

HomeLifeStyle

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Vienna
CONNECTION

A Legionnaire and keynote speaker
Jerry Driscoll, a Vienna resident,
salute the flag at the Monday
morning Patriot Day Community
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PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



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Vienna Remembers Sept. 11

Residents, officials gather on Patriot Day Community Commemoration.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Vienna resident Jerry Driscoll was in the Marine Corps in Camp Pendleton, Calif. when the airplanes hit the World Trade Center buildings and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, and would soon be shipped off to Kuwait with his air unit to fight the war. He remembered that day, as he stood in the hangar amongst the Huey and Cobra gunship helicopters and watched the coverage on the base televisions.

“Everyone realized things were different from now on,” he said.

Driscoll is now a Legionnaire at Vienna American Legion Post 180, and was the keynote speaker for the “A Day to Remember,” commemorative event on the Freeman House Lawn in Vienna on Sept. 11, 2017.

“We need to carry on the memory of them,” he said, before the audience of Vienna Mayor Laurie A. DiRocco, Del. Mark Keam (D-35), Jason Feimster, the commander of Vienna American Legion Post 180, and others who were there to commemorate the anniversary.

“It still affects the town, they still care,” said Dan Dellinger.

Joyce Miller works in town hall in the accounting department and is part of the legion as well. It’s the same office she was in on that day in 2001. “We all had a hard time that day,” she said.

After the attacks, the town went and put up flags along Main Street, and when they were all up, there were still requests coming into Miller’s office. “Everybody wanted

a flag,” she said.

As with other communities in Northern Virginia, the 9/11 terrorist attacks had an impact on Vienna residents, and they hold this commemorative event every year. DiRocco noted the importance of keeping this alive. “Everyone remembers that day, we have had one every year, it’s important,” DiRocco said.



The American Legion Post 180 Honor Guard marches into place.

The lawn at the Freeman House is the site of many town gatherings, and there is a flag, the red caboose, churches and Main Street surrounding the site, so it was fitting when they played “America the Beautiful,” at the conclusion of the event.

“We’re a lot about community, a trait that defines Vienna,” DiRocco said.



Del. Mark Keam (D-35) and Jerry Driscoll (left) with another member of the legion discuss the day’s event.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco reads a proclamation.

Vienna Church to Celebrate 50 Years in Community

The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) will celebrate 50 years of ministry in Vienna with a special service at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 24, followed by a luncheon. The community is invited to attend the celebration at the church, located at 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna.

“At our Sunday service, we will be celebrating our loving past, our exciting present and our revitalizing future,” said Good Shepherd pastor The Rev. Eric

Song, in his second year at the church. “We look forward to seeing many of our former members and friends return for this special weekend.” Among Good Shepherd’s former pastors attending will be The Rev. Wes Arthur (1971-1978), Dr. Jim Noland (1998-2006) and The Rev. Michael Copeland (2015-2016), Song said. Good Shepherd’s fourth pastor, The Rev. Kirk Mariner (1980-1988), recently passed away. The church’s sixth pastor, The Rev. Jay M. Hanke (1989-1997), preached at the church in February

as part of the yearlong celebration.

The Church of the Good Shepherd held its first service on Sept. 24, 1967, in the cafeteria at nearby Flint Hill Elementary School, with some 60 people in attendance. During the summer months, services took place in the common area outside the school’s kindergarten classes.

The land on Hunter Mill Road was purchased by the church in 1968, and an Easter sunrise service held on the property in 1969, followed in late 1971 with a

groundbreaking for a new church building. The last service held at Flint Hill Elementary was Sept. 24, 1972, and the first service in the current location was on Oct. 1, 1972.

The church expanded its facilities and consecrated its current sanctuary and education center nearly 20 years ago, on Nov. 9, 1997, during its 30th anniversary year.

For more information, visit the church website at www.GoodShepherdVA.com

Fill the Boot 2017: One For The Record Books

BY JOEL KOBERSTEEN
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 of collecting \$155,629.66.

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 \$140,193.28 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 was added to the disaster relief fund for a total of \$131,278.65. Part of that total was \$4,476.36 from the 142nd Recruit School, \$220 from the Logistics Distribution Center, \$4,291 from the 9-1-1 Center, \$252 from the Fire Prevention Office and \$60 from the local office.

When all was said and done, we collected



PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Master Technician Johnathan Macquilliam and Capt. Matthew C. Burns hold their boots high as they work a Labor Day crowd of generous motorists at a Fairfax traffic signal on Waples Mill Road and U.S. Route 50.

\$631,278.65 total for Fill the Boot 2017. Never has any municipality collected that much money ... ever.

Thanks to the following for their support:

- ❖ Chairman Sharon Bulova and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors,
- ❖ Fire Chief Richard Bowers and the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department,
- ❖ President John Niemiec and Local 2068,
- ❖ Chief John Morrison, Vienna Volunteer FD, and all volunteer canteen units,
- ❖ Director Bill Kang and all the members of the Department of Public Safety Communications,
- ❖ Colonel Ed Roessler, Sergeant Tom Bailey, PFC Jared Warner and the Fairfax County Po-

lice Department,

- ❖ President John Harris and the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Retirement Association,
- ❖ All career and volunteer Fire and Rescue members and their families who helped out during the campaign.

Last, I would like to thank the residents and guests of Fairfax County who, by opening their car window and generously donating, made this year's Fill the Boot a tremendous success. We could not do this without you.

The author is a master technician at Fire Station 40, Fairfax Center, B-Shift, and coordinator for the Fairfax County Fill the Boot Campaign.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Putting United Back in 'United' States

To the Editor:

Re: Mr. Crawford's response ("Fomenting Disunity 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 brandishing 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!

Maybe we should take a page out of our kids' playbook and see beyond our skin-deep differences. 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
Great Falls

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.
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By e-mail: north@connectionnewspapers.com

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CRIME

Vienna Police Highlights

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna Police Department from Sept. 1 – Sept. 7, 2017.

INCIDENTS

Suspicious Person — Meadow Lane Park, 501 Meadow Lane, SW Between July 5 at 3 p.m. and Sept. 5 at 10:45 a.m. A citizen reported that on several occasions she has observed a suspicious man sitting in his vehicle at the park for several hours staring at children and adults. The citizen was advised to notify the police immediately if she sees the man at the park again.

Fraud — 200 Block Berry Street, SE Between Aug. 25 10 a.m. and Aug. 29 6:26 p.m. A resident was scammed out of money by someone over the phone claiming to be with the IRS.

Found Property — 100 Block Battle Street, SE Between Aug. 29 at 8 a.m. and Sept. 4 at 12:20 p.m. A resident found a bike that had been abandoned in her backyard.

Lost Property — Zoe's Kitchen, 418 Maple Ave. East, Aug. 29 12:30 p.m. An employee reported that he lost his key ring.

Open Door — First Baptist Church of Vienna, 450 Orchard St., NW Sept. 1, 4:11 a.m. Officers responding to the report of an alarm found an open door with pry marks. A Fairfax County K-9 unit responded to the scene to assist in searching the building.

Nothing appeared to have been disturbed.

Fraud — 200 Block of Beulah Road, NE Sept. 1, 2:01 p.m. A resident reported that someone used his information to open a bank account without his consent.

Grand Larceny — Navy Federal Credit Union, 10007 Electric Ave., SE Between Sept. 1 at 6 p.m. and Sept. 5 at 9 a.m. An employee at the construction site advised that someone stole several rolls of copper from the site. This case is being investigated.

Vandalism — 344 Maple Ave. West, Sept. 1 between 8 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. A citizen advised that someone damaged his parked vehicle

Grand Larceny — CAVA, 176 Maple Ave. West, Sept. 1 between 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. A citizen left his wallet in the restaurant. When he returned the wallet was gone.

Emotionally Disturbed Person — 7-11, 537 Maple Ave. West, Sept. 2, 12:14 a.m. MPO Smith observed a man acting suspicious. Upon his interaction with the man, the officer determined he was in need of medical assistance. MPO Smith transported the person to a hospital for treatment.

Grand Larceny — 500 Moorefield Road, SW Between Sept. 4 at 11 a.m. and Sept. 5 at 11 a.m. A resident advised that someone entered his unlocked vehicle and stole his key fob for the vehicle along with other miscellaneous keys. This case is being investigated.

Registration is OPEN NOW

Registration ends on October 13, 2017

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Great Falls Basketball is a non-profit educational organization

Home LifeStyle

The Psychology of Color

Using color to set the mood in a space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

When it comes to interior design, color has the power to make or change the feel of a room. Whether cheerful and inviting for a kitchen or serene and comfort-

able for an office, the right shade can be transformative.

“Colors trigger emotional reactions, associations, and memories,” said Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, George Mason University. “The red spectrum colors tend to elicit more

arousal and the blue spectrum colors tend to elicit more calmness. People’s favorite colors often boost their mood and disliked colors lower their mood.”

Part of designing a space is using color to create mood and feel, says interior designer Nadia



PHOTO BY MORGAN HOWARTH

Blues and greens are great in bedrooms because of their calming effect, says Dana Schwartz, designer at Anthony Wilder Design/Build.

Subaran of Aidan Design. In fact, she employed this technique when designing a kitchen space for a recent client. Her goal was to create a room that would be a calming place for the homeowner to derive inspiration for party planning, so she chose a light shade of blue.

“The vintage aqua in the china pantry was meant to evoke a calm and happy space to envision and plan for gatherings and social events,” said Subaran. “We wanted the aqua in the cabinetry and on the ceiling to inspire creativity. It’s a highly functional space, but it’s also one that celebrates that which is being housed and organized.”

Lighter, neutral colors help lighten a space and make it feel larger, said

Dana Schwartz, designer at Anthony Wilder Design/Build. “Darker, moodier colors can help a room feel cozier and create a dramatic effect.”

“Neutrals like white, black, gray and brown are valued for their flexibility,” added Amanda Mertins, president, Patina Polished Living in Alexandria. “You simply add or subtract color to liven up or calm things down. Choosing room colors depends on your personal taste and the room’s purpose.”

Warm colors such as red and orange often elicit a range of feelings from warmth to anger, said Short. “This may be due to our associations with blood, face flushing, or stop signs,” he said. “Cooler colors like blue and green often elicit feelings from relaxation to sadness. This may be due to our associations with a blue sky [and] grass.”

When it comes to interior design, “red is known to pump adrenaline, so keep red to a minimum in nurseries or bedrooms,” said Schwartz. “Blues and greens are great in bed-

rooms because of their calming effect. Yellows and oranges have an energetic effect, great for communal spaces like kitchens, dining rooms, and bathrooms.”

“Choose a color that inspires you or a color that you love,” said designer Melissa Cooley of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. “Choose a color that is reminiscent of your childhood, favorite car or perhaps flowers,” she said. “It will help create a positive emotion upon entering the space. Color creates an emotion; therefore create the space you wish to feel. This is a perfect example where beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder. Make sure to carry that color throughout the space, creating a cohesiveness within the space.”

The amount of natural light a room receives can also play a role in color selection, says Cooley. “In a basement space, limited sunlight can sometimes cause a damper on one’s mood,” she said. “A pop of color even in a bathroom can enlighten and lift one’s emotion. Adding a pop color creates an oasis or a place of bright escapism.”

Color can be added to a room in a variety of ways, advises designer Susan Nelson of Home on Cameron in Alexandria. “Typically walls are painted, but it’s important to remember that accessories and furniture ... are other ways to insert color into a room.”

When choosing colors for an outdoor space, play off natural elements. Air and water tones such as blues, soft greens and light neutrals bring a sense of tranquility and calm to a space because they are reminiscent of water views and blue skies, advises Madeline Fairbanks at Country Casual Teak.

“Create a calm, cool retreat by mixing blues and whites that remind us of waves, water and sand to sooth the nerves and invite relaxation,” she said. “Earth and fire tones like rich browns, oranges and reds can energize and animate a space and bring inviting warmth outdoors. Warm colors are thought to stimulate the senses and whet the appetite, so are perfect for outdoor spaces where guests will be entertained.”



Public Meetings Fall Transportation Meeting

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with an open house followed by a town hall style meeting. The open house will provide information on various transportation initiatives including proposed changes to Virginia’s project prioritization process (SMART SCALE), recently funded projects in the Six-Year Improvement Program, Virginia’s Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan, and Scenario Planning and Freight plans. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, Departments of Transportation and Rail and Public Transportation, along with Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Planning District Commissions, and Transit organizations will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and to discuss your ideas and concerns on Virginia’s transportation network. The open house will be followed by a town hall session, where you can engage in discussion and ask questions about the various initiatives. Comments will be accepted informally at the meeting and may also be submitted via email, or online.

Meeting Dates and Locations

Open House begins at 4:00 pm in each of the locations:

Tuesday August 29, 2017 Germanna Community College Center for Workforce & Community Education 10000 Germanna Point Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22408	Thursday, August 31, 2017 The Prior Center at UVA-Wise 437 Stadium Drive Wise, VA 24293	Monday, September 11, 2017 Culpeper District Office Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701
Thursday, September 14, 2017 Chesapeake Conference Center 700 Conference Center Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320	Monday, September 18, 2017 NOVA District Office The Potomac Room 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030	Monday, October 2, 2017 Hilton Garden Inn Richmond South/Southpark 800 Southpark Boulevard Colonial Heights, VA 23834
Wednesday, October 4, 2017 Holiday Inn Lynchburg 601 Main Street Lynchburg, VA 24504	Tuesday, October 10, 2017 Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	Thursday, October 12, 2017 Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive Roanoke, VA 24017

Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/> beginning August 29, 2017.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may also send your comments on highway projects to Infrastructure Investment Director, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219, or SixYearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov and on rail, public transportation and transportation demand management to Public Information Officer, DRPT, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov. Comments will be accepted until October 20, 2017.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation’s Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation’s Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

Home LifeStyle

This Fairfax kitchen was enlarged to create a space for entertaining for a family of five.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS AND BATHS



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 de-

sign 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 accents 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

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Wednesday October 4th, 2017 - 7:00pm

Have you been dreaming about a remodeling project? Please join us
for concepts, inspiration, and industry insight!
Doors open at 6:30pm - Seminar begins at 7:00pm



Big Impact, Small Space

Saturday October 21st, 2017 - 9:30am

Join our creative design team as they help you untap the potential of
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Doors open at 9:00am - Seminar begins at 9:30am



Kitchen and Bath Remodeling

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 13

Riverboat Cruise. 10-11:30 a.m. at Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) 541 Marshall Road SW, Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna hosts day trip to Georgetown Harbor via riverboat cruise from Alexandria to Georgetown for shopping, exploring and lunch. Will return by riverboat to Alexandria, then the bus trip home to Vienna. \$85 includes transportation and riverboat cruise.

Call 703-281-0538 or visit www.scov.org.

Live after Five. 6-9 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Hors d'oeuvres and local musicians highlight the tour. Visit www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 14

Painting Demonstration. 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Learn how award-winning artist Vivian Attermeyer creates her original artworks capturing different seasons and light conditions. Visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org or call

703-319-3971.

SEPT. 14-16

Fall Book Sale. Various times at Oakton Community Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/friends/ok/ or call 703-281-0300.

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.

Family Fun Bingo. 7-9 p.m. at The

Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Players can win prizes, play guessing games and enjoy light refreshments. Advance registration is required. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

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

Food Art Festival. noon- 4 p.m. at Halstead Square Dunn Loring Metro, 2750 Gallows Road, Vienna. The Second Annual Halstead Square Dunn Loring Metro Food, Wine & Art Festival combines wine tastings, culinary treats, pop up art exhibits, and free kids activities for an afternoon of family fun. Free. Visit eventsathalsteadsquare.com.

SEPT. 16-17

Bonsai Show and Auction. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society and the Potomac Bonsai Association. Visit www.potomacbonsai.com.

MONDAY/SEPT. 18

W&OD Railroad Historian Lecture. Noon-2 p.m. at 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. W&OD Railroad historian and former manager of the W&OD Trail, Paul McCray will talk about the history of the rail line, how it came to be and why it didn't survive. Call 703-281-0538 or visit www.scov.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 20

Dining with Dorothy. 12:30 p.m. at Bonaroti Restaurant, 428 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Join Dorothy and the group for laughter and conversation over lunch. Call 703-281-0538 or visit www.scov.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

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

Family Fun Day. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E. Event includes refreshments, a live band, dunk tank, ninja warrior-themed obstacle climb, entertainment for children, raffles and a live auction including a plane ride for two. Donations from the event will support local children diagnosed with cancer and their families through Growing Hope, a local non profit organization and Johns Hopkins Childhood Cancer Research Center. Visit www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 24

50th Anniversary Commemoration and Luncheon. 10:15 a.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road. Visit www.GoodShepherdVA.com or call 703-281-3987.

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.

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ENTERTAINMENT

A Glimpse Into the World of Prison

1st Stage in Tysons presents "Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train."

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With pounding performances from fiercely committed actors, audiences at 1st Stage witness the nightmare world of the incarcerated. It is a transfixing and unapologetic tale. The searing production is "Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train" by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis.

As co-directed by Alex Levy and Juan Francisco Villa, "Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train" does not allow the audience to look away. Levy and Villa aim to have audiences surrender into the unease that playwright Guirgis created; and they witness.

The play follows parallel lives of two prisoners, a guard and a public defender. It focuses on a young man, Angel Cruz, incarcerated in New York City's Rikers Island for shooting a man he thinks was a charlatan who brainwashed his best friend into entering a religious cult. Cruz faces murder charges. Cruz's stay at Rikers is traumatic; he becomes a target for others. He is placed in protective solitary confinement with only one hour outside his solitary cell. It is outside where he meets a mesmerizing, con-man, a serial killer named Lucius. Lucius is known as the "Black Plague." Lucius has also "found" God who becomes his protective factor from all humiliations.

Prisoner Cruz is played by Luis Albert Gonzalez. He gives his character a numbed, terrified appearance of someone shell-shocked, intimidated and in disbelief. Over time, his confidence comes to the fore. He finds his voice, and speaks out it like a Biblical Job arguing to make his case to God or whom ever will listen to him.

Frank Britton's Lucius is a live wire; an inspired effortless piercing presence. There is also a grace in his movements and verbal skills as he stalks the small spaces that are his on stage. Britton is never re-

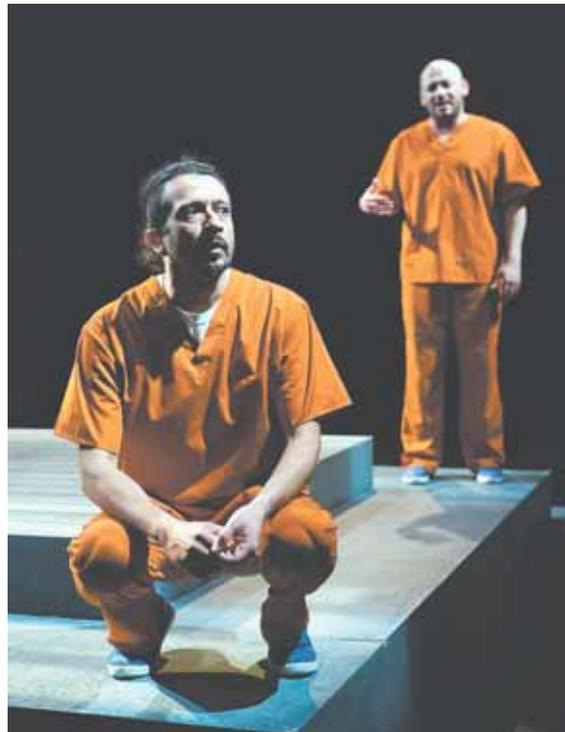


PHOTO BY TERESA WOOD/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

From left: Jose Guzman and Luis Alberto Gonzalez in "Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train" at 1st Stage. The show runs through Oct. 8, 2017 in Tysons Corner.

strained; always with a mystical allure.

While characters Angel and Lucius are firmly the main focus, there are several others who have their turns at the spotlight. There is a disillusioned public defender (played with aplomb, heart and moxie by Teresa Castracane). There is also a tough-talking, verbally vindictive correction officer (an intimidating Jose Guzman whose voice and tones could cut metal).

The stark, unrelenting, in-the-round-set by Jessica Cancino and harsh, hellish lighting by Brittany Shemuga are powerful additions to the joyless world the production captures. No privacy. Tight quarters. Little comfort.

"Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train" is probing and visceral. It is most remarkable for its high-caliber acting talent. The production is spell-binding.

Where & When

1st Stage presents "Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train" at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Performances through Oct. 8, 2017. Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. \$33 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$15 for students and military. Call 703-854-1856 or visit www.1ststage.org.

Note: Adult language. Captioned performances: Sept. 15 at 8 p.m., Sept. 16 at 8 p.m., Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 24 at 2 p.m., Oct. 7 at 8 p.m. The captioning system uses individual devices with stands. Pick up equipment at the box office when checking-in. Venue is wheelchair accessible.

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Announcements

SPORTS



PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION

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

Senior Olympics Athletes Gather for Opening Ceremonies

Tennis and indoor track last weekend.

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>.



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

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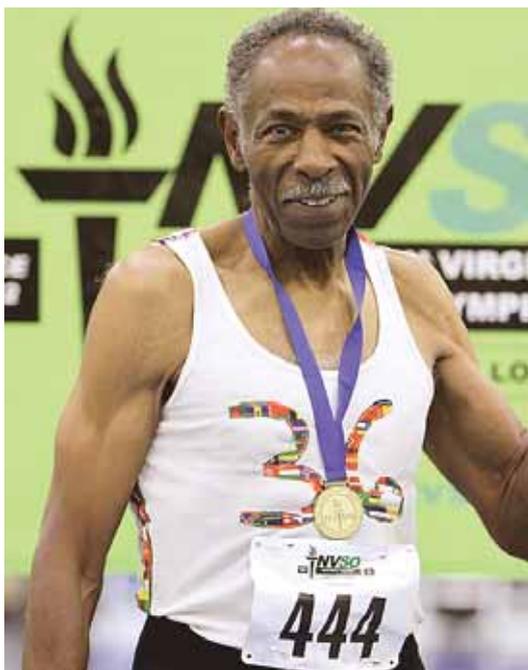
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Clarence John L. Wells-Martin from Herndon received a gold medal for placing first in the 60 meter dash in the 70-74 age group. Number 36 is his lucky number from high school.



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

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 14

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

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 "I am peace 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.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

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 (LWVFA) 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 campaigning for office in their respective districts. At the in-person forums, question-and-answer sessions will be followed by an opportunity for informal conversations with individual candidates. The public and press are encouraged to attend. For more information about the candidates' priorities and positions, visit www.vote411.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 livestreamed on YouTube "Inside Scoop Livestream." The public can submit questions by email to theinsidescoopvtv@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 UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This support group is designed for caregivers of adult family members. Contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838, jtarr5@verizon.net.

Chapter Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc., invites all veterans, friends, and the general public to attend the next chapter meeting. Channapha Khamvongsa, founder and Executive Director of Legacies of War, 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 703-255-0353 or visit www.vva227.org.

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"Kenny's Story"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Ordinarily I wouldn't have given the Lyrica television commercial too much attention. But there sat a spokesperson named Kenny, his name clearly printed in red script on top of a white oval located above his right breast pocket on his custom-work shirt, a middle-aged white man like me, holding his left foot across his right knee talking about a medical problem that we both feel: the "shooting, burning, pins and needles of diabetic nerve pain." It was odd seeing someone named Kenny on television referring to a problem that not-on-television Kenny also has, though my symptoms are not from diabetes; they're from eight and half years of chemotherapy. Nevertheless, as Babe Ruth said about the sound of his throat-cancer-ravaged voice on "Babe Ruth Day" at Yankee Stadium on April 27, 1947: "It feels just as bad."

Campaign to date, according to iSpot.tv, within the last 30 days, "Kenny's Story," as it's identified, has had "74 commercial airings." And though I don't think for a moment that this Kenny could be confused with that Kenny, considering that he's an auto mechanic who "grew into a free-wheeling kid" and "enjoyed every step of fatherhood," and I'm not "free-wheeling," not a father and know zero about cars, I do feel his pain - literally.

Now the fact that the words of advice are coming from someone named Kenny does give me pause however. Not that all Kennys have 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?

It reminds me of a long-ago M*A*S*H episode when Major Frank Burns was feeling paranoid (as he said: "I'm only paranoid because every one's out to get me") because he thought "someone else is using my face." None of which makes any more sense than my not believing spokesperson-Kenny just because his name happens to be Kenny.

But there's no accounting for viewer reaction, probably. That's likely why there were a total "1,271 airings" of Lyrica diabetic nerve pain commercials nationally over the last 30 days. "Kenny's Story," at 74 airings, was a small percentage of at least a dozen variations on this theme as well as a parallel campaign to address Fibromyalgia, a similar condition also treated by Lyrica.

It's odd, of the multiple spots that have appeared on television, all of which show people living active lives - and being grateful for using Lyrica, only three: "Kim's Salon," "Michael," and yours truly are "given-named." All the others: "Coach," "Grandpa," "School Teacher," "Keep the Beat Going," "Helping Others", as a few examples, are not.

I'm wondering if "naming"/invoking names in these spots does in fact personalize the experience for viewers in a way that the pharmaceutical companies think is counter productive? Maybe naming the spokesperson/sufferer causes a reaction among Kims and Michaels that yours truly is feeling/writing about?

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 that using a name to identify the individual in one of these spots is rare because it's unhelpful. As it relates to these spots and their names, perhaps less is more, given how many research/clinical 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/"prescriptee" unturned.

I certainly don't know the answers to any of these questions. I can only wander - and wonder what it is that makes sense here and where I fit into their universe. The commercials have hit their intended target: me, a patient with "shooting, burning, pins and needles ...", but I have to tell you: I don't like "Kenny."

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

Challenging the Troublemaker

Leader of Democratic resistance in Richmond challenged by independent who vows to be less antagonistic.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

No 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 grouching 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 are screwing us, and the only way we are going to get good things to happen is voting Democrats in. And I think that is very negative for politics in general, and I don't think it's particularly surprising at all that Republicans aren't willing to work with him."

THE 53RD DISTRICT stretches from Merrifield in the west to Falls Church in the east and from Pimmit Hills to the north and Strathmeade Springs to the south. Before Simon was first elected in 2013, the district was represented by Del. Jim Scott (D-53) for 11 terms. The Center for Politics at the University of Virginia ranks the 53rd House District the 18th most Democratic in the commonwealth. Democrats always win the district, usually with more 60 percent of the vote. The idea that an independent might win here seems a



Marcus Simon



Mike Casey

stretch to many people 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 de-



The 53rd House District stretches from Merrifield in the west to Falls Church in the east and from Pimmit Hills to the north and Strathmeade Springs to the south.

monizing 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 choice 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 New York University before getting a law degree from American University Washington College of Law. He served as a captain and prosecutor in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the United States Army before founding Ekko Title and an affiliated law firm in 2008. He says he's happy to have an opponent in the general election.

"I'm all for giving people choices, and I'd

like to win an election and not just get the 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.