A Look Into the World of the Incarcerated

Challenging the Troublemaker

McLean Citizens Debate American Legion Bridge Congestion
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Challenging the Troublemaker
Leader of Democratic resistance in Richmond challenged by independent who vows to be less antagonistic.

By Michael Lee Pope
The Connection

o member of the Democratic minority is as politically combative as Del. Marcus Simon (D-53). During the last General Assembly session, for example, Simon made a parliamentary inquiry about whether a Republican member who was facing domestic violence charges should be voting on changes to the code outlining assault and battery. Republicans were furious, and the speaker quickly dispatched his inquiry then systematically delayed every Democratic bill on the docket for the rest of the day. Simon’s contentious parliamentary inquiry was controversial in his own caucus, and some Democrats were privately grousing about a delegate they jokingly called “chairman of the troublemaker caucus.” Simon does not back down from the characterization.

“What I’m hearing from most of the things I go to is that we need to be pushing back harder, and we need to be more aggressive as Democrats and progressives in pushing our agenda,” said Simon. “They want a strong progressive voice in Richmond, somebody who’s going to push back against what the Republican-held legislature is trying to do, and I think that I’m in a good position to do that and be that person for them.”

But how aggressive is too aggressive? And does all that resistance yield anything for constituents? Simon’s independent challenger says he shares most of the same policy positions and ideology as his opponent. But, if elected, he says he would take a less confrontational tone.

“The way he carries himself down in Richmond is pretty antagonistic,” said Casey. “He’s running on a platform of these guys who watch Virginia politics closely. “Independents very rarely win in Virginia,” said Geoff Skelley at the Center for Politics. “Only three independents have won a Virginia House of Delegates race in recent times.”

Two of those were long-serving conservative Democrats who became independents, Watkins Abbitt in the 59th District and Lacey Putney in the 19th District. The third was Katherine Waddell, who defeated conservative Republican Brad Marrs and served one term before losing to Republican Manoli Loupassi. Some independent candidates try to challenge Democrats from the left, like Gail Parker — known as “Gail for Rail” because of her support for transportation issues. She’s run three House of Delegates races, three U.S. House races, two U.S. Senate races and three campaigns for the Fairfax County School Board. All were unsuccessful, although she did score 25 percent of the vote in a one-on-one matchup with Del. Mark Sickles (D-43).

“So there’s little precedent for independent success in recent times,” said Skelley. “Waddell is really it because the other two independents were longtime incumbents who had previously identified with a major party.”

CASEY, 28, is a native of Fairfax County. He was raised in Centreville, and he’s lived in Merrifield for three years. He has a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering specializing in satellite communications from Virginia Tech, and he’s currently a software engineer for a Washington-based education nonprofit known as CHAP, which stands for Community Health Accreditation Partner. He says he was prompted to run in part by the 2016 election. But he says he is also motivated by the lack of competition in the 53rd District, where the Democrat usually has no opposition in the general election.

“I feel like politics has been sliding in a downward direction for just about my entire life,” said Casey. “I’ve been seeing the rhetoric shift more and more toward demonizing the opposition, toward everything being a crisis, and I just don’t think that’s good for democracy.”

If elected, he says his top priority would be election reform. He wants to see an independent redistricting commission, an idea Democrats rejected when they were in control and is now resisted by the Republican majority. As a delegate, he says he would also support ranked-choice voting, an electoral reform that would allow voters to signify their first and second choices for elections. Casey says he would also like to see transportation money go toward transit rather than widening roads, adding VRE lines to the western part of Northern Virginia as well as expanding bus service and Metro. He says he would vote in favor of expanding Medicaid, and he supports a public health care system run by the government. When asked about funding mental health assessments for inmates at jails, Casey says he would like to raise taxes to make that happen.

“We need to add higher income tax brackets,” said Casey, who says he would support 6.5 percent rate for people who make $80,000 and up bracket; 7 percent for $400,000 and up. “I believe in progressive taxation.”

SIMON, 47, is a native of Austin, Texas, although he was raised in McLean. He studied Near Eastern Studies and journalism at Barnard College, and he’s currently a software engineer for a Washington-based education nonprofit known as CHAP, which stands for Community Health Accreditation Partner. He says he was prompted to run in part by the 2016 election. But he says he is also motivated by the lack of competition in the 53rd District, where the Democrat usually has no opposition in the general election.

“I feel like politics has been sliding in a downward direction for just about my entire life,” said Casey. “I’ve been seeing the rhetoric shift more and more toward demonizing the opposition, toward everything being a crisis, and I just don’t think that’s seat by default,” said Simon. “So I’m all for people participating. I’m not at all unhappy or frustrated or angry about him being in the race. I think it’s a good thing for the community.”

When asked to talk about his accomplishments during his time as a legislator, Simon points to efforts to increase the minimum wage and crack down on revenge porn as well as his work expanding mental health services in the Fairfax County criminal justice system. On the minimum wage, Simon acknowledges that he hasn’t been successful in implementing a $15 an hour minimum wage, but he says his efforts have “moved the needle.” And as a member of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, where he helped implement a program called Diversion First that evaluates people who may be suffering from mental health problems before they get involved with the criminal justice system. He points to the revenge porn bill as an early success.

“One of the first things I introduced when I got down to Richmond was a bill that made it a crime to share sexually explicit images of another without their permission,” said Simon. “Being able to go down there my first year and take an issue that was sort of a cutting-edge issue and a newly emerging problem and see that pass my very first year, that was pretty exciting.”

If he’s reelected, Simon says he wants to create new state regulations for student loan servicing companies. Currently the State Corporation Commission does not oversee the industry, which Simon says is a problem he heard about from constituents all the time. He says he would also like to work against any efforts to roll back existing gun-control measures in Virginia, which are frequently the target of gun advocates.
With September being Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Amelia Mazloom and Parker Gioia, seniors at the Potomac School in McLean, are doing their part to help raise awareness and funds for teens battling cancer.

Treatments invented at St Jude Children’s Research Hospital have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to more than 80 percent since it opened more than 50 years ago. One-third of patients at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital are teenagers, ages 15-19. St. Jude is working to drive the overall survival rate for childhood cancer to 90 percent, and they won’t stop until no child dies from cancer.

Mazloom, 17-year-old chair and founder, says this year’s committee has doubled to 43 teens and has tripled to 19 participating schools spanning McLean, Great Falls, Arlington, Alexandria, D.C., Chevy Chase, Potomac and Beltsville, Maryland. Under Mazloom’s leadership, the teen committee members put the entire event together with guidance from their parents.

The event, featuring WMZQ DJ, Aly Jacobs, as emcee, will include a host of local teen performers as well as desserts from D.C.-area restaurants and bakeries. There will also be both a live and silent auction. Last year’s event raised $106,000 and this year, the local teens are working to hit a target of $150,000. Tickets can be purchased online until Sept. 15 at www.stjude.org/goldengala.
Debating Bridge Congestion

Community meeting set for Monday, Sept. 18, at Cooper Middle School at 7 p.m.

The McLean Citizens Association is lobbying to relieve congestion at the American Legion Bridge, which carries the Capital Beltway or Interstate 495, over the Potomac River to connect Fairfax County in Virginia and Montgomery County in Maryland.

In a July 19 letter addressed to Northern Virginia Transportation Authority Chairman Martin Nohe, MCA President Dale Stein wrote about the association’s concern that the NVTA’s Transportation Action Plan for Northern Virginia (TransAction) did not address the “most serious traffic problem in Northern Virginia: the American Legion Bridge.”

“The underlying premise to their letter is flawed,” Nohe said. “They’re suggesting that replacement of the American Legion Bridge is not included in the TransAction plan that NVTA uses. That’s not correct though; it is in the plan.”

Nohe, who personally supports the replacement of the bridge, says the TransAction plan does not establish prioritization of the projects it identifies and that no one is requesting funding from his organization for a project to replace the bridge.

The NVTA receives most feedback about the region’s metro-rail system, which, like the bridge, requires multijurisdictional cooperation, according to Nohe.

“It’s unlikely that the NVTA could singlehandedly fund a replacement of the American Legion Bridge; that’s a multimillion dollar project,” he said. “If the commonwealth of Virginia and the state of Maryland and all of the other involved organization decide it’s a top priority, and come to an agreement on how to go about replacing that bridge, the NVTA is a possible funding source for a portion of the cost of that replacement.”

But it doesn’t look like that is happening anytime soon.

THE BRIDGE is located entirely in Maryland. Though the Virginia Department of Transportation has discussed extending the I-495 Express Lanes over the bridge, widening the bridge or adding an entirely new crossing to the west, Maryland officials have said they would not build another crossing into the rural areas in the northwestern area of Montgomery County.

Maryland opponents say building another bridge could damage the county’s Agricultural Reserve, which is zoned to protect farmland and agriculture and encompasses 93,000 acres along the county’s northern, western and eastern borders, according to the Montgomery County Planning Department.

Still, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board plans to study the feasibility of a bridge that would connect Virginia Route 28 to Maryland Route 200, which has met opposition even before the process has begun.

On July 18, the County Council for Montgomery County adopted a resolution opposing a new crossing over the Potomac River and urged the TPB to oppose any further study of such a project.

“Montgomery County and the State of Maryland have consistently and repeatedly opposed construction of a ‘second crossing’ of the Potomac River into Montgomery County,” the resolution said. “The route for such a crossing was removed from the master plan of highways and from the state’s highway program in 1974. There is no feasible route for such a roadway in Montgomery County; given the existence of the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve in 1980 and the amount of land now held in easements in perpetuity primarily for agricultural and limited residential uses.”

The MCA, which has been advocating for improvements to the bridge since it passed a resolution in 2015, is finally getting responses from officials in Virginia. However, they are passing the buck to Maryland.

“We got a reply from Aubrey Layne, the Secretary of Transportation on Aug. 29, basically acknowledging that this is a problem, but Maryland owns the bridge and VDOT is working with Supervisor [John] Foust to set up a meeting,” David Wuehrmann, MCA’s Transportation Committee Chair, said during the association’s board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at the McLean Governmental Center.

“The majority of the American Legion Bridge is owned by the State of Maryland, who has begun their own preliminary studies of the Beltway corridor and the existing bridge and traffic demands,” the letter said. “Any new Potomac River crossing would be almost entirely within Maryland’s jurisdiction. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has partnered with regional partners to review concept of an additional crossing. Maryland’s participation and concurrence is compulsory before any next steps can be taken.”

The MCA has local officials on board to discuss the bridge now.

Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor, is hosting a community meeting in partnership with the MCA.

See Partnership, Page 11
Fill the Boot 2017: One For The Record Books

By Joel Koberteen
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

After the first day of collection, it was apparent that this would be no ordinary campaign. The $173,686.56 collected by B-Shift was the second highest one day total in Fairfax County Fill the Boot history (by only $2,000)! Needless to say, the $50,000 to disaster relief goal was quickly accomplished and we began work on the $500,000 goal for Greater Washington MDA.

The second day brought rain and chill. C-Shift put personal comfort aside and made a point to stay out as much as safely possible. Fire Station 5, Franconia, personnel came in with $28,251 collected. That is the highest amount collected in one day by one shift in Fairfax County Fill the Boot history. A tip of the fire helmet to C-Shift personnel who did not let the weather conditions get in the way.

Due to the work schedule, personnel from A-Shift had only one day of collection and made the most of it. A-Shift collected a total of $146,193.28 on what was a beautiful Sunday.

Coming into the last day of the campaign, C-Shift knew they only needed roughly $76,000 to accomplish the $500,000 collected goal for the Greater Washington MDA. Personnel collected $152,059 for the last day of the campaign which meant another $71,954.06 collected by B-Shift was the second highest one day total in Fairfax County Fill the Boot history. A tip of the fire helmet to C-Shift personnel who did not let the weather conditions get in the way of collecting $155,629.66.

I hope to never have to fill the boot for disaster relief again, but I am proud of the people who volunteered their time to help make this year’s Fill the Boot a tremendous success. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue personnel are a true example to our children, our great country is deeply divided out of our kids’ playbook and see beyond our skin-deep differences.

Shaila Muralidhar
Great Falls

Letters to the Editor
Putting United Back in ‘United’ States

To the Editor:
Re: Mr. Crawford’s response (“Fomenting Division and Hate” Sept. 6-12) to the letter by a group of Democrat politicians (“American Values” Aug. 30)

You reference “Mr. Trump’s initial response” to the tragic events at Charlottesville. You are correct in defending this well-scripted statement of the President, delivered on Aug. 14. In fact, most “fair-minded persons,” as you say, wish he had left it at that.

Instead, the “American Values” letter refers to the President’s follow-up comments to the press the following day (Aug. 15), in which he talked about “the very fine people” in the group of protesters. While the fine print of the law may not agree, there is no denying that anyone marching alongside people branding torches and waving Nazi swastika flags, shouting “Jews will not replace us” and “Blood and soil,” is implicitly supporting the very neo-Nazis and white supremacists the President initially condemned. They are guilty by association.

Hence, it is legitimate for the Jewish members of the Virginia General Assembly to question the Republican gubernatorial candidate for not openly denouncing the very symbols of genocide that so many brave Americans went overseas to Europe to stamp out during World War II. How did this sea of swastikas and Nazi flags ever wash up on our shining shores? Who are these people who loudly and proudly resurrect Nazi slogans?

We can parse words and choose to only see/hear what we want to see/hear, but there is no denying our great country is deeply divided. And a house divided never stands. As the mother of a child who was the target of racism on the school bus, I take solace in the fact that the boys worked out their differences and, now, years later, the instigator is one of my son’s closest friends!

Perhaps, far be it from us adults being an example to our children, it behooves us to acknowledge, in the words of one of the world’s greatest wordsmiths, William Wordsworth: “The child is the father of the man.” Let’s put our house in order and put the united back in the “United” States.

Shaila Muralidhar

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.
The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:
Letters to the Editor
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Alexandria, Va 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail: north@connectionnewspapers.com

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
Churchill Road second graders are beginning their study of monarch butterflies. Students in Sarah Finger’s second grade class were excited to find a monarch caterpillar in the school’s milkweed garden. The students will create a classroom habitat for the caterpillar and study its transformation into a butterfly, then release it for its migration to Mexico.

Young equestrian, Jenna Zimmerman, of Great Falls — a rising senior at Langley High School — takes up the reins as Youth Ambassador of the 2017 Washington International Horse Show.

Photo courtesy ©WIHS

Youth Ambassador Named

The Washington International Horse Show named Jenna Zimmerman, 16, of Great Falls, a rising senior at Langley High School, as the 2017 Youth Ambassador, and to welcome 26 local teens attending schools in Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. to serve on the 2017 WIHS Junior Committee presented by Signature Academics.

At Langley, Zimmerman is involved in extracurricular activities including National Honors Society, Spanish Honors Society and Best Buddies. She has been a member of the Junior Committee for three years and qualified to show at the Washington International Horse Show for the past four years competing in the Children’s and Junior Hunters with her horses Valente and Buttoned Up. The 59th Annual Washington International Horse Show will be held Oct. 24-29, 2017, at Verizon Center in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit wihs.org.

Photo by Kim Moran

Studying Monarch Butterflies

Churchill Road second graders Fernando Elg-Guitierrez, Will Krokowski, Steven Brannon, Alyson Lee, Alex Clarke, and their teacher Sarah Finger, observe a monarch caterpillar in the school’s milkweed garden.

Photo by Kim Moran
McLean REAL ESTATE

July, 2017 Top Sales

In July 2017, 135 homes sold between $12,500,000-$177,500 in the McLean and Falls Church area.

Address.............................. BR FB HB .. Postal City ... Sold Price ... Type ....... Lot AC PostalCode .............. Subdivision.............. Date Sold

1 801 TURKEY RUN RD......... 6 .. 7 .. 4 ..... MCLEAN ... $12,500,000.... Detached ... 2.00...... 22101 ..................... LANGLEY .................. 07/20/17
2 1173 DOLLEY MADISON BLVD ..6 .. 7 .. 3 ..... MCLEAN .....$4,100,000.... Detached ... 1.03...... 22101 ............ BALLANTREE FARMS......... 07/28/17
3 1103 TOWLESTON RD......... 6 .. 6 .. 3 ..... MCLEAN .....$3,875,000.... Detached ... 1.71...... 22102 .........................N/A ..................... 07/13/17
4 6912 BENJAMIN ST........... 6 .. 6 .. 2 ..... MCLEAN .....$3,400,000.... Detached ... 1.10...... 22101 .............. LANGLEY FOREST........... 07/17/17
5 7007 CAPITOL VIEW DR..... 6 .. 6 .. 3 ..... MCLEAN .....$2,550,000.... Detached ... 0.37...... 22101 . HANSBOROUGH/OLD DOMINION GARDENS07/26/17
6 7819 MONTVALE WAY....... 5 .. 6 .. 2 ..... MCLEAN .....$2,550,000.... Detached ... 1.21...... 22102 .............. GASFIELD PARK............. 07/16/17
7 1131 BUCHANAN ST......... 6 .. 6 .. 3 ..... MCLEAN .....$2,525,000.... Detached ... 0.34...... 22101 .......... WALTER HEIGHTS ........... 07/12/17
8 1114 RAYMOND AVE......... 6 .. 6 .. 2 ..... MCLEAN .....$2,350,000.... Detached ... 0.35...... 22101 ........ OLD DOMINION GARDENS ... 07/07/17
9 1131 BUCHANAN ST......... 6 .. 6 .. 3 ..... MCLEAN .....$2,525,000.... Detached ... 0.34...... 22101 .......... WALTER HEIGHTS ........... 07/12/17
10 8452 HOLLY LIVE DR......... 6 .. 6 .. 2 ..... MCLEAN .....$2,350,000.... Detached ... 1.32 ...... 22101 ........ MCLEAN ESTATES ........... 07/31/17

1970s Fairfax Kitchen Gets Makeover

When a Fairfax family of five decided that their 1970s-era kitchen needed to be brought into the 21st century they enlisted the help of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths. The homeowners also wanted more space for entertaining and to accommodate their large family.

“This was a particularly interesting project,” said designer Cathy Goss of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths. “It involved incorporating four different functions into one uniquely-sized space.”

Two adjacent rooms were combined to allow space for an island, pantry, command center and a station for cooking and the subsequent clean-up. The design team removed a wall between the kitchen and dining room to create a larger kitchen area. They also incorporated two different backsplashes into the design: a marble subway tile with a marble accent under the range hood and a cut stone surface at the glass cabinets. LED under-cabinet lighting accented the quartz countertops.

“The cabinetry is a beautiful example of reverse raised panel paired with eclipse glass doors,” said Goss. “The project resulted in a beautiful and ultra-functional centerpiece to this Fairfax family’s home.”

— Marilyn Campbell

Design House Designers Revealed

The designers who will transform the 10th Annual DC Design House were announced recently.

Among the 23 men and women who will give the Potomac, Md. home a makeover are Alexandria-based designers Susan Nelson and Todd Martz; Lisa Tureson of Herndon; Margory Wedderburn of Great Falls; Mary Amos of McLean; Josh Hildreth of Reston; Keira St. Claire-Bowery of Cabin John, Md.; and Bethesda, Md.-based designers Kelley Proxmire, Lorna Ross, Marika Meyer, Erica Burns, Karen Snyder and Camille Saum.

The selection process is competitive and being chosen to design one of the home’s rooms is considered one of the most prestigious honors in the industry.

The Washington, DC Design House, a nonprofit entity, began in 2008 as a design show house event for the Washington, D.C. area. Each year, local designers donate their time and talent to makeover a grand home that opens to the public for tours. Proceeds raised from tour ticket sales benefit Children’s National Health System.

This year, the home is located at 9004 Congressional Court in Potomac, Md., and will be open from Sept. 30 through Oct. 29. Tickets are $35. Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.

— Marilyn Campbell
McLean Community Center’s Harvest Happenings fall festival will be held at St. Luke’s School this year, due to the ongoing renovation of the Center’s Ingleside Avenue facility. The event will be held 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, Sept. 30. Admission is free. St. Luke’s School is located at 7005 Georgetown Pike.

Harvest Happenings helps children, ages 3-8, discover and experience the joys of the changing season. Activities include stage entertainment by performers, The Amazing Kevin and Kidsinger Jim. Children also can enjoy a hands-on educational experience with farm animals at the Squeals on Wheels Traveling Petting Zoo area, as well as play several, age-appropriate field games.

Indoor activities include making a variety of fall-themed arts and crafts projects, including decorating small pumpkins, which must be purchased. Food service will be provided by Gourmet Delight food truck. For more information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the website, ow.ly/V1Jh30eOlwq.

**Harvest Happenings helps children, ages 3-8, discover and experience the joys of the changing season.**

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The Alden in McLean Presents Cellist Matt Haimovitz

The Alden in McLean presents internationally renowned cellist Matt Haimovitz in a multi-part performance of “A Moveable Feast” on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 14 and 15, at various locations around McLean.

On Saturday, Oct. 14, McLean residents should be on the lookout for Haimovitz as he will be offering small tastes of the “Feast” at various locations around town, such as the McLean Project for the Arts’ MPA@ChainBridge Gallery (1446 Chain Bridge Road), Dolley Madison Library (1244 Oak Ridge Ave.) and even Spring Hill RECenter (1239 Spring Hill Road).

The full concert, on Sunday, Oct. 15, will take place at The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road. Tickets are $20, $14 for Dranesville district residents. The Israeli-born soloist will perform Bach’s moving and spiritual “Suites for Unaccompanied Cello” in a program offering a brilliant musical variation on the concept of “A Moveable Feast.” He pairs each of Bach’s beloved works with newly commissioned suites by Philip Glass, Du Yun, Vijay Iyer and others. This concert will feature six suites and their accompanying partner works.

Known as a musical pioneer, cellist Matt Haimovitz has inspired classical music lovers and countless new listeners by bringing his artistry to concert halls and clubs, outdoor festivals and intimate coffee houses — any place where passionate music can be heard. He brings a fresh ear to familiar repertoire, champions new music and initiates groundbreaking collaborations. Through his visionary approach, Haimovitz is re-defining what it means to be an artist for the 21st century. Besides his relentless touring schedule, he mentors an award-winning studio of young cellists at McGill University’s Schulich School of Music in Montreal. Haimovitz studied at the Collegiate School in New York and at the Juilliard School, in the final class of Leonard Rose, after which he continued his cello studies with Ronald Leonard and Yo-Yo Ma. In 1996, he received a B.A., magna cum laude with highest honors, from Harvard University. Haimovitz plays a Venetian cello, made in 1710 by Matteo Goffriller. For more information on Haimovitz, go to www.matthaimovitz.com.

Tickets are on sale now. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit ow.ly/mBi530eEcH2 or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.
Week in McLean

Information Sessions on Developmental Disabilities

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board’s Support Coordination staff will hold information sessions that will help prepare individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to transition out of Fairfax County Public Schools.

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 7, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6-7:30 p.m. at South County Center, Room 221B, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

Topics to be discussed include:
❖ Eligibility process for CSB developmental disabilities services
❖ Transition services overview for 2018
❖ Overview of CSB services

There will be an opportunity to ask questions and meet with CSB Developmental Disabilities staff. No registration required. Contact Sheila Peters-Lee at 703-324-4635 with questions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/events/transition-information-sessions.htm.

Colonial Farm to Host Oktoberfest

The Claude Moore Colonial Farm will host a 2017 Oktoberfest Saturday, Oct. 7, 6-9 p.m. at The Pavilion at Turkey Run, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean to help support the programs and services of this privately operated local National Park and living history working farm.

Catered Bavarian menu will include Bratwurst, Knockwurst, marinated grilled chicken, German potato salad, sauerkraut, vegetable sauté, white rice and pretzel sticks.

Live music to feature polkas and other called dances. Silent auction showcases gift baskets, admissions to local museums and soft drinks. Live music to feature polkas and other called dances. Silent auction showcases gift baskets, admissions to local museums and soft drinks.

Tickets: $35 adults; $25 volunteers; $12 children 6-12; children under 6 free admission. Advance purchase only. Contact J-D Engle at jengle@1771.org or purchase online at 2017.1771.org/events-item/oktoberfest.

Avian ($250), Porcine ($500) and Bovine ($1,000) sponsorship packages available.

BASIS Independent McLean Welcomes New School Administrators

BASIS Independent McLean (BIM) started its second year with a new administrative team, including BIM’s Associate Head of School, Ron Kim, former of Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire and Director of Student Affairs for Upper School, and Tiffany Conroy, coming from St. Anne’s School in Annapolis, Md. The private school has more than doubled its enrollment since its opening in 1962 as the six-lane Cabin John Bridge, the American Legion Bridge was renamed in 1969 and widened to eight through lanes and two merge or exit lanes in 1992, according to the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance.

In 1965, the bridge carried 48,000 vehicles daily and has now grown to more than 235,000 vehicles, according to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. By 2040, it is projected to increase to 280,000 daily vehicles.

Now 55 years old, the MCA is determined to make the bridge a priority and has contacted the office of U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) to help pull a plan together between the two states.

“We all knew from the beginning that the bridge is really substantially owned by Maryland,” Stein said during the MCA’s Sept. 6 board meeting. “The bridge is state and national level and we need in that case to attempt to get ... national involvement, national recognition if we can, as well as state involvement,” he added.
ON GOING
Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Fresh produce, vendors, fresh prepared food, delightfully spiced foods from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organically fed poultry and eggs. Email Keithl@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org
McLean Farmers Market, Fridays, through Nov. 17, 2017, 8 a.m. to noon, 1619 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Master Gardener Plant Clinic on site to answer questions about plants in your landscape. Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-8:30 a.m., McLean Presbyterian Church. Regimen’s Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolby Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.freetai.chi.org.

Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Ctr, McLean. Themes and titles vary. Free.

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

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. Fee: $7 adults & $6 seniors; free for kids 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. The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Lorrie Herman will help students get comfortable while working with watercolors and understanding this medium. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

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

WEDNESDAY/SEP. 13
Great Falls History. 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9811 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls Historical Society features Pat Wilson speaking about “The Kept Secret in American History, the Story of the Whittier-Suffragist Movement.” Call 703-827-0269.

THURSDAY/SEP. 14
Remembrance Day at Tulipan. 7:30 -9 a.m. at J. Gilbert’s Wood-fired Steaks & Seafood, 6930 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Event co-sponsored by John Ullfeder, former West*Group GV and Partner, Tulipan Family Planning Commissioner. 80 future members of Tulipan will help. Visit www.tulipan.com or call 703-893-1054 for more.

FRIDAY/SEP. 15
Tequila Tasting 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Harth Restaurant, Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive. A free tasting event unveiling a new proprietary tequila from Herradura. Free, open to anyone 21+ Call 703-847-5000 for more.

Family Fun Bingo. 7-9 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Players can win prizes, play passing games and enjoy light refreshments. Advance registration is required. Visit www.mcelancenter.org for more.

SATURDAY/SEP. 16
McLean Community Fall Garage Sale. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the parking lot, 1420 Beverly Road, McLean. This year’s sale features a Kids’ Corner area where children will sell their toys, clothes, games and other items. The deadline to register is Wednesday, Sept. 13. Visit www.mcelancenter.org for more.

John Eaton in Concert. 7 p.m. at Vinson Hall Auditorium, 6S51 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Jazz pianist, brilliant historian and local legend John Eaton will perform a concert of Great American Songbook tunes. $20/$14 MCC district residents. Visit www.mcelancenter.org for more.

SEPTEMBER 17-18
Bonsoi Show and Auction, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 15700 Meadowlark Blvd, Vienna. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Bonsoi Society and the Potomac Bonsoi Association. Visit www.potomacbonsai.com for more.

TUESDAY/SEP. 19
Annual 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. Prop bags are $5 each. Visit www.amadeusconcerts.com for more.

MONDAY/SEP. 25
Champion Golf Tournament. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Westfield’s Golf Club, 13940 Balch Hill Pkwy, Chantilly. Annual Family PASS golf to benefit the working homeless Families of Fairfax County. Visit www.familypassfairfax.org for more.

FRIDAY/SEP. 29
Dance Party, 7:10 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. A catered dinner and drinks while immersed Thomson’s music. Visit www.mcelancenter.org for more.
Sports

Marshall Wins at McLean, 35-14

A high school football game Marshall vs. McLean on Friday, Sept. 1 was a game of two halves: The first half belonged to McLean, but the second half was dominated by Marshall — they won by a score 35-14.

McLean scored twice in the first half on a 50 yard run by junior running back George Stimpson (21) and a 20-yard reception by senior wide receiver Carter Govan (2). McLean held Marshall to only 60 yards in the first half.

Marshall came back in the second half and scored four unanswered touchdowns. The attack was led by Marshall’s quarterback Andrew Margiotta who ran for 127 yards including two touchdowns of 33 and 2 yards. Brandon Gonzales had 67 yards and a TD along with Colin Nininger who had 87 yards rushing and a TD. Marshall rushed for a total of 200 yards in the second half.

McLean defense stats:
❖ Adam Taylor (6) had 14 tackles with seven solo tackles and caused one fumble.
❖ Carter Govan (2) had 12 tackles with seven solo tackles, caused one fumble and knocked down two passes.
❖ Ben Davis (44) had seven tackles with one solo tackle.
❖ Luca Karoney (11) had five tackles, recovered two fumbles and knocked down one pass.

McLean offense stats:
❖ George Stimpson (21) led the offense with 75 yards on 16 carries, with one 50 yard TD.
❖ Carter Govan (2) had 56 yards on three receptions including a 20 yard TD.
❖ Omar Varela (13) had 48 yards rushing, including a 30-yard kick return.
❖ Adam Taylor (6) had 35 yards on five carries.
Senior Olympics Athletes Gather for Opening Ceremonies

The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics kicked off its 35th anniversary season on Sept. 9, at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington. The opening ceremonies included the T.C. Williams High School Army JROTC Color Guard, remarks by NVSO committee Chairman Jim Mackenzie, and the carrying of the Olympic Torch. This year there are 752 competitors. The first day of competition took place on Sept. 9 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center and included indoor track events. Tennis singles (50-69) took place on Sept. 11 at Wakefield District Park in Annandale. The Senior Olympics runs through Sept. 20. See http://nvso.us.

Tennis and indoor track last weekend.

Lisa Bridges from McLean hits a forehand during her match. Bridges won gold in the 50-69 age group.

Lisa Bridges (left) from McLean and Sheila Laszlo from Ashburn both won gold medals in their championship matches.

Clarence John L. Wells-Martin from Herndon received a gold medal for placing first in the 60 meter dash in the 70-74 age group. Number 36 is his lucky number from high school.

Senior Olympics Athletes Gather for Opening Ceremonies

The National Anthem is sung by Debbi Miller, Ms. Virginia Senior America from Fairfax, during the opening ceremonies.
**THURSDAY/SEPT. 19**

**Good Morning McLean,** 7:30-9 a.m. at 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.

**Prayer Service for Peace,** 7:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This prayer service, open to anyone of any faith, will focus on peace, with the affirmation “Peace is in the midst of all matters.” The event is part of the 24th annual World Day of Prayer, sponsored by Silent Unity, Unity Worldwide, and Unity of Fairfax. Free and open to all. Email care@unityoffairfax.org or visit www.unityoffairfax.org for more.

**TUESDAY/SEPT. 20**

Joel Goldsmith Study Group, Tuesdays, 7 p.m. in the Unity of Fairfax, Conference Room, Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Ongoing small group discussions on the teachings of profound mystic and healer, Joel Goldsmith. The first book to be discussed will be “A Parentheses in Eternity.” Donations will be accepted. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org for more.

**IN-PERSON, TV DEBATES**

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWFA) will hold four in-person forums and three 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 League invited all certified candidates to campaign forums 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. For more information about the candidates’ priorities and positions, visit www.vlwfa.org.

**In-person forums:**

• **Sunday, Sept. 17** at 2:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.

• **Thursday, Sept. 28** at 7 p.m. at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. The televised forums at Fairfax County Public Access are on Channel 10 or viewstreamed on YouTube “Inside Scoop Livestream.” The public can submit questions by email to theladiescoopvt@gmail.com or call 571-749-1142 between 7-8:30 p.m. Tune in on:

**Monday, Sept. 11** at 8 p.m.; **Monday, Sept. 18** at 8 p.m.; and **Monday, Oct. 2 at 8 p.m.**

**THURSDAY/SEPT. 21**

Shepherd’s Center Caregivers Support Group, 10-11:30 a.m. at UCCP, United 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, 703-521-6383, tarr56verizon.net.

Chapter Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Neighbor’s Restaurant, 2525 Cedar Lane, Oakton. Shopping Center, Vienna. Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc., invites all veterans, friends, and the general public to attend the next chapter meeting. Chamapha Khambongva, founder and executive Director of Legacies of Veterans of America Inc., will discuss its mission. She is a native of Laos and earned degrees from George Mason University and Georgetown University. Admission is free. Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0533 or visit www.vva227.org.

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By KENNETH H. LOUIE

Ordinarily I wouldn’t have given the Lyrica television commercial too much attention. But there sat a spokesperson named Kenny, his name clearly present in the red script on top of the white oval located above his right breast pocket on his custom-work shirt, a middle-aged white man like me, holding a nearby whiteboard that was as big as his right knee talking about a medical problem that we both feel: the “shooting, burning, pins and needles of diabetic nerve pain.” Of course the mark was named Kenny on television referring to a problem that not even Kenny acknowledged. And although my symptoms are not from diabetes, they’re from eight and half years of chemotherapy.

Next is the sound of the breast cancer-ravaged voice on “Babe Ruth Day” at Yankee Stadium on April 27, 1947: “It feels just as bad.”

Now the fact that the words of advice are coming from someone named Kenny does give me pause however. Not all that Kenny has identical personalities or life’s experiences but knowing how little familiarity I have with this product makes me distrust him somehow. My name is Kenny and I’m not prepared to make those statements. How can he remit himself to a long-spell MAH’s epi-sode when Major Frank Bums was feeling para-noia (as he said: “I’m only paranoid because everyone’s out to get me”) because he thought “someone else is using my face.” None of which makes any more sense to me than believing a spokesperson-Kenny just because his name happens to be Kenny.

Moreover, given that “Big Pharma” probably doesn’t want to limit its reach by excluding a segment of the market because of name recognition possibly lends some credence to the presumption of using a name that identifies the individual in one of these spots. Why are they afraid of it? As it relates to these spots and their names, perhaps less is more and for many millions of dollars (hundreds of millions of dollars we’re often told) are invested in the process of bringing FDA-approved products to market? Accordingly, I suppose “Big Pharma” can’t afford to leave any potential stone/“prescription” unturned.

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1619 Linway Park Drive, McLean
WONDERFUL 5BR/3.5 BA colonial home on 3 levels in super McLean location - just 1 traffic light to DC! Spacious colonial with lots of updates! Park-like setting at end of cul-de-sac; lovely island kitchen with eat-in area; renovated bathrooms; walkout LL; deck with wooded views; close to shopping, schools, walking and bike paths! Chesterbrook, Longfellow and McLean schools!

1823 Solitaire Lane, McLean
BEAUTIFUL 5BR/4 FULL BA brick colonial featuring over 7000 square feet! Updated kitchen with granite; updated roof and HVAC; hardwoods on the main level; park-like setting; whole-house stereo; 60-foot deck with gazebo! Putting green! Great location - 2 lights to DC! Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean schools!

2312 Van Buren Ct, Arlington
GORGEOUS 3BR/3.5 BA brick townhome in sought-after Arlington location! Beautiful chef’s kitchen with breakfast bar opens to the family room with fireplace; sparkling hardwood floors; lovely owner’s suite with fireplace, walk-in closets and luxury bath; finished walkout lower level; private, fenced flagstone patio with landscaping; moments to schools, parks, Ballston, Tysons and DC! Arlington schools!

Call Me Today for a Free Analysis of Your Home’s Value!