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Rob and Laurie DiRocco at the September 2015 Evening in White event in celebration of the Town's 125th anniversary. Vienna Mayor recommends Top 10 places and events in Town.

Mayor Welcomes You to the Town

NEWCOMERS, PAGE 3

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2017-2018

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Mayor Welcomes You to the Town

Mayor Laurie DiRocco on what's the best about living in Vienna.

BY LAURIE DIROCCO
MAYOR OF VIENNA

I would like to welcome you to our lovely Town of Vienna. I think you will agree that Vienna is a special and memorable place. Before I share my favorite things about Vienna, let me provide some general information and a few facts and figures about our Town.

The Town of Vienna is 4.4 square miles with about 16,500 residents and 14 parks, including the W&OD trail and Town Green. Vienna has inviting residential neighborhoods, a vibrant business district with many unique and local shops, and some of the best-ranked schools in the country. The Town is known for its numerous community events, including the Fourth of July fireworks, Oktoberfest, and the Halloween Parade as well as its strong sense of hometown pride.

These facts and figures help explain why Vienna is a great place to live and work, but they don't reveal the true heart of Vienna. To me, Vienna is its numerous volunteers, many of whom are honored every year at my Mayor's Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. Some residents help an elderly neighbor with groceries and yard work while others help bring public art to the community.

To me, Vienna is the volunteer firefighters who drive Santa around in their 1946 antique truck to greet residents young and old. To me, Vienna is the place where Town police shut down Maple Avenue for the James Madison High School homecoming parade.

I CHERISH the Town's strong sense of history. Listed on the National Historic Registry, the Freeman Store and Museum on Church Street is a small, local gift store filled with historical displays and memorabilia. I always buy the newest Christmas ornament there.

I also appreciate the Town's original Little Library, which smells of wood and old books. Every year students at Louise Archer Elementary School, built in 1939, host a special day to celebrate the school's history and first educator.

I strive to honor the Town's rich history while planning for thoughtful growth. We recently completed renovation of the Town's community center, which was originally constructed in 1966. I am so excited for big windows that allow sunlight to shine through the walkways and the new full-size gymnasium.

The community center will be the Town's first green building and will be LEED silver certified. A few years ago, the Town adopted



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Mayor Laurie DiRocco, right, with Bicycle Advisory Committee members Charlie Strunk and Beth Eachus. Vienna was designated a Bicycle Friendly Community last year by the League of American Bicyclists.



PHOTO BY ANDREA WÖRKER/THE CONNECTION

A summer Friday night, Aug. 18, 2017 at "Chillin' on Church St."

Mayor Laurie DiRocco's Top 10 Places/Events

1. Vienna Halloween Parade – the Town has hosted this parade on Maple Avenue for 70 years!
2. Northside Park – 26 acres of conservation land.
3. Town Green – hosts Town events and musical acts.
4. ViVa Vienna – Vienna Rotary hosts this Memorial Day weekend event and all proceeds go back to the community!
5. Oktoberfest – hosted by the Vienna Business Association.
6. Meadow Lane Park – lots of tree coverage makes this a great park for little ones in the summer.
7. Walk on the Hill – people stroll through the lovely Windover Heights neighborhood and view gardens while learning about environmental sustainability.
8. Church Street Stroll – shop at local businesses on Church Street while seeing Santa and roasting marshmallows.
9. Chillin' on Church – enjoyable summer events with cold drinks, music, and tasty food trucks.
10. Renovated Vienna Community Center – the central hub of the community!

the Maple Avenue Corridor (MAC) Plan, which supports redevelopment along Vienna's main thoroughfare. The plan includes green buildings, mixed uses, outdoor seating, public art, and improved pedestrian walkways.

My husband and I love to walk around Town, especially to local restaurants. On any given day, you will see lots of people walking and biking in Town, and we strive to support these activities. The Town has a Transportation Safety Commission and a Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Commission that work on adding more sidewalks; implementing traffic-calming measures where needed; researching creative solutions to challenging intersections; and supporting Safe Routes to School. On Fridays at 9:30 a.m., I lead a walking group from Town Hall. Everyone is invited (please come join me!) and we usually walk about 3 miles. It is a great opportunity to see various parts of Town and to chat with residents. Last spring, we walked to see the oldest trees around Town.

The Town has a strong relationship with its schools. Currently, I am working with James Madison pyramid principals on a partnership in which students work on Town projects and help solve problems in the community. The new project-based learning program will help educate students about local government, teach them how to be active and engaged citizens, and possibly lead them to discover career directions.

OK JUST A FEW MORE, less well-known things that I truly love about Vienna.

Many people don't realize that Vienna has an eclectic music scene with Jammin' Java, School of Rock, and Vienna Jammers, to name a few. Right outside of Town is Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. Additionally the Town Green hosts a variety of local bands. I can't forget to mention Vienna Idol, the Town's annual musical talent contest that raises money for the Khristin Kyllö Memorial Fund.

You may not realize that the train depot on Dominion Road is home to the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders, who host monthly open houses so the public can view their model train displays.

Many people when they think of Church Street, think of Vienna Presbyterian Church, whose historical chapel sits on the corner of Church and Mill Street. But the First Baptist Church has been in existence longer than the Town itself, with its original location on Lawyers Road near Church Street. This year the First Baptist Church is celebrating 150 years in the Town of Vienna!

I believe Vienna's strong sense of community is created by its citizens and their desire for a caring and welcoming place to call home. I am so grateful to be mayor of this special Town. If you ever want to know more about the Town or have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at ldirocco@viennava.gov or 703-255-6310. For more information, visit the Town's website at www.viennava.gov.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

About the Connection

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Connection's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we report on the character of your community, we include details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local government, nonprofits and business organizations, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

In 2016 alone, Connection papers won dozens of awards, including the top Virginia Press award — for Integrity and Community Service, for our coverage of police reform and related issues.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an email. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo.



Local Media Connection writers and photographers won 37 Virginia Press Association awards for work in 2016, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service. Pictured here from left: John Bordner, Mark Mogle, Mary Kimm, Shirley Ruhe, Tim Peterson, Vernon Miles, Eden Brown, Andrea Worker and Jeanne Theismann.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

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Vienna & Oakton CONNECTION

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

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— MARY KIMM

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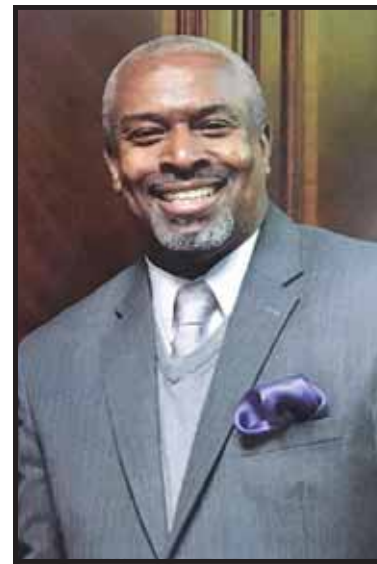
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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Welcome to Fairfax County: 'Work Hard, Play Hard'

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



Welcome to Fairfax County, one of the greatest places in the nation to live, work, play and raise a family. Fairfax County is home to a thriving business community, vibrant entertainment and shopping destinations, a world class university, beautiful parks and a diverse population of engaged residents. Whether you are a long time resident or new to the county, I hope you'll take some time to visit some of our most popular spots and enjoy what Fairfax County has to offer.

Tysons Corner Center, Fair Oaks Mall, Reston Town Center, Fairfax Corner, Springfield Town Center and the Mosaic District are great places to shop, eat and spend time with friends. For cultural destinations, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts and the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton are some of my favorites. For fresh air and exercise, I recommend our extensive network of trails, parks and RECenters.

While there are a lot of fun things to do in Fairfax County, our community is notorious for our "work hard, play hard" ethic. Time Magazine has described us as the epicenter of the Washington region's job boom and one of the great economic success stories of our time. Fairfax County is home to nine Fortune 500 company headquarters, approximately 9,000 tech businesses and over 116 million square feet of office space.

Fairfax County has one of the best public school systems nationwide with a graduation rate of nearly 93 percent. Fairfax County Public Schools is the third largest employer in Virginia and the 10th largest school system in the country with more than 189,000 students. After high school graduation, George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community Col-

lege are located just down the road for affordable higher education opportunities in many different subject fields. Our business-friendly economy offers a wide array of impressive career opportunities for both our older and younger residents.

On the local government level, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is constantly hard at work to ensure quality public services for our residents. Our 10-member Board of Supervisors strives to maintain positive community engagement, while strategically planning for the future with land use and infrastructure decisions.

Some recent Fairfax County accomplishments include updating many of our police policies, establishing a Diversion First program for people with mental illness who become involved with law enforcement, and successfully extending Metrorail to Tysons and Reston. Phase 2 of Metro's Silver Line is currently under construction and will extend all the way to Dulles Airport and into Loudoun County.

Fairfax County offers opportunity and quality services for residents of all ages. People from all over the globe have made Fairfax County their home, enriching our community with their diverse cultures and entrepreneurship. In Fairfax County, we believe we must all do our part to set a positive tone of acceptance, inclusiveness and kindness.

As chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I am elected at-large by Fairfax County residents. My office is here to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov or give my office a call at 703-324-2321. I hope you will sign up to receive my monthly Bulova Byline newsletter that will keep you up-to-date on what is happening in your new community. I also encourage you to visit fairfaxcounty.gov and fxva.com to see what Fairfax County has to offer you and your family every season and every day. Welcome to your new home.

Striving To Make Democracy Work

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) is a nonpartisan, volunteer organization composed of men and women who are dedicated to making democracy work. Since it is nonpartisan, it does not support or endorse candidates. It registers voters and provides them with unbiased information about the voting process, issues of interest, and elections. It encourages active participation of citizens

by holding candidate forums, so they can meet and ask questions of the candidates who are running for office. It conducts studies of important community issues, has monthly meetings during which members discuss these issues, and uses education and advocacy to influence local public policy in the interest of the public. To learn more about this organization or to join, go to www.lwv-fairfax.org.

Service for Seniors Who Want to Serve

RSVP is the region's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older, providing individualized support to seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

RSVP offers opportunities for volunteers including providing rides, support and meals to older neighbors, assisting local veterans in need and helping prepare communities for disasters. RSVP also recruits volunteers for community events throughout the year.

RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to group projects and social gatherings with other RSVP volunteers.

To sign up for an upcoming RSVP orientation email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Back to FCPS

BY SCOTT S. BRABRAND,
Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



It is great to be back in the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) family! I am returning to FCPS after spending the past five years as superintendent of Lynchburg City Schools. My family is also very excited to be back; my two sons will be attending Fairfax High School this year, the same school where I once served as principal. I always dreamed of coming back to FCPS and it is an honor for me to have the opportunity to lead this amazing school system.

I was a career changer, after doing volunteer work in the schools, and began in FCPS as a social studies teacher in 1994. I also served as an assistant principal at Herndon High and an associate principal at Lake Braddock Secondary School before being named principal at Fairfax High School in 2005. In 2009, I was named the cluster assistant superintendent for schools in the Hayfield, West Potomac and Mt. Vernon pyramids.

As your superintendent, I am making Fridays my school days. I want to visit our schools to understand the work and the challenges our teachers, administrators and employees face, to understand what is happening "on the ground" so I can be better informed when making decisions.

I am committed to following through on the work of my predecessor, Dr. Karen Garza, who established Portrait of a Graduate — the 21st century learning model that our system has embraced — that focuses on the skills necessary for our students to succeed in college and beyond. As a school division, we are committed to achieving this goal for every student, in every classroom, in every school. We can we make this vision happen through ...

Excellence: We need to make sure every student and family has an excellent experience during their time with us. This also requires our employees to be fully invested in the important work they do every day.

I want to visit our schools to understand the work and the challenges our teachers, administrators and employees face, to understand what is happening "on the ground" so I can be better informed when making decisions.

Scott S. Brabrand, Ed.D.,
Superintendent of Schools

Equity: FCPS is a microcosm of the world with students and families who come from all backgrounds and cultures. We will ensure that all students reach Portrait of a Graduate outcomes by addressing opportunity, access and attainment gaps. Every child, by name and need, can succeed with the proper support.

Effectiveness: We need to ensure that FCPS is being effective and efficient. One step I am taking is to narrow down our strategic plan in order to focus our efforts on achievable priorities that we can do well this year as a school division. We will align our resources to these priorities.

Expectations: I want our employees to love kids. The personal connection that our students feel with their teachers and all of our employees is critical to their success. I want our employees to love teaching and learning which I know will positively impact a child every day, and I want our employees to be professional in their work and role models for our students.

All of the challenges we face as a community and a country can best be solved through public education and FCPS can and will lead the way.

I wish all students, teachers, and parents a very successful school year and I look forward to seeing you in your schools!

NEWCOMERS

Everyone Counts In Hunter Mill

By SUPERVISOR
CATHERINE M. HUDGINS
(D-HUNTER MILL DISTRICT)



Every good community stems from those who work hard to make the community the best version of itself. From the youngest to oldest volunteers, to police officers and public officials, the Hunter Mill District is full of citizens contributing to the community in order to make it the best place to live. As a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS), my job is to ensure the wellbeing of the community through listening and informing constituents on what affects them in our community. In doing so, I strive to reflect the community voice in making policy, creating a diverse, prosperous place with affordable housing and equal opportunity for all. The goal of the Hunter Mill District office is to keep everyone in the know by providing events for the public to become involved within the community: First Wednesday sessions with the Supervisor at the Reston Regional Library or Vienna's Patrick Henry Library, to the Frying Pan Park concert series "Hunter Mill Melodies" and children event.

The Hunter Mill District has something for everyone. It includes all unincorporated Reston, the northern portion of Tysons, the Town of Vienna and the communities of Herndon and Oak Hill, with top tier parks, trails, restaurants, retailers, businesses and employment opportunities. One can visit Frying Pan Park, a working farm since 1930, now home to farm animals, a carousel, nature center, and tractor rides. A Metro ride from Wiehle-Metro East Sta-

tion is Tysons, a bustling new city with shopping and restaurant area with a movie theatre and a skating rink in the winter. If you're feeling up for exercise, drop in for an outdoor soccer game at recently opened Southgate Community Center court or take a stroll through Lake Fairfax Park.

The soon arrival of Phase II Metro brings transit service to all sides of Hunter Mill District. The District is most proud to be part of one of the best public education systems in the country, including higher education opportunities at Northern Virginia Community College and Marymount University. Spring, fall, winter or summer, there is always something to do in the Hunter Mill District.

Opportunities for citizen involvement are numerous, serving on Boards, Authorities and Commission to the BOS or task force studies, internship placements at the Hunter Mill District office to volunteering at events, or creating art displays. You can even find meeting space by reserving the North County Government Center community room for personal use at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/communityroom.htm.

It is important to stay up to date on the news and events occurring in the Hunter Mill District. Whether upcoming events and news from the Supervisor, advisories, community updates or Snow Alerts, subscribe to the monthly Hunter Mill District Newsletter and get it all.

If you have any questions or want to enroll for the newsletter, contact huntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-478-0283.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Opening of Stream Crossing Bridge providing additional access to Lake Fairfax Park.

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How To Vote

Every year is election year in Virginia; mechanics and details of voting require attention to detail.

Voting early if you qualify is a good choice.

There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible: elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html

There are two ways to vote absentee, in-person and by mail. To do either, you should first check your voter registration status to make sure it is up-to-date. Then you will need to apply for an absentee ballot. Note: If you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location (see locations below). Voting absentee by mail? Read below for the process of applying for your mail-in ballot.

You can now apply for an absentee ballot online with the state's new Citizen Portal. You will need your Social Security Number and information on your Virginia Driver's License to complete the application. Information is also provided on how to apply if you do not have a driver's license.

Virginia Voter ID

Virginia has voter identification requirements, plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether that is absentee or on Election Day.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; valid U.S. Passport; other government-issued photo identification cards issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; valid college or university student photo identification card from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an

employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad. Once the application is processed, the card will be mailed directly to the voter.

A voter who does not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls will be offered a provisional ballot.

Provisional Ballot Process for Voters Who Arrive Without ID

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo identification, don't panic or give up. You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. Voters may submit a copy of their ID via fax, email, in-person submission, or through USPS or commercial delivery service. Please note that the copy of the ID must be delivered to the electoral board by noon on Friday, or the provisional ballot cannot be counted.

Also by noon on Friday following the election, the voter may appear in-person in the office of the general registrar, in the locality in which the provisional ballot was cast, and apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. At the completion of the application process, the voter may request a Temporary Identification Document. This document may be provided to the electoral board to suffice the identification requirement.

General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7

On Election Day Polls are open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m., Nov. 7.

To determine whether eligible and registered to vote in this election, visit the Virginia Department of Elections website at elections.virginia.gov/ or call Fairfax Elections office at 703-222-0776.

To vote on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 6 a.m.-7 p.m. (General Election)

❖ Register/update address by: Monday, Oct. 16.

❖ Request absentee ballot by mail by: 5

p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31.

❖ Vote early (in-person absentee ballot by appearing in person by 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4.

For more information on voting in Fairfax County:

Voter Registration: 703-222-0776, TTY 711

Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725

Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

Election Officer Info: 703-324-4735,

TTY 711

School Bonds on Ballot

There is a \$315 million public school bonds referendum on the Nov. 7 general election ballot. If approved by voters, the Fairfax County Public Schools' current plans to use this bond money are to:

❖ Plan and/or construct two new elementary schools, one in Fairfax/Oakton area and another in the Northwest county area.

❖ Relocate one modular building

❖ Plan additions at three existing high schools to add capacity at Madison, Stuart and West Potomac.

❖ Plan and/or construct renovations of 10 elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools.

See www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/2017-school-bond-referendum.

Special Election

Aug. 29, 2017 Special Election, School Board At-Large

All county polling places will be open on Aug. 29 to fill a vacancy for member, School Board At-Large for the remainder of the present term of office which expires Dec. 31, 2019.

In-Person Absentee voting is underway until Aug. 26

❖ Aug 26: Final Day In-Person Absentee Voting

❖ Aug 29: Absentee Ballot Return Deadline, 7 p.m.

Four candidates are on the ballot:

Chris S. Grisafe

Sandra D. Allen

Karen A. Keys-Gamarra

Michael H. Owens

For more on the school board race, see www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jul/31/low-turnout-high-stakes-special-election-school-bo/

ON THE BALLOT in Fairfax County:

Governor

Ralph S. Northam (D)

Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie (R)

Clifford D. Hyra (L)

42nd District

Kathy Tran (D)

Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R)

Lieutenant Governor

Justin E. Fairfax (D)

Jill H. Vogel (R)

43rd District

Mark Sickles (D) incumbent, unopposed

Attorney General

Mark R. Herring (D)*

John D. Adams (R)

44th District

Paul Krizek (D) incumbent, unopposed

House of Delegates (100) (2-year term)

34th District

Kathleen Murphy (D) incumbent

Cheryl Buford (R)

45th District

Mark Levine (D) incumbent, unopposed

46th District

Charniele Herring (D) incumbent, unopposed

35th District

Mark Keam (D) incumbent, unopposed

47th District

Patrick Hope (D) incumbent, unopposed

36th District

Ken Plum (D) incumbent, unopposed

48th District

Rip Sullivan (D) incumbent, unopposed

37th District

David Bulova (D) incumbent, unopposed

49th District

Alfonso Lopez (D) incumbent
Adam Roosevelt (R)

38th District

Kay Kory (D) incumbent

Paul Haring (R)

53rd District

Marcus Simon (D) incumbent
Mike Case (I)

39th District

Vivian Watts (D) incumbent, unopposed

67th District

Karrie Delaney (D)
Jim LeMunyon (R) incumbent

40th District

Donte Tanner (D)

Tim Hugo (R) incumbent

86th District

Jennifer Boysko (D) incumbent
Linda Schultz (R)

41st District

Eileen Filler-Corn (D) incumbent, unopposed

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

The Best Things About Living in Vienna

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

About 16,500 people call the 4.4 square miles of the Town of Vienna their home, according to the most recent U.S. census figures. Add in the Vienna zip codes outside the actual boundaries of the Town, and you have quite a few more folks who can say, "I live in Vienna."

In 1754, the first house was built in Vienna by Col. Charles Broadwater. In 1767, Broadwater's son-in-law built a home and named it Ayr Hill after his na-

tive Ayr County in Scotland, and Ayr Hill became the name of the area.

The Hendricks family of Vienna, N.Y., moved into the area almost 100 years later and as they became influential landowners, eventually succeeded in changing the name Ayr Hill into Vienna.

Lots of things have changed in and about Vienna over those many years, but talking to its residents, there is one constant – many of the people who live there love that their hometown holds tight to its small-town roots and attitudes.

"What are the best things about living in Vienna?"

Sean Finn, owner Finn's Pool and Spa Service. Started in Vienna, took a 12-year Centreville residency, before returning for a total of 37 years in Vienna.



"I grew up in Vienna and thought it was great place to grow up. I am still friends with kids that I played with on my street. I have a daughter now and hope she has as many fond memories of growing up in Vienna as I do."



Nancy Moats, volunteer with Historic Vienna, Inc. Resident of Vienna for 34 years.

"I love all the history. We live in an historic home from the 1890s. The owner was a Town Clerk, had a sawmill, and became a Mason. I appreciate the history of people who had to do for themselves. Living within the town, it's great to be able to walk to so many places and activities. It's also great to be so close to D.C. and the things to see and do and experience there."

ing within the town, it's great to be able to walk to so many places and activities. It's also great to be so close to D.C. and the things to see and do and experience there."

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



The Oskuie family — Lauren, Jackson, Cosmo the dog, and dad Chris. Chris is in sales and marketing. Native of Vienna, resident for 40 years.

"What's best? Walking to everything," said Chris, "and the great community atmosphere like this event tonight. [Chillin' on Church Street] You pay a premium to live here, but it's worth it." Lauren likes how easy it is to get together with friends and find things to do. "And there's lots of good food around." Jackson agreed that there was "lots to do." Cosmo declined to comment.



Laurie DiRocco, Mayor of Vienna, resident for 22 years.

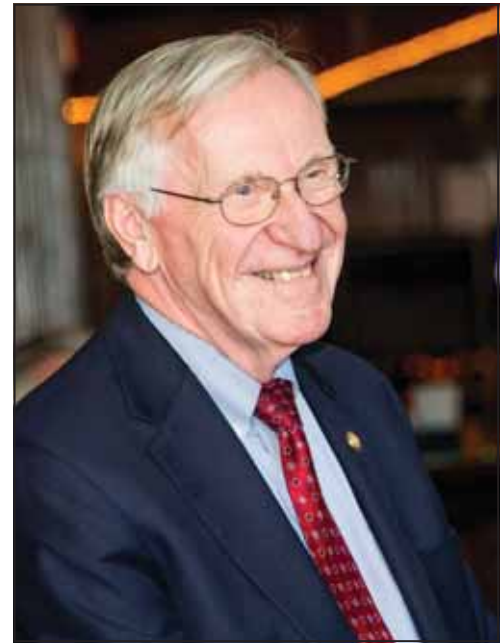
"I could go on forever answering this question! But a few things best about living in Vienna is that we have a history that is still part of our current lives in the community today. I love the Town Green, the concerts, the many activities and ways we connect with and take care of each other."



Brian Feeney, in education. Resident for 18 years.

"I enjoy the activities and things to do, community parties like 'Chillin' on Church Street,' the quality of life here. It's a convenient place to live, with access to the Metro and Dulles Airport."

Delegate Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum
Your Elected Representative to the
Virginia House of Delegates, 36th District



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Authorized by Kenneth R. Plum.
Paid for by Friends of Delegate Ken Plum



Gloria T. Runyon, Retired D.C. school principal. Board Member, Historic Vienna, Inc. Has lived in Vienna "all my life, except being born in the District because they had a hospital." Ruynon's family has owned a home in Vienna, almost as long as there has been a settlement.

"My family goes back to the late 1700s and family members just keep buying the same house from each other. There is a real community feeling here. People are nice to each other, and they were even during times of segregation. There are so many things to do here, I love living so near the Community Center and being able to enjoy so many local activities. We keep our small-town ambience."

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

August 2017

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 for more.

TUESDAY/AUG. 29

Dance Open House. 4-6 p.m. at Cuppett Performing Arts Center, 135 Park St. SE. Beginner through pre-professional dance classes in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, lyrical, hip hop, acro and musical theatre. Visit CuppettPAC.com or call 703-938-9019.

Toastmasters Humormill Club. 6-8 p.m. in the McLean Bible Church, Ground Floor Community Room, 8925 Leesburg Pike. Humor and improv help develop spontaneity and speaking skills. Experience laughter and a speech contest. Visit humormillclub.toastmastersclubs.org for more.

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.

September 2017

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 2-3

24th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival. Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Saturday: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Sunday: noon - 6 p.m. Partake of Shawarma, Chicken Kebabs, Falafel, Fattoush, Hummus, and Stuffed Grape Leaves, or any number of other delicious menu choices, including a Roast Lamb Dinner served on Saturday from 6-9 and all day on Sunday. Then relax with a cup of coffee and mouth-watering pastry. Join in the Debke dance, participate in a game of backgammon or chess, visit the vendors, or take a tour of the church. Rain or shine. Admission and parking are free. Call 703-734-9566 or visit middleeasternfoodfestival.com/festival/

SEPT. 7-9

Quarterly Book Sale. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Tysons 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 for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

Food for Others Tysons 5k and Fun Run. 8 a.m. Food For Others is an important part of Northern Virginia's safety net for those needing food when an emergency strikes and for the growing number of working poor who are unable to make ends meet and need to supplement their inadequate food supplies. Registration: \$35 through Sept. 7 at 8 p.m. \$40 during packet pick up and on race day. Visit www.foodforothers.org/5k/



ViVa! Vienna!

Taking place each year over Memorial Day weekend, ViVa! Vienna! continues as one of Vienna's most-anticipated seasonal events.

Virginia Indian Festival. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. 10 a.m. The festival includes eight American Indian tribes from Virginia including the Rappahannock dancers and drummers. Enjoy hands on activities and live demonstrations including American Indian storytelling, shooting bow and arrows, throwing spears and making stone tools. Assist in building a dugout canoe and visit the marketplace of American Indian crafts, pottery and jewelry. Tickets: \$7-\$9. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Movies on the Green. Beauty and the Beast (Live action version). 7:30 p.m. Come join us on the Village Green, on these Saturday evenings, to enjoy a free movie and popcorn courtesy of our sponsors. Blankets, chairs and picnics are all welcome for a family-friendly evening of movies under the stars! Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org/movies-on-the-green/

SEPT. 9-20

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Various venues around Northern Virginia. Events include badminton, volleyball, bocce, miniature golf, and many more. The basic registration fee is \$13. A fee of \$1 is required for each event. Additional fees may apply. Visit nvso.us/ for more.

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.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

McLean Fall Community Garage Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 1420 Beverly Road, McLean, behind Staybridge Suites Hotel. Admission is free. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, Sept. 13, or until sold out. Call 703-

744-9365 or email registrar@mcleancenter.org.

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 for more.

October 2017

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

McLean Project for the Arts ArtFest. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, VA 22102. The park is transformed into a lively landscape of mini art galleries showcasing and offering for sale the work of acclaimed artists from the Mid-Atlantic region. Visit www.mpaart.org

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Stuff the Truck Food Drive. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Safeway, 9881 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Benefit for Committee for Helping Others (CHO) and Artemis House to provide emergency food aid to those in need in Vienna, Oakton, Dunn Loring and Merrifield. Artemis House is Fairfax County's only 24-hour emergency shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking. Sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Great Falls Baha'is as part of the regional Day to Serve initiative. Visit www.daytoserve.org/ for more.

Oktoberfest. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Historic Church Street. Enjoy a traditional Oktoberfest Festival with drinks, food, entertainment, and games for families. Visit www.viennaoktoberfest.org/

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/ OCT. 21-22

Claude Moore Colonial Farm 1771 Market Fair. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at

6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. In the fall, warm yourself by the fires and enjoy the splendor of autumn with crisp local apples, warm savory meat pies and hearty breads. Let Market Fair entertainers, tradesmen, and the militia amuse and educate you. Visit 2017.1771.org/marketfair/

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 25

71st Annual Vienna Halloween Parade. 7 p.m. Maple Avenue, Vienna. Visit www.viennava.gov.

November 2017

TUESDAY/NOV. 7

Election Day. General Election and Special Elections. Visit www.elections.virginia.gov/voter-outreach/upcoming-elections.html

MONDAY/NOV. 27

Church Street Holiday Stroll. 6-9 p.m. Ring in the holiday season at this fun annual event along Church Street in Vienna. After his arrival at 6:15 p.m. on a fire truck, Santa will greet children at the historic Freeman Store and Museum and help the mayor light the holiday tree at 6:20 p.m. Various local musical groups perform throughout the evening. For more information, call Historic Vienna Inc. at 703-938- 5187 or visit www.viennava.gov.

SUNDAY/DEC. 3

Washington Symphonic Brass: Home for the Holidays Chamber Music at the Barns. 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. 3p.m. The WSB promises a resounding celebration of the holiday season. Tickets: \$45. Visit www.wolftrap.org.

2018

SPRING 2018

Old Fashioned Easter Egg Roll and



The Singing Princesses of Vienna posed for photos with children and painted little faces at no charge during ViVa! Vienna! 2016.

Easter Fun. Date TBA. 10 a.m. Freeman House, 131 Church St. S. Enjoy a visit with the Easter Bunny and a spring craft. Activities are for children 12 and younger. Call 703-938- 5187 or visit www.viennava.gov.

APRIL 21-28

Historic Garden Week. Visit www.vagardenweek.org/

SATURDAY/MAY 19

McLean Day. 11 a.m-5p.m. Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Admission: Free. Bring the family and enjoy McLean's biggest annual event. This event draws approximately 11,000+ patrons throughout the day. Vote for your favorite MCC candidate, enjoy live entertainment, exhibitors, sponsors, food trucks, large and small carnival rides, amusements, games, balloon animals, a tennis clinic and more. Visit www.mcleancenter.org/special-events for more.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 26-28

ViVa! Vienna! A family and community oriented celebration of Memorial Day and the greater Vienna Community spirit. Visit vivavienna.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 8-10

Celebrate Fairfax! Northern Virginia's largest annual three-day festival and community-wide celebration at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Visit celebratefairfax.com/ or call 703-324- 3247.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

July Fourth Festival & Fireworks. Fireworks begin at dark (approximately 9:30 p.m.) Spend the evening with the Town of Vienna celebrating America's independence. Music, food, and, of course, spectacular fireworks! Check back to this page later or the Summer 2018 parks and rec brochure for more details: www.viennava.gov.

EARLY AUGUST

VietFest. The Plaza at Tysons Corner 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Entrance to festival is free. Featuring services, exhibits, and food. Events include Miss VietFest Pageant, Mister VietFest and VietFest's Got Talent. Animals are net permitted (except for service animals). Visit www.vietfest.com/

NEWCOMERS GUIDE



The old Freeman Store preserves the history of Vienna and serves as a gathering place even today.

Postcards from Vienna



The Oriental section at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens.

How about a bit of whimsy with your outdoor adventures at Meadowlark?



PHOTOS BY
ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION



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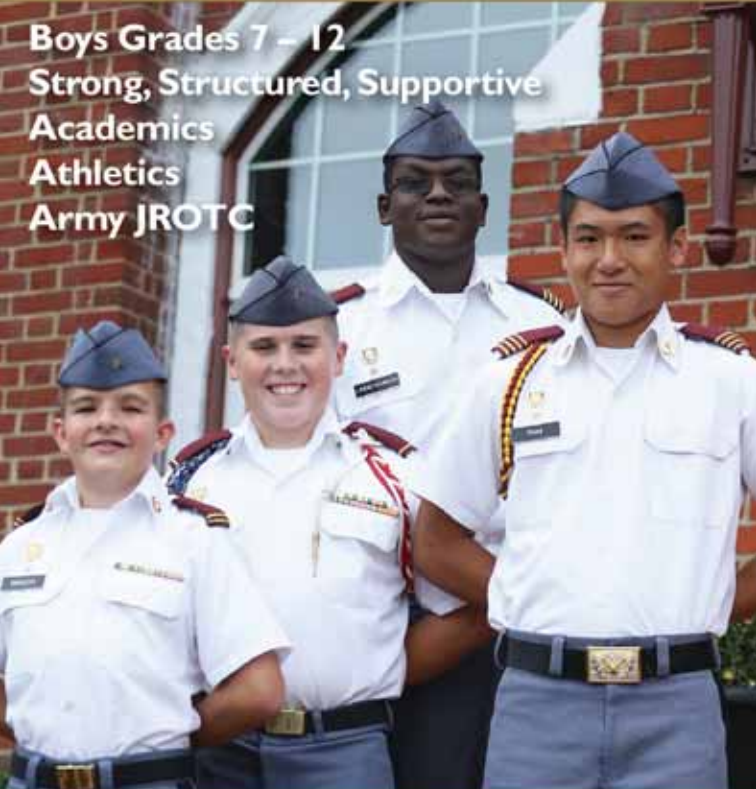


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COMMUNITY GUIDE

Area Interstates Have Toll Options

Latest addition, 395 Express Lanes, are scheduled to be opened in 2019.

BY MIKE SALMON

The introduction of the “express lanes,” on area highways have made tolls commonplace for anyone driving in the Northern Virginia area. These lanes on I-95, I-495, and I-395 are outfitted with overhead sensors instead of booths, and everything is done with the E-Z Pass or the E-Z Pass Flex which has a feature for high occupancy vehicles (HOV) to avoid the tolls by carpooling. The variable toll amount is calculated by traffic levels at that time, and this price is reflected on the overhead digital signs.

On I-495, commonly known as the Capital Beltway, the 495 Express Lanes stretch 11 miles from Springfield in the south to a point just past the Dulles Toll Road in the McLean area. These are two lanes in each direction that are in operation 24-hours a day.

The 95 Express Lanes stretch 29 miles from Alexandria inside the beltway, south to Route 610 in Stafford County. These lanes are “reversible,” meaning they are heading northbound in the morning, and southbound in the afternoon and evenings during the week, and almost entirely southbound on the weekend.

The 395 Express Lanes are a continuation of these lanes inside the beltway, ending at the Potomac River. This project is just getting underway, and are scheduled to be opened in 2019. For now, the northern stretch of HOV lanes is still operating under the old rules, that requires a minimum of three passengers during rush hours, and open to anyone during non-rush hours.

In December this year, I-66 inside the beltway, from Arlington to Falls Church, will be a tolled facility but only on the eastbound lanes in the morning and westbound lanes in the afternoons. It will be toll-free for vehicles with at least two passengers for now, but that HOV requirement will change to HOV-3 in a few years when the I-66 express lanes outside the beltway open in 2022. In addition, the Virginia Department of Transportation is adding an additional lane on the eastbound side only, from the Dulles Access Road to Fairfax Drive, a distance of four miles.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

This toll gantry in Arlington is not in use yet, and is currently being tested.

On I-66 outside the beltway, officials are building one lane in each direction for 22 miles from Vienna to Gainesville, and there will be two express lanes on each side, similar to I-495. This project, priced at \$2.3 billion, is expected to be done in 2022.

The Dulles Access Road and the Dulles Greenway are toll facilities also but the access road still takes change as well as the E-Z Pass, and neither road has an HOV exception.

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



PHOTO BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Historic Church Street, The Clock Shop of Vienna close to “Walk on the Hill” where people stroll through the lovely Windover Heights neighborhood and view gardens while learning about environmental sustainability.

VIEWPOINTS

What is the best part about living in Vienna?

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER THE CONNECTION

Deborah Kennedy, retired, runs Artspeaks, a Vienna resident and member of the Vienna Arts Society



“This is a precious town that we get to live in. I take pictures around here a lot, of the inside of a

lot of the little shops. I never want to leave. The town has really focused on being a town with the Vienna Arts Society, Chilling on Church, and the Viva! Vienna! events. These are the types of things that a small town would do. We have a place where we belong!”

Susan Scanlon, a Vienna resident for three years, lived abroad in La Paz Bolivia for three years with her husband who is in the Foreign Service



“Vienna’s got a charming old town. I love coming down Church Street. There’s the small town feel where it’s still a big city with a close-knit community. When you lived abroad it’s nice to come back to a close-knit community. I still keep in touch with people overseas through Facebook.”

Chris Marren, a Vienna resident for three years, and his daughter Ainsley, 8, were learning how to ride bikes on Friday afternoon



“I love the small town feel close to the big city. We used to live in Charlotte and then Atlanta in a subdivision but there everything was downtown. I like how close we are to Tysons Corner. This is our first year living close into the city limits and we are walking distance to downtown Vienna. My oldest daughter is 8 years old, so we are just getting into all the camps and the small community feel!”

Kaynie A’hearn and her children Gabriel, 5, and Elaine, 7, have lived in Vienna for one year



“We moved here from California for work. Vienna has a small town feel, it’s very walkable, with a great sense of history and community. I enjoy the proximity to Washington, D.C. This is really a prime location with access to freeways. It’s a good spot and there’s lots of fun things for the kids to do.”

— COLIN STOECKER


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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2019 Budget (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)



McLean Community Center Governing Board
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. Copies of the draft budget proposal will be available during the public hearing.

Written comments may be delivered to the Center's temporary Administrative Offices (see address below) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov. Written comments may be provided after the public hearing up through Monday, Oct. 23.

The date of the **Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole**, a full board budget work session, is **Tuesday, Sept. 12**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Center's temporary Administrative Offices (see address below).



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Announcements

Announcements

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Obituary

Robert Cyrus McKee, 78. Died Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at Reston Hospital Center. He leaves his wife of 40 years, Jill Dorn McKee, his sons Robert Dorn McKee and Edwin Kent McKee, and sister, Celia McKee Francis. Mr. McKee served on the Associated Press Board of Directors, President of the Associated Press Broadcast Board, and President of the Virginia Association of Broadcasters. A memorial service will be held at Vienna Presbyterian Church, Vienna, Virginia, Saturday, August 26 at 1:00 PM. He is a veteran of the United States Coast Guard. Interment will be at a later time at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Vienna Presbyterian Church.

Obituary

Sally Elizabeth Hoffman Huthwaite, 88, of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, wife of the late Winton Miles Huthwaite for 49 years, died Tuesday, August 8, 2017. Her Memorial Service will be held Saturday, August 26, 2017 in St. Andrews Historic Church Mount Pleasant, 440 Whilden Street at 1:00 PM. Arrangements by J. HENRY STUHR, INC. MOUNT PLEASANT CHAPEL..

Sally was born November 11, 1928 in West Caldwell, New Jersey, daughter of the late Harry Higgins Hoffman and the late Elizabeth Sylvia Young Hoffman. She was a retired Medical Office Manager and a nanny. She volunteered and worked in the electoral process/voting booths, enjoyed gardening, reading, the arts and travel. She was a former member of Fourth Presbyterian Church of Bethesda, Maryland.

She is survived by three sons, Daniel Huthwaite (Connie) of Great Falls, VA, David Huthwaite (Naomi) of Leesburg, VA and Dwight Huthwaite (Bethany) of Mt. Pleasant, SC.

Memorials may be made to the Office of Clinical Research (for Alzheimer's), Medical University of South Carolina, 125 Doughty Street, Suite 170, MSC 195, Charleston, SC 29425, or Alzheimer's Association SC Chapter, 2090 Executive Hall Road, Suite 130, Charleston, SC 29407.

A memorial message may be sent to the family by visiting our website at www.jhenrystuhr.com.

NEWCOMERS

Where to Give Locally List of Nonprofits in Fairfax County

❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org. Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Alacia Earley at 571-323-9568 or alacia.earley@cornerstonesva.org.

❖ **SHARE** of McLean operates a food pantry; provides assistance to families to avoid eviction, keep utilities on and meet other needs in a crisis. Share of McLean will provide holiday assistance to more than 250 needy families (630-plus people) this year. Each family will receive a grocery gift card in November along with a bag filled with pantry staples and traditional items. In December, our families will be welcomed to a festive party, served a light meal, and Santa will travel all the way from the North Pole to take photographs with the children. Each person will receive a "wish" gift and families will be given a grocery gift card, a bag filled with toiletries, and a jug of laundry detergent. Help us help our neighbors in need by fulfilling a wish or donating Walmart, Target, Giant, or Safeway gift cards. Contact Chris Wilbur at ShareWishes@gmail.com for more information. Visit www.shareofmclean.org for more info about Share.

❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 herndonrestonfish.org. Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short term crises by since 1969. FISH provides Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help by responding to emergency requests for rent, transportation, utilities, medical prescriptions and other needs. FISH operates The Bargain Loft, a thrift store, which needs donations of good quality saleable items, accepting and selling art, furniture, jewelry, household linens, dishes, pots and pans, books, women's designer clothing (clean and on hangers), puzzles, games, collectibles, small electronics and much more. If you have store questions, call 703-437-0600. Herndon-Reston FISH also provides Holiday Food & Gift Baskets during the November and December season.

❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more. Every year the goal is to provide each family with a week's worth of non-perishable food in November and again in December. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. In November, clients also receive a voucher for coats and warm clothing. In December, children 16 and under receive gifts. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.

❖ **Committee for Helping Others (CHO)**, Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Last year 450 children had a special Christmas through the annual Christmas Store. 703-281-7614, www.cho-va.com

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. Just \$50 provides a complete holiday meal to a family of four. Donate at give.nvfs.org/holidaydonation or via check payable to "NVFS" with "Operation Turkey" on the memo line, or send grocery store gift cards. Northern Virginia Family Service, attn: Holiday Initiatives, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124.

❖ **Second Story** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. Requests for food and clothing are up more than 50 percent. second-story.org.

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Two, Hopefully for Won



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Being diagnosed with cancer; then having cancer/living with cancer, is like having a second job. A job that unlike many, requires and/or imposes a 'round the clock-type 24/7 adherence to protocol, policy, procedure, presumptions and principle. To live not like you're dying takes more than scoffing at a country music song that twangs an alternative vision. Believing in what routines you're following and any lifestyle changes you've made allows (I didn't say enables) a cancer survivor to thrive under the most difficult and demanding of circumstances.

Unfortunately for those reading this column looking for answers/guarantees, there aren't any other than: if you abuse the privilege of post-cancer-diagnosis survival, the ends will likely justify the means; meaning, you are responsible for your own actions and "inactions." The prognosis one is given at diagnosis is a reasonably thought out prediction. However, as grim as those words sound and seem at that moment, that prediction is not cast in stone. I'm living proof of that. The words you hear are based on the past. Your ensuing treatment is more about the present and future and what you decide to do living forward. Being open and unassuming, and by 'unassuming' I mean: not taking anything for granted, presuming facts not in evidence, considering that which has happened to somebody else — either good or bad, could happen to you and of course, asking as many questions in as many ways as necessary to get the answers you need, will help you co-exist with this terrible burden. Being diagnosed with a heretofore "terminal" disease presents one with innumerable challenges but not the slim pickin's (choices not the actor) of yesteryear.

Integrating/assimilating all of the facts, fiction and philosophy into one's daily cancer conundrum is a task often complicated by one's day job/intention to remain on that job. The thinking being, at least in my mind/experience: living as normal a life as possible and staying as true to one's usual and customary self as well as to one's wishes, desires, hopes, prayers, etc., will enable (not 'allow' this time) you potentially to live longer and prosper more and trek "where no man has gone before." For us cancer survivors/patients, where we hope to 'trek' is beyond the prognosis given to us by our oncologist.

I can boast of such an accomplishment, but I'd rather write it quietly and consistently as encouragement to others similarly diagnosed and "prognosed" than brag about it loudly. However, the changes/choices I've made might not suit another's personality. I regularly receive suggestions about additional anti-cancer pursuits. Some I embrace, some I don't. Some are conventional (Western), some are alternative (Non-Western). Many sound reasonable and "integratable" into my lifestyle. Many others don't. But given that my life is at stake, how can a suggestion's incompatibility with my personality matter? We're talking life versus premature death here; not sit-down Italian versus take-out Chinese. And though food certainly matters, it is of course to no comparison to living versus dying. Still, I don't always say "yes."

This is the yin and yang of my life and probably the lives of many other survivors of serious/terminal-type diseases. I want to feel like I'm winning. But I'm deathly afraid of losing.

Moreover, I want to live my life as normally as possible, but not if it has adverse consequence. And how would I know anyway? Symptoms can be misleading and scans are quarterly. And though I remain positive about my very negative circumstances, occasionally the reality of those circumstances interfere with that normalcy. When that happens, I usually put pen to paper and try to write myself out of it.

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

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



To cut costs, some of the plants were raised from seeds.



In April, the sprouts soaked up the spring sunshine before being transplanted to the garden in May.



The strawberries were the first to be caged for varmint protection, and the first to be eaten.



In July, tomatoes appeared, although this first batch was eaten by something.



In late August, the tomatoes were BLT sandwich-bound.

Learning, Sweating, and Reaping What You Sow

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

It looked easy when I leaned over the fence of a local community garden last year, mentally planning my own garden with several types of tomatoes, corn, beans and a couple of cucumber vines overwhelming the fence, weighted down with “cukes,” that would soon be in my salad. The unseen battle with weeds, bugs, a family of groundhogs and other furry creatures that munch plants down to the nub are part of the deal too, but didn’t dampen the spirit of my community garden. My first year this year will be a learning experience for next year’s garden, and years after that.

The Fairfax County community gardens are available through the park service for \$125 a year. On the county website, I read the long list of rules for this project, and then found a plot that is relatively close to my house and got on the waiting list for one to be available. I was finally matched up with a 20x30 foot plot in the Grist Mill Park near Mount

Vernon that would soon be my home away from home for the duration of the summer. In January, the plot was nothing but weeds and grass that was about 3 feet tall. After hours of hacking away, I discovered that there were six beds underneath that would be perfect for my plan. I read books, watched videos on YouTube, talked with other gardeners and came up with a loose plan that wouldn’t cost me too much.

March came around, and I researched the planting process that began with soaking seeds in wet paper towels, putting them in a pitch black closet for a few weeks, then to empty egg cartons and biodegradable pots, and then to the garden. May 1 is the preferred date for the freeze line, and off I went with my shovel and seedlings. Disappointment set in later in May when I discovered my corn stalks nibbled off to the dirt, and the same with my zucchini, sunflowers and 20 tomatoes that were still green. Chatter around the garden pointed the blame at the family of groundhogs that lived in the barn. So out came the chicken wire and soon every plant left had a cage over it.

During the summer, I watched the weather, the holes in the fence, and the



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON

From the community garden at Grist Mill Park in the Mount Vernon area, the barn creates a farming atmosphere.

birds that were tough to defend against. The strawberries were the first to get picked for us to eat, followed by a few blueberries, and then tomatoes. The peppers, which I had grown from seed, along with the cucumbers, didn’t come until later in August, but were good to eat as well. The two beds that went without plants became a mass of weeds in a matter of weeks, and it was soon discovered that a layer of newspaper with mulch on top was a good way to fight the weeds, although some in the garden did use weed killer, a practice frowned on by the die hard gardeners.

This fall, when the tomatoes are dried and shriveled, and the weeds have died down, next year’s plan will come together and the work will start all over again. I can hardly wait.

To get your own garden, go to the Fairfax County website, (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/plots.htm), find a location near your residence and get on the waiting list. Similar to the whole gardening experience, this takes patience as well, and then a certain level of commitment when taking over a plot.

Fairfax County Park Garden Plot Locations

- Baron Cameron**, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston – 32 plots
- Broyhill Crest Park**, 7128 Murray Lane, Annandale – 15 plots
- Eakin Community Park**, 8515 Tobin Road, Fairfax – 20 plots
- Franconia Park**, 6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield – 86 plots
- George Mason Park**, 9700 Braddock Road, Fairfax – 46 plots
- Grist Mill Park**, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria – 45 plots
- Lewinsville Park**, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean – 142 plots
- Nottoway Park**, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna – 128 plots
- Bo White Gardens (Pine Ridge Park)**, 3401 Woodburn Road, Annandale – 156 plots



When first taking over Plot 29 at the Grist Mill Park community garden, the weeds ruled.



Under the weeds, there were raised beds.



This community garden continues to thrive into late summer.