freshman Boys, second alternate); and Liam Klopfenstein (Senior Boys, second alternate).

The other Otter divers who competed were: Finn MacStravic (Freshman Boys, fifth); Leo Estes (Freshman Boys, eighth); Landon Nelson (Freshman Boys, eleventh); Christina Angelicchio (Junior Girls, eleventh); Max Messina (Junior Boys, eighth); Molly Estes (Intermediate Girls, sixth); Claire Newberry (Intermediate Girls, ninth); Molly Kenefick (Intermediate Girls, tenth); and Josh Shipley (Intermediate Boys, fifth).

In-Person, TV Debates Scheduled Ahead of November Elections

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold both in-person and televised forums for the public and the press to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates. "The purpose of these forums is to educate voters about the candidates and where they stand on the issues, by hearing them answer questions from the public, so voters can make informed choices at the ballot box in November," said Wendy Fox-Grage, LWVFA co-president.

There will be four in-person forums and three televised forums. The League invited all certified candidates campaigning for office in their respective districts. At the in-person forums, question-and-answer sessions will be followed by an opportunity for informal conversations with individual candidates.

The public and press are encouraged to attend these in-person forums:

❖ Sunday, Sept. 17 at 2:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center: Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Invited candidates: Kathleen J. Murphy (D), Cheryl A. Buford (R), Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D), Donte T. Tanner (D), Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), R.C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. (D), Karrie K. Delaney (D), James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R), Jennifer R. Boysko (D), and Linda C. Schulz (R).

❖ Thursday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. at Providence Community Center: 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Invited candidates: Mark L. Keam (D), David L. Bulova (D), Eileen Filler-Corn (D), Kathy K.L. Tran (D), Lolita I. Mancheno-Smoak (R), Marcus B. Simon (D), and Mike S. Casey (I).

❖ Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, Lecture Hall: 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Invited candidates: L. Kaye Kory (D), Paul B. Haring (R), Vivian E. Watts (D), Mark D. Sickles (D), Paul E. Krizek (D), Mark H. Levine (D), Alfonso H. Lopez (D), and Adam Roosevelt (R).

❖ Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Invited candidates: Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D), David L. Bulova (D), Donte T. Tanner (D), Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), Karrie K. Delaney (D), James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R), Jennifer R. Boysko (D), and Linda C. Schulz (R).

The televised forums at Fairfax County Public Access are on Channel 10 or livestreamed on YouTube "Inside Scoop Livestream." The public can submit questions by email to theinsidescooptv@gmail.com or call 571-749-1142 between 7-8:30 p.m. Tune in on:

❖ Monday, Sept. 11 at 8 p.m.: Invited candidates: L. Kaye Kory (D), Paul B. Haring (R), Vivian E. Watts (D), Mark D. Sickles (D), Paul E. Krizek (D), Mark H. Levine (D), Alfonso H. Lopez (D), and Adam Roosevelt (R).

❖ Monday, Sept. 18 at 8 p.m.: Invited candidates: Mark L. Keam (D), David L. Bulova (D), Eileen Filler-Corn (D), Kathy K.L. Tran (D), Lolita I. Mancheno-Smoak (R), Marcus B. Simon (D), and Mike S. Casey (I)

❖ Monday, Oct. 2 at 8 p.m.: Invited candidates: Kathleen J. Murphy (D), Cheryl A. Buford (R), Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D), Donte T. Tanner (D), Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), R.C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. (D), Karrie K. Delaney (D), James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R), Jennifer R. Boysko (D), and Linda C. Schulz (R).

"Our League is committed to empowering voters in Fairfax County, and we highly encourage the public and the press to attend these free in-person events and tune in to the televised forums," says Judy Helein, LWVFA co-president.

For more information about the candidates' priorities and positions, go to the League-sponsored website: www.vote411.org.

Bulletin Board

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

MEMBERS WANTED

Great Falls Friends and Neighbors (GFFN) invites women living in the Langley High School District or The Estates of Lowes Island to learn more about the group. The purpose of GFFN is to establish and foster an atmosphere in which new and current residents can develop new friendships and community contacts through social, educational and cultural activities. In addition, the club provides service, support and donations to philanthropic and civic organizations in and around the Great Falls community. Email info@gffnva.org or visit www.gffnva.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 10

Fairfax Connector Bus Changes. 6-8 p.m. (7 p.m. presentation) at Stenwood Elementary School Cafeteria, 2620 Gallows Road, Vienna. Fairfax Connector proposes service adjustments for implementation in September 2017 to improve the customer experience through increased on-time performance, improved service reliability and reduced crowding. In order to serve the greatest number of riders as effectively as possible, improvements target high-ridership corridors and partially address the elimination of Metrobus 2T. Routes in the proposal include: 171, 231, 232, 321, 322, 333, 334, 335, 395, 462, 463, and 551. Visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/news for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 17

Support Group for Caregivers. 10-11:30 a.m. at the UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This support group is designed for caregivers of adult family members. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

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. 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.

MONDAY/AUG. 21

McLean Class Registration. At MCC Registration Office, 6645 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. A variety of classes, activities and events for infants through senior adults, providing continuing education resource for area residents. MCC tax district residents receive a discount on fees, as do seniors age 60 or older for classes that cost more than $50. Non district residents register Monday, Aug. 28. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 23

Candidate Forum. 7 p.m. at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Learn more about the candidates running in the Aug. 29 election for the open At-Large seat on the Fairfax County School Board. Visit http://bit.ly/2vmlxLD for more information.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 2

Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. The Vienna branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will hold a free, informational open house. AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Membership dues discount for those who join at this event. Refreshments. Visit www.aauw.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 14

Good Morning McLean. 7:30-9 a.m. at J. Gilbert's Wood-Fired Steaks and Seafood, 6930 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The second Thursday of each month is the McLean Chamber of Commerce "Good Morning, McLean breakfast." Visit www.mcleanchamber.org or call 703-893-1034 for more.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Coincidental Or Not

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

One of our older/oldest cats, Biscuit, born late September 2006 and his oldest human parent, yours truly, born late September 1954, are both having teeth issues. In fact, the exact same teeth issues: the 1st molar and the 2nd bicuspid in the "upper right quadrant" are causing us problems and have to be extracted.

Biscuit's teeth extraction will be done by our regular veterinarian. Mine will be done not by my regular dentist but by a specialist, an oral surgeon. Unfortunately, the two practices are not related so there's no chance of a "BOGO." Nor is there any chance that the two procedures will be about the same cost. My teeth extraction will be double at a minimum, perhaps even quadruple, if I'm lucky. (I made inquiries.) Accordingly, Biscuit's extraction will occur/has occurred first.

What's of interest to me is the coincidence that Biscuit and I need the same teeth extracted at the same time. Which when you consider that Biscuit and I are approximately the same age, is not really a surprise. It's really more of a fact of life/aging – for both of us. Perhaps there are other behaviors and/or physical/mental indicators in Biscuits day-to-day activities which might clue me in to my own aging process. After all, we are living similar lives.

So far, Biscuit's post-teeth-extraction recovery has been uneventful. He's been spry and energetic. He's been on the kitchen counter, various window sills, the dining room table, the ironing board and all the other furniture; he's knocked over the wicker trash basket in our bedroom three times and he's been eating like a dog. In short, he's "back baby."

He almost appears to be smiling – except when we attempt to give him his post-procedure pills. As per usual, during the day he's sleeping on the back of the couch and at night he's curled up in the laundry basket; and he's still the first cat – of five, an hour early, I might add, for breakfast and dinner, to place his order/meow his presence. He's as ready to eat as ever. He hasn't missed a beat or a step. If I had to summarize/characterize his actions now, I'd say he has a real joie de vivre, "an exuberant enjoyment of life." So what am I waiting for? Godot?

As for my procedure, I've been told it takes 30 minutes or so. Local anesthesia is used (unlike Biscuit who was totally sedated/anesthetized). Moreover, the post-surgical pain is not terrible and the chance of infection is minor. And though I'll have a space in my gums where my teeth used to be, no longer will I be anticipating the pain and discomfort that cracking or splitting either of these two teeth would cause. The only pain I'll likely have is the pain of payment. (See 7/26/17 column entitled "Taking Care of Business" for associated details.)

I guess my curiosity/concern is whether I trust anything I've observed from Biscuit's dental experience – considering we're the same age. Is what's good for the cat also good for the human - all things being equal, sort of? Is Biscuit's return to normalcy so quickly and so easily – and so vigorously, a lesson to be learned? If seeing is believing and I do see extremely well for someone nearing his 63rd birthday, then Biscuit's 'experience' and the comparison between his pre- and post-extraction behavior should be an inspiration to us all, especially those of us of similar age with one and the same, two actually, teeth which need to be extracted.

I mean, the procedure I've been putting off is not exactly brain surgery, it's oral surgery. I'm not admitted to a hospital. It's outpatient. I'm in and then out. Same day service, just like the restaurant where my wife, Dina works. I don't even need someone to drive me home (unlike Biscuit. I had to drive him home.) And now that Biscuit is home, safe and sound, I suppose it's time for me to buck up and schedule my appointment. After all, it has nothing to do with cancer and everything to do with quality of life. I'd say that's a win-win.

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

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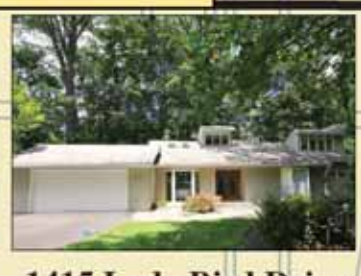

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