

McLean CONNECTION

SENIOR LIVING

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Karen Briscoe, Jerry Huckaby and Lizzy Conroy of the HBC Group at Keller Williams McLean celebrate their 40th Anniversary on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017, at the Washington Golf & Country Club in Arlington.

HBC Group at Keller Williams Turns 40

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OCTOBER 11-17, 2017

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McLean Church to Host Oktoberfest Marketplace

Charles Wesley UMC - The Hunger Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean, will host Oktoberfest Marketplace on Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Shop local vendors, support the community, and help agencies at the same time. A children's fun activity room is there for children while adults shop.

Enjoy an Oktoberfest lunch menu and pick up some extra treats to take home. Visit www.thehungerchurch.org

Michel Rene Salon and Spa Opens in McLean

After 35 years of running a salon in Vienna, Michel Suissa has announced that the second Michel Rene Salon and Spa is now open in McLean. This new location will have the same high-level professionals as the Vienna Salon, offering the full normal range of services plus: keratin; keratin express; highlighting; lowlights; thermal straightening; color correction; facials and waxing; Japanese straightening; and permanent makeup.

The new Michel Rene Salon and Spa is located at 6716 Whittier Ave., McLean. For more information or an appointment, call 703-356-8844.

Fall Legislative Conference to Be Held Nov. 11

Social Action Linking Together (SALT) presents Fall Legislative Conference, "Call to Solidarity with Virginia's Vulnerable Citizens: A Conference on Public Social Policy" on Saturday, Nov. 11, 9-11:30 a.m.

- Presentations include:
- ❖ Sister Simone Campbell, "21st Century Poverty: Truth, Soundbites & Needed Federal Action"
 - ❖ Dorothy McAuliffe, First Lady of Virginia, subject to confirmation (invited), "Child Hunger in Virginia Schools"
 - ❖ Del. Ken Plum, "Advocacy is moving to the state and local levels, Are you moving with it?"
 - ❖ Gay Gardner, Interfaith Action for Human Rights (IAHR), "Making Solitary Confinement Truly a Last Resort?"

Hosted by Virginia International University (VIU), 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax, VIU Conference Room (VD-02)

Contact John Horejsi at jhorejsi@cox.net or visit www.s-a-l-t.org.

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PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

2017 Raise the Region Gala Mistress of Ceremonies Dorri Scott, publisher and CEO of VA WOMAN Magazine Group, led the gala in a toast after a moment of silence for victims of the mass shooting in Las Vegas.



Community Foundation for Northern Virginia President and CEO Eileen Ellsworth gave opening remarks to the gala and announced the launching of a new permanent endowment fund next year to celebrate the foundation's 40th anniversary in 2018.

Community Comes Together to 'Raise the Region'

Gala raises more than \$530,000.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

More than \$530,000 was raised during the 2017 Raise the Region Gala on Friday, Oct. 6, at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner hotel to benefit the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia.

Nearly 650 business leaders, philanthropists and community organizers participated in the event to celebrate the charitable work of the foundation and to raise funds to support the less fortunate in the region.

The CFNV comprises donor advised funds, permanent funds, giving circles and other charitable endowments that often fund other organization's work in the region.

"It is an honor for the Community Foundation to support their great work," CFNV President and CEO Eileen Ellsworth said during her speech. "I say that we're all in this together and a part of something much bigger than ourselves."

In 2017, the foundation awarded more than \$4.7 million in grants and scholarships and reported \$47 million in managed philanthropic assets.

"That was a record," Ellsworth said.

AT \$300 A TICKET, gala goers were served steak dinners and were invited to bid for a plethora of items during a silent auction with items in the following categories: Restaurant Row, beer, wine and spirits, sports, golf and fitness, date night, family fun, pamper and polish, home, memorabilia and luxury — all to benefit the CFNV.



Brenda Moore blows a kiss to the crowd after she and her husband Mark Moore were given the 2017 Community Leadership Award.

Items ranged from \$25 to thousands of dollars.

Gala goers also had a chance to open their wallets in the name of charity during a live auction and raffle, where luxury car rentals and vacations were offered to the highest bidders.

Donations were also accepted during a call for attendees to "Stand Up and Pledge."

The silent auction raised more than \$57,000; live auction nearly \$50,000; raffle around \$10,000; pledge donations around \$48,000; with tickets and sponsorships accounting for the remainder, according to Tara Nadel, a spokesperson for the CFNV.

The money raised during the event will be needed for what the foundation has planned for next year, its 40th anniversary.

In honor of this milestone, Ellsworth announced during the gala the launch of a new endowment that would triple the



Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) attended the gala with his wife, Dr. Marilyn Jerome.

foundation's capacity to respond to local need.

"We call it the Permanent Fund for Northern Virginia, and it is a permanent community endowment that will forever source critical support for our most vulnerable neighbors," she said.

Since the CFNV started raising funds in January, the endowment stands at \$4.6 million, according to Ellsworth. The foundation will need to raise \$2.4 more to reach its goal of \$7 million.

The grand finale of the evening was the foundation's presentation of the 2017 Community Leadership Award to Mark and Brenda Moore of the Mark and Brenda Moore Family Foundation. The award is presented annually for outstanding commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for all Northern Virginians.

The Mark and Brenda Moore Family Foundation was started to financially support

causes that are dear to their hearts, including healthcare, education, music and the arts.

"Wow, we are just overwhelmed," Brenda said after she and her husband were called up to the stage. "You have filled our hearts with great, great joy. We are totally blessed and grateful to receive this honor. It is a wonderful culmination to an exceptional event. We feel that each of you can celebrate with us and help 'Raise the Region.'"

Mark quoted Martin Luther King Jr.: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

He concluded that what matters is assisting and uplifting those in our midst who are underserved and under-resourced.

THE MOORES ARE DONORS to Inova Health System and built the Mark and Brenda Moore Patient Tower at the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital in Alexandria, where Mark was treated for a stroke in 2007. It opened in December 2014 with all private rooms and state-of-the-art facilities for rehabilitation and joint replacement. In addition to being the lead donors on that project, they also sponsored two galas that raised \$4 million and sit on the board of the healthcare system's foundation and the Patient Experience Advisory Committee.

Mark published a memoir, "A Stroke of Faith: A Stroke Survivor's Story of a Second Chance at Living a Life of Significance," about his experience in April with the help of contributor Andy Butcher.

Additionally, the Moores support the Posse Foundation, which awards four-year, full-tuition scholarships to minority students, and sit on the board of Alexandria-based Hopkins House Early Childhood Learning Center. They are founding donors of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, as well as supporters of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre.

HBC Group at Keller Williams Turns 40

More than 50 people helped the HBC Group at Keller Williams McLean to celebrate its 40th Anniversary on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017, at the Washington Golf & Country Club in Arlington. While sipping wine, tasting hors d'oeuvres, and listening to the Veronneau Jazz Ensemble, past and present clients, affiliate vendors, friends and supporters joined in the celebration to ring in the milestone anniversary for partners Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy.

The evening was dedicated to Sue Huckaby, who died in 2008, and her now 40-year-old legacy, the HBC Group. Sue Huckaby began her career as a Realtor in McLean in 1977 and became one of the most successful Realtors in America. Her husband, Jerry Huckaby, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 5th District of Louisiana, worked with her full-time from 1993 to 2008.

The couple met Briscoe at Trinity United Methodist Church, and in 2006 asked her to become a partner. What they wanted was for Briscoe to carry on her legacy after Sue Huckaby lost her battle with cancer in 2008. Conroy joined the team as Briscoe's partner in 2009.

Included in the list of guests were Jerry Huckaby and his wife Marie from Louisiana; sponsors of the Community Charity Champions, which Briscoe and Conroy founded in 2012; and clients who supported the HBC Group through the years.

"We are celebrating 40 years of being in the real estate business since 1977. We're so honored that we have so many past clients and associates and guests, and especially delighted that the Hon. Jerry Huckaby, whose wife Sue started our group, the Huckaby, Briscoe, Conroy Group in 1977, is here" said partner Briscoe.

"My wife Sue went into the real estate business in 1977. She started in McLean and was an agent for many years. I joined her in the business in 1993 and stayed until 2008. And at the end, we had built the business up to where we were doing between \$100-\$150 million a year in sales year after year," said Jerry Huckaby.

According to Diana Watkins of McLean, who calls herself a "global village diplomat"



Karen Briscoe of the HBC Group at Keller Williams McLean addresses the crowd.



Lizzy Conroy of the HBC Group at Keller Williams McLean.



Pastor Jim Sprouse from Trinity United Methodist Church in McLean.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



Mary Weaver



Dr. Shashank Desai

who lived all over the world: "We chose the HBC Group because we really consider their service in all of McLean and Great Falls ambassador service. They have an exquisite way of just encompassing all the issues we all need for buying and selling with graciousness and great expediency and depth. That kind of ambassador service takes years of cultivating."

Added Mary Weaver, who became involved with HBC when she decided to downsize: "Karen really is an Energizer Bunny and awesome, and we've just been lucky to see what an inspirational person she is. It's been our family's pleasure to be connected with all of this organization."

Pastor Jim Sprouse from Trinity United Methodist Church in McLean provided the blessing for all attending. Others who shared remarks and well wishes included Dr. Shashank Desai and Eric Goldman.

Since 1977, HBC Group has sold more than 1,500 homes valued at more than \$1.5 billion. The team consistently sells more than 100 residential properties annually.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy cut the anniversary cake.



The crowd mingles during the 40th Anniversary of the HBC Group at Keller Williams McLean.

NEWS



PHOTO BY VALERIE THATCHER

Churchill Road's newly elected SCA officers are (front row seated, from left): Beckett Collins, Treasurer; Edward Park, Vice President; and Joe Proctor, Sergeant at Arms; (standing from left) Donald Hutzel, CRS Principal; Jennifer Niccolls, CRS Assistant Principal; Abby Dix, Historian; Haley Lobsenz, Langley HS SGA; Lauren Kim, President; Jordan Craig-Kuhn, SCA sponsor; Joseph Hoeymans, Secretary and Mikaela Antonio, SCA sponsor.

Student Council Association Inducts New Officers

On Friday, Sept. 29, Churchill Road Elementary School held the induction ceremony for its newly elected Student Council Association (SCA) officers for 2017-2018: President – Lauren Kim; Vice President – Edward Park; Secretary – Joseph Hoeymans; Historian – Abby

Dix; Treasurer – Beckett Collins; and Sergeant At Arms – Joe Proctor. Haley Lobsenz, a Langley High School senior, and Student Government Association officer, addressed the Churchill Road student body. The students enjoyed her inspirational speech.

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Building A New Economy

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Candidate Terry McAuliffe promised during his campaign for governor that he would work to build a new economy in Virginia. A reduction of federal spending in the state along with the decline of traditional mining and manufacturing jobs had left the Virginia economy sluggish.



COMMENTARY

more than 100 full-time operational jobs. Virginia is already a leader in data centers with a record number in Loudoun County.

An exciting aspect to this new project is that with a new renewable energy tariff designed by Dominion Energy Virginia and Facebook, hundreds of millions of additional dollars will be invested in the construction of multiple solar facilities in the Commonwealth to service Facebook's Henrico data center with 100 percent renewable energy. That feature continues a trend that has been going on in Virginia in the use of solar-generated electricity with new and expanded business projects. In another project, Amazon is behind what had been the state's largest planned solar installation to date, an 80-megawatt system in Accomack County. Early last year another solar project was introduced that spurred Virginia's solar energy market by a partnership among the state, Dominion Virginia Power and Microsoft Corp. to bring a 20-megawatt solar farm to Fauquier County. The 260,000 panels on 125 acres represented more solar energy than was available across all of Virginia two years ago.

If there was any doubt as to what Governor McAuliffe had in mind one only needs to look at his performance in office. His latest performance figures, although these numbers increase daily, are 1,027 new projects, 215,100 jobs created and \$165 billion in capital investments. No other governor has come close to these kinds of numbers. But he clearly is not done yet.

Just last week Governor McAuliffe announced that Facebook will bring more than \$1 billion of new investment to the Commonwealth. Facebook is directly investing \$750 million to establish a 970,000-square-foot data center in the White Oak Technology Park in Henrico County. The project will bring thousands of construction jobs to the region and

Recent evidence demonstrates that the new economy of the Commonwealth is being recognized nationally. Recently Virginia was ranked in Area Development magazine's 2017 "Top States for Doing Business" annual survey for the first time since 2010. Overall, the Commonwealth placed 11th out of 20 states ranked in the prestigious annual site consultants' survey.

The Commonwealth ranked in the "Top 10" in five of 12 subcategories that impact companies' location and facility plans, including: Cooperative & Responsive State Government, fifth; Leading Workforce Development Programs, seventh; Competitive Labor Environment, eighth; Favorable Regulatory Environment, ninth; and Speed of Permitting, ninth. These rankings represent significant advances for Virginia as the state has not placed in any subcategories since 2013. This year also marks the first time Virginia has ever placed in the Cooperative & Responsive State Government, Competitive Labor Environment, and Speed of Permitting categories.

The new economy is proving to be good for jobs with record low unemployment and good for communities that were struggling to recover from the Great Recession. At the same time it is good for the environment with record growth is solar energy production.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lessons for the 34th District Delegate Race

To the Editor:

The Connection's Oct. 4 article on the Virginia House of Delegates race in the 34th District ("Pendulum Politics in Northern Virginia"), is a must read for any voter in the district. Del. Kathleen Murphy, running for re-election in the district that includes McLean, Great Falls and part of Sterling in Loudoun County, has a proven track-record in three legislative sessions, where she has introduced bills to address the class size problem in public schools, keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, and help rein in predatory for-profit colleges that take advantage of veterans and other students.

Murphy also has outstanding constituent services. I have personally seen her work with the Virginia Department of Transportation in helping my neighborhood win improvements to the plans for widening Route 7. She not only tackled the problem personally but enlisted other local officials to join her in developing a design that was accepted by both VDOT and the community.

The GOP challenger has no government experience and fails to

provide specific policy proposals on the issues raised in the campaign. I, for one, am wary of any candidate who needs on the job training. Our recent experience in national politics highlights the risks of electing an official that needs training wheels. We deserve experienced and professional representation, and we have that in Kathleen Murphy.

J. Jay Volkert. Ph.D.
Vienna

A Sacred Duty

To the Editor:

Just as the end of summer snuck up on us so unexpectedly, Election Day in Virginia is looming. In just a few weeks, on Nov. 7, Virginia voters will choose a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and all 100 members of the Virginia House of Delegates. The candidates are knocking on doors, sending mail, and sponsoring ads on radio and TV. The decisions voters make will set the course for the Commonwealth of Virginia for the next four years.

Here is some important information to assist citizens in casting a ballot.

If you are not registered to vote at your current address, the deadline for registration is Oct. 16. Fairfax County residents can reg-

ister on-line at www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/ or in person at Fairfax County Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323 in Fairfax City. You may also register by mail. Applications are available at public libraries, DMV offices, and some community centers.

If you are not able to vote on Nov. 7, there are two ways to cast an absentee ballot. You can vote by mail if you submit an application for an absentee ballot by Oct. 31. You can apply for an absentee ballot on-line at vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation.

If you expect to be out of Fairfax County for any part of Election Day or otherwise qualify because of work obligations or health status, you may cast an absentee ballot in person before Election Day. In McLean and Great Falls, ballots can be cast at the McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road in McLean, Monday through Saturday (except Columbus Day) until Friday, Nov. 3.

Because so many Americans have struggled and sacrificed to create and protect our democracy, voting is a sacred responsibility for every citizen. Please make a plan to vote and make sure your voice is heard in selecting the representatives we rely upon to advance

our local interests and pursue the common good!

Rob Abbot
Arlington

The letter writer was a legislative assistant to Del. Margaret Vanderhye (D-34) in 2008-09.

Fairfax County Steps to Limit Unsustainable Pension Liabilities

To the Editor:

Fairfax County can limit its unsustainable pension liabilities if it seeks serious policy options. But it has not.

Unfunded pension liabilities of its five main pension systems in June 2016 were an unsustainable \$5.6 billion, up \$0.8 billion in that year alone. Moreover, that unfunded level would be far larger were its liabilities based on realistic 5.5 percent discount rates rather than 7.25 percent discount rates.

One of five systems is the Educational Employees' Supplementary Retirement System (ERFC) for

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

**1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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SCHOOLS

The Langley School Celebrates 75th Anniversary

On Friday, Sept. 22, The Langley School marked its 75th anniversary, celebrating three-quarters of a century of building lifelong foundations and life-changing relationships. In honor of this milestone, students took part in a variety of 75-themed activities by grade that encouraged them to reflect on the school's historic roots and its future.

In the Primary School division, Langley's 3- to 5-year-olds created a 75th birthday crown using their fingerprints and made handprint candles on a birthday cake banner. First-graders discovered how many words they could spell using 75 letter tiles and what they could build using 75 blocks, while second-graders used Google Maps to locate cities 75 miles away from Langley's campus in McLean.

As they designed their own footprints, third-graders reflected on the impact former generations had on the school and the footprint they will leave behind. Fourth-grade students made a giant birthday card highlighting what the school was like in 1942 and what it will be like 75 years from now. Looking 75 years into the future, fifth-graders completed a writing project to describe the school in the year 2092 and a math project in which they designed a futuristic classroom.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

In honor of The Langley School's milestone, students took part in a variety of 75-themed activities.

Middle School language arts students wrote limericks in tribute to the school, studied poems with a "75" theme, and wrote a class poem about Langley's 75 years. In social studies, students in grades 6 and 7 interviewed a family member who was alive in 1942, giving them an understanding of what life was like then and how family history helps connect us to the past. Langley's Middle School world language students

identified 75 cities where French, Chinese, or Spanish is spoken and 75 words in their target language that described The Langley School. As part of their study of plate tectonics, sixth-grade science students used the world seismic monitor to plot the location and magnitude of the last 75 earthquakes recorded around the world.

"Our teachers looked for age-appropriate, meaningful ways to celebrate The Langley

School's 75th birthday," said Head of School Dr. Elinor Scully. "These activities not only taught our students about the importance of this special anniversary year, but also gave them an understanding of the time period in which Langley was founded, the generations before them who helped build the school into what it is today, and the impact they, too, can have on the future success of The Langley School."

The activities on Sept. 22 were part of a year-long celebration at Langley. The school kicked off the festivities when students returned on Sept. 5 with a retro theme featuring games, music, and vintage photos from the 1940s. Parent volunteers helped bring Langley's past 75 years in McLean to life by creating a museum walk and historical timeline which will be on display on campus throughout the year. In addition, the school has invited generations of its parents, alumni, and leaders to return to campus for various events.

The Langley School was founded in McLean in 1942 with an enrollment of just 19 children. A pioneer in early childhood education from its beginnings as a modest cooperative school, The Langley School has evolved into one of the premier independent elementary schools in Virginia, enrolling 480 students in preschool through eighth grade.

Men fully alive

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Admission Information Sessions
 Wednesday, October 18, 9:00 a.m.
 Wednesday, December 6, 9:00 a.m.

Fall Admission Webinars
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SENIOR LIVING

Senior Talent Performs

From line dancing to modern dance.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
 THE CONNECTION

Lee Line Dancers are lined up at the doorway waiting to perform in the Lee Senior Center Performing Arts Showcase on Saturday, Sept. 23. The audience has filled up the chairs and is spilling out into the hallway.

"Hi, I'm Carl," introduces the first act, Carl Gold Folk Music Chorus. The group of 14 will sing six selections. Gold announces the opening song is "Let's Get Together" by The Youngbloods. "We're gonna get together and love each other right now." The audience joins in, and a man in the back row of the audience imitates Carl Gold by playing the guitar with his cane.

Gold changes the mood back to the British Isles with a tune popularized by Peter, Paul and Mary, "With a Little Help from My Friends." "Who doesn't like them?" Then finally to the sing-along with "We Shall Overcome."

Next come the line dancers opening with "Putting on the Ritz." Dressed in black with a black top hat studded with a rhinestone band and a sparkling cane to match, they look the part. Kat Fanelli, the dance instructor and leader of the group, has been line dancing since 1992. Fanelli said she started in a different location to be able to compete in the Senior Olympics. "But it isn't a sport anymore." She says there is a larger group but the ones here today are the people who like performing. Fanelli says they perform all over and will be doing the Halloween Thriller Dance at the Lincolnia Senior Center in Alexandria on Oct. 25.

Five, six, seven and they begin the cha, cha, cha, moving back and forth in synchronized steps in their final number "Stay."

Bernadine Gibbs, one of the group, says, "I love line dancing. I'd rather do it than eating." She says it is her passion but she started in ballet when she was about 8 years old.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

The Sultanas line the wall of Lee Senior Center waiting their turn to perform at the Performing Arts Showcase on Saturday, Sept. 23

Bill Wong, another member, says he has been line dancing for 10 years and he alternates with ballroom dancing, especially the West Coast swing.

Sun Yang adds, "I do line dancing, tennis, pickleball, I do whatever."

After the intermission the Sultanas perform dressed in long, colorful kaftans. The program describes their presentation as "a melange of emotions and musical styles depicting an evolution from despair, hope and strength."

Susan Marquis, a member of the group, describes it as a mixture of belly dance and modern dance.

Also on the program are Tom and Fran's Partner Dance performing Dimeto and Night Fever.

And the winner is well, since this was a performing showcase and not a talent show, Adriana Carr, director of the Lee Senior Center declares, "They're all winners."



Four, five, six, Kat Fanelli, dance instructor and leader of the Lee Line Dancers, steps backwards, double shifts and the group follows with their performance of Mamita.



Carl Gold guitar leads off the Carl Gold Folk Music Chorus with "We Shall Overcome" as the overflow audience sings along at the Lee Performing Arts Showcase.

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Inside D.C. Design House

In its 10th year, showcase raises money for charity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

DC Design House

Location: 9004 Congressional Court, Potomac, Md.
Tickets: \$35 at www.dcdesignhouse.com/copy-of-events
Open through Oct. 29: Saturday-Sunday 12-5 p.m.; Closed Mondays; Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 29: DC Design House, last day, 12-5 p.m.

For the 10th anniversary of the D.C. Design House, 23 designers transformed the Potomac, Md. home which includes nine bedrooms, nine full bathrooms, four half bathrooms, a cinema, two-story library, a pool and a pool house. Visitors will have the opportunity to walk through the 27,256 square-foot estate to view the latest in home design trends. Proceeds from the event benefit the Children's National Health System.

It was actress Grace Kelly and the movie "To Catch a Thief" that inspired

Designer Marika Meyer's creation of the lady's retreat. "I thought of her elegance and her scarf blowing in the wind," said Meyer.

A collection of framed Hermes scarves line the of the room's walls.

Much of the room's furniture, including two vintage, velvet chairs and a neutral sofa, surround a Lucite cocktail table, creating a balance between modern and traditional styles.

"When designing the room I thought, 'who would live in that room and what would she be like?'" said Meyer.

Meyer used custom-designed, hand-painted fabric from her own collection for

the room's drapes, pillows, stools and other accessories. One of her biggest obstacles was making the large room feel intimate. "I designed it to make it beautiful and functional, she said. "I created different destinations so it doesn't feel so overwhelming."

Among those destinations are a large secretary, a game table and a bar cart.

Dubbed A Study in Blue, the library by designer Kelley Proxmire draws inspiration from the library of New York socialite Brooke Astor. "I knew it was a classic and I had seen a recent picture and I knew it was a classic," said Proxmire. "Her books were probably antique, leather-bound and I knew that I something wanted something neat and tidy like that."

The room's dark wood paneling is brightened with natural lighting and accessorized with blue and white porcelain and painted books in varying shades of blue.

The designer's goal was to create a technology-free zone that allowed for uninhibited conversation. "Families need a place to sit and talk to each other without being on the telephone and watching television," said Proxmire. "I want all my rooms to say, 'Come and sit.' I don't want them to be too standoffish."

Marrying modern and traditional design elements, Alexandria-based design duo Todd Martz and Susan Nelson created a family room that is both energizing and relaxing, and is meant to be an electronics-free zone.

"The scale of the house is formal, but we wanted to created a room that is family friendly," said Martz. "We wanted to incorporate children's art, but display it in a way that's elegant."

The walls are covered with bright yellow wallpaper that provides an energetic backdrop for blue and white porcelain accessories. To accommodate the lives of a modern family, the white sofa is covered in Crypton fabric, which is stain-resistant and

easy to clean. Other furniture in the room, which includes two faux leather chairs are centered around a handmade, wooden coffee table.

Children's artwork hangs inside the bookcases among blue and white ginger jars. "It makes the book cases a little less serious," said Nelson.

The poolside oasis created by Kim Asner of Country Casual Teak allows visitors to be transported to a luxury spa. Lush greenery and teak lounge chairs surround the pool. An abundance of seating, a cabana and a pool house make the space ideal for entertaining a

crowd or enjoying the space's serenity. "The area is large so we needed substantial furniture," said Asner. "The cabana looks grand and impressive, but it's also comfortable."

Located at 9004 Congressional Court, Potomac, Md., the home is listed at \$10.28 million by Long and Foster Real Estate. Open through Oct. 29, tickets are \$35. Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.

"When designing the room I thought, 'Who would live in that room and what would she be like?'"

— Marika Meyer



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

Bright yellow wallpaper energizes the family room by Todd Martz and Susan Nelson.



Todd Martz and Susan Nelson use felt flowers made by women in Nepal in the family room.

PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Designer Marika Meyer used fabric from her own collection to make accessories, including this dog bed and bone, for the lady's retreat.




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McLean 5K Run Showcases Community Spirit

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Community Foundation and the McLean Community Center along with other local sponsors hosted the McLean 5K Run Saturday morning. The run attracted hundreds of local residents to come share the spirit of exercise and community as well as to compete for prizes and give back to their community.

This is the eighth year that the McLean Community Center led the race. The McLean Community Foundation has raised nearly \$1,500,000 for the community. Registration for the race was \$35 and this money goes back into the community through the help of the McLean Community Foundation.

"I think it's a great opportunity for people of all ages," said John Redwood, a retired consultant from McLean who was there supporting his niece. "The kids get enthusiastic and they need their exercise. Our niece is an excellent soccer player and this is better than her sitting at home with the iPad, instead she's doing something healthy," he said.

Awards were given to the top male and female finishers in 14 different age groups.

"This is a community event, that's why the community center is actively involved in it too," said George Sachs, director of McLean Community Center. "In McLean, by McLean, for McLean, is kind of our tag for this race," said Sachs.

"The McLean community foundation supports all of the non-profits, the police department, the fire department and all of the important parts of our community, so that's



Firefighters from the McLean Fire Department hold an American flag over the racers as they start out on the eighth annual McLean 5K race Saturday morning, Oct. 7.



From left: Liam Welch, sixth grader at Kent Gardens and Artus Justan, a McLean resident and fifth grader at Kent Gardens compete for the finish at the eighth annual McLean 5K race Saturday morning, Oct. 7.

why this event is important to help support them as well," said Sachs.

"The reason we have the McLean Community Center is to create a sense of community here in McLean and these events bring us all together and it really makes a difference in the quality of life here," said

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). He was also one of the announcers for the race, holding a big megaphone and announcing the start.

The first prize winner, Brian Crandall of Falls Church, who works in IT security, won a seven-day vacation anywhere internation-

ally to one of Wyndham Resorts' properties.

Artus Justan, a McLean resident and fifth grader at Kent Gardens had a close race with his classmate Liam Welch. "The race was good, I just wanted to beat him," said Justan.

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION



From left: Ethan Estrada, his mother, Irene, father Juan and brother Julian at the eighth annual McLean 5K race Saturday morning, Oct. 7.



First place winner, Brian Crandall of Falls Church, who works in IT security, and Ameer Burgoyne, of the McLean Community Foundation, at the eighth annual McLean 5K race Saturday morning, Oct. 7.



George Sachs, director of the McLean Community Center, holds a megaphone to thank participants for coming to the eighth annual McLean 5K race Saturday morning, Oct. 7.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

McLean Farmers Market, Fridays, through Nov. 17, 2017; 8 a.m. to noon, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Master Gardener Plant Clinic on site to answer questions about plants in your landscape

Vienna Saturday Farmers Market, through Oct. 28, 8am-noon, sponsored by the Optimist Club, Across from Vienna Volunteer Fire Department in parking lot of Faith Baptist Church, 201 Center Street South, Vienna

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

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

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 11

Astronomy Lecture. 7:30-9 p.m. at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Topics may include planets, open clusters, double stars, stellar color spectrum, globular clusters and galaxies. After class, view the objects that were discussed through the observatory's telescopes, if weather allows. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm/ for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

British Car Tour for Military Kids. 9:30 a.m. A 750-mile maiden American tour through the hills and autumn foliage of Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. Called the DC Area America's Reliability Run, it's a fundraiser for Our Military Kids, a nonprofit in McLean, Virginia. Visit www.ourmilitarykids.org or call Judy McSpadden at 703-734-6654.

Drumming and Drum Circle Workshop. 7-8:30 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join The Alden and master artist Kofi Dennis for an introduction to djembe drumming skills and improvisation. \$15/\$10 MCC district residents; \$7 each additional person, \$5 MCC district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Watershed Cleanup Day. 9-11:30 p.m. at Scott's Run Nature Preserve, 7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean. An opportunity for individuals, students, families, scouts and other community groups to be part of this year's International Coastal Cleanup. Help clear the earth's arteries by collecting tires, bed springs, bottles, cans and other debris from the local waterways. Visit bit.ly/FCPAwatershedClean or call 703-759-9018 for more.

Oktoberfest Marketplace. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Charles Wesley UMC, The Hunger Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. Benefit for community help agencies. Visit www.thehungerchurch.org for more.

Naming Ceremony. 10 a.m. at Ken Lawrence Park, 8081 Jones Branch Drive in Tysons. Jones Branch Fields and Arbor Row Park will be consolidated to form the new Ken Lawrence Park in Tysons. Call 703-324-8662 or email Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.



Pumpkin Fun

Pumpkin carving lessons, Sunday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3rd floor, McLean. Executive Chef Edwin Amaya shares his best-kept secrets for carving pumpkins and Emma Choi, student representative to Real Food for Kids, will be the special guest followed by a costume contest. \$20 per child and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to "Real Food for Kids." Call 703-442-9110 for more.

Churchill Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Churchill Road Elementary School, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean. Giant lawn games, board games and races, as well as inflatables and food trucks. \$10, 4 and under free. Email djhutzel@fcp.edu or call 703-288-8400.

OCT. 14-15

Cello Concert. Various times at several locations around town, such as the McLean Project for the Arts' Chain Bridge Gallery, 1446 Chain Bridge Road.; Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave.; and Spring Hill RECenter, 1239 Spring Hill Road. The Alden in McLean presents internationally renowned cellist Matt Haimovitz in a multi-part performance of "A Moveable Feast." Call 703-790-9223 for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

American Legion Breakfast. 1-4 p.m. 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 for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 18

Dining with Dorothy. 12:30 p.m. at Legal Seafoods, Tysons Galleria, 2001 International Drive, McLean. This socializing/dining event is hosted by the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Email dflood1706@gmail.com for more.

Tree Talks. 7-9:30 p.m. at Churchill Road Elementary School Cafeteria, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean. Topic: "Trees in McLean's Changing Landscape—Planting and Protecting." Visit www.mcleancitizens.org for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 20

Drumming and Drum Circle Workshop. 3:30-10 p.m. at The Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Teens can get in the Halloween spirit and spend a Friday night with the Old Firehouse. Only the brave-hearted are invited on this journey. The night will start with a group dinner \$60/\$50 MCC district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

An Evening Service of Song, Scripture and Prayer. Holy Comforter will welcome two visiting choirs from Delaware: Immanuel

Church on the Green, Newcastle, and St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes. Under the direction of Choirmasters T. J. Thomas and Jack Warren Burnam, the combined choirs will present an evening service of song, scripture, and prayer. This liturgy will be followed by a festive reception.

OCT. 20-22

Vienna Theatre Company Production. Various times at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE. Upcoming production "In Living Sound - Back Home!," live radio drama directed by Patricia Boswell Kallman. \$14. Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org for more.

Great Falls Studios Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at various venues in Great Falls. A self-guided driving tour of local artists in their personal studios. This three-day event is family-friendly, free, and offers the opportunity to see art being made in the community. Artists will be available 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, rain or shine. Visit www.greatfallsstudios.com for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

Astronomy Campfire. 6-7 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Hear tales about the constellations and make s'mores over the campfire's embers. Ages 4 and up. \$8. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/ for more.

OCT. 21-22

18th Century Autumn Market Fair. 11-4:30 p.m. at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Learn to dip candles and watch the blacksmith and rope maker at work. Children's games, puppet theater and live music. Meet staff and volunteers in costume and character. \$8; children and seniors: \$4; children under 3 free. Visit www.1771.org for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 22

Capitol Steps Comedy Troupe. 3 p.m. at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. A singing, dancing, satirical show that focuses on politics, proceeds go to the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. \$35. Visit www.scov.org/fundraiser-tickets or call 703-281-0538.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

public school employees. Its unfunded liabilities surged 27 percent last year. Worse, this supplemental system entices good employees to retire as early as 52.

In short, four of five systems — not the Virginia Retirement system — are unduly generous. If the County were prudent with liabilities for which it ultimately is responsible, it would seek — and consider — serious pension options. But it has not. To be prudent, the County should seek impacts on its unfunded liabilities of:

1. Changing full pension ages to the first of the Social Security age or one satisfying the Rule of 90 (age plus service years),
2. Eliminating employee contributions to, and eligibility for, pensions for new and unvested employees,
3. Using realistic pension discount rates of 5.5 percent rate,
4. Capping cost-of-living adjustments at 2 percent,
5. Increasing contribution rates by both employers and participating employees by 0.5 percent over each of the next five years and
6. Enhancing returns by shifting funds to diversified low-cost index funds.

Dr. David V. Pritchett
McLean

Column As an Inspiration

To the Editor:

As a regular reader of Kenneth Lourie's "Cancer Column," I'd like to request the Editor to please consider giving the column a much-deserved face-lift. The Connection needs to shed more light on Lourie's illuminating accounts of dealing with the deadly disease, and overcoming the odds, instead of burying it in the shadow of the Business Directory with an Obituary-like black border! Also, a color profile picture would breathe new life into these weekly gems. I understand, Lourie is an Ad/Sales Representative, but more importantly, he is a Survivor and an inspiration to us all.

Considering the other cancers plaguing our society — fake news, mass shootings, and reality shows that are anything but real to most of us — it is all the more urgent to highlight real-life, first-hand accounts from people like Lourie who are fighting the real fight. If, perhaps, we read such stories of courage and positive determination, it could inspire a sorely-needed dose of consideration, empathy, and kindness in our community, or at the very least, give

us a much-needed reality-check.

To Mr. Lourie, thank you for sharing your story every week, and wishing you continued strength...

Shaila Muralidhar
Great Falls

Claims Up Against Facts

To the Editor:

In response to Kevin R. Rose's Opinion: Letter to the Editor: Deer Hunting Effect Misrepresented (Connection, Sept. 6-12, 2017).

How convenient for you to not mention that you work with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). VDGIF, your employer, profits from the sales of hunting licenses, so it is no surprise that the VDOT data that clearly shows hunting is increasing deer-vehicle collisions in our county bothers you so much.

As a resident in Fairfax County and one who is adjacent to a park where bowhunting is taking place, I also received the postcard you speak of and I requested data from VDOT to see for myself if the content in the postcard is correct and it is. Though it was time consuming to map out all of the deer vehicle collisions (DVCs) in our county over the last three years, which is all VDOT could provide for me, I did see a very obvious trend that did show how approximately 93 percent of all DVCs over the span of these three years is, in fact, within 1 to 1.5 miles of a bow hunted park or in a bow hunted park. Your claims are up against the facts — in this case the VDOT data which fortunately is not biased like you are.

Kudos to whoever mailed out these postcards. There are people in our county who are sick and tired of "higher officials" making uneducated decisions and putting the public's safety at risk. Whoever sent out these flyers seems to have noticed deer carcasses beside these bow-hunted parks and de-

cidated to look into this. Everyone has a right to VDOT data and I'm glad the author of this postcard reminded us of this, since we clearly can't rely on people who are running this so-called deer management program or people who work with pro-hunting VDGIF.

You go on to argue that 92 percent of Fairfax County is within 1.5 miles of a bow hunted park. Please show us how 92 percent of Fairfax County is within 1.5 miles of a park. I grew up in Fairfax County and know well enough you are making this up. All we have to do is look at a map and see that.

As a VDGIF employee you also have access to data from 2005 to 2016. You are comparing 11 years of data that only you seem to have access to to three years of data (2014-2017) explained in the postcards. The postcard clearly states that the author could only obtain three years of data from VDOT. The data in the postcard is based on data collected between May 6, 2014 and April 25, 2017. I had a look at the VDOT data during this time frame and the postcard is accurate in terms of DVCs and locations. If you did your homework and looked at the same dates, you would have the same numbers as the postcard. This also goes for the dates of the deer sterilizations in Fairfax City. The postcard also gave accurate data for those three years.

Not a surprise that VDGIF has several years worth of VDOT data, yet, we the residents of Fairfax County only have access to three years of VDOT data.

As for the research articles you clearly did not read, hunting does increase the overall deer population since hunted herds did have an increased incidence of multiple deliveries. In this case a significant increase of twins and triplets in deer herds that were hunted. Why do you call this insignificant?

Rob Brooks
Fairfax Station

FAITH NOTES

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

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

Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to

request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, offers the Religious Exploration program for all children, from pre-K toddlers through high school seniors, emphasizing exploration of all religious traditions while developing a personal spiritual path. The program offers classes on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. 703-281-4230.

BULLETIN

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

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

Home Seller Seminar. 1-4 p.m. at Lyons McGuire, 774-A Walker Rd. Great Falls Topic: "Are You An Overwhelmed Owner? Become A Savvy Seller." Visit seminar.com/ for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 16

Identity Fraud Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road (at Route 7), Vienna. Theme: Protect Yourself from Fraud and Identity Theft. Call 703-759-3509 for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 18

McLean Newcomers Luncheon. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Mylo's Grill, 6238 Old Dominion Drive. Nancy Harvey Steorts, a former Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, will discuss "How Safe is Your Home?". \$30. Visit www.McLeanNewcomers.org or email McLeanNewcomers@yahoo.com.

Tree Lecture. 7-9:30 p.m. at Churchill Road Elementary School Cafeteria, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean. Introduction by Supervisor John Foust. Hear from county staff about infill development and tree protection rules, from the McLean Trees Foundation on how to plant to best kinds of trees for your yard, and from local developers in the area. Exhibits. Visit www.McLeanCitizens.org for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 20

Retailer Job Fair. 1-8 p.m. at Tysons Corner Center-Fashion Court, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Tysons Corner Center will be hosting a multi-retailer job fair showcasing over 30 retailers and restaurants. Come meet the brands, engage with potential coworkers, and come ready for on-the-spot interviews. Email becca.willcox@macerich.com or call 703-770-1123 for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

Incarceration Lecture. 4-6 p.m. at Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 Maple Ave E., Vienna. Dr. Vesla M. Weaver, Bloomberg, Associate Professor of Political Science and Sociology at Johns Hopkins University, will discuss how low-income Black and Latino communities experience policing and incarceration. Call 703-938-1555 for more.

MONDAY/DEC. 11

FCPS Community Conversations. 6:30-8 p.m. at Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, Cafeteria (Region 2). Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand will host Community Conversations to hear what students, parents, employees, and members of the community are thinking about and what issues are important to them. Brabrand welcomes citizens to attend and take part in any of the upcoming sessions that are convenient for them. Citizens needing a translator can make a request for services online. Visit www.fcps.edu/news/superintendent-brabrand-schedules-five-community-conversations-fall.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30 - 3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

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What To "Ware?"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently I received a very generous offer in the mail: a \$10 gift certificate from my local hardware store acknowledging my upcoming/now passed birthday. From what I could read, there was no minimum purchase, no exclusions and no small-type print, just a reasonable expiration date: Oct. 31, approximately six weeks out from the day I received this unexpected gift. More than enough time, one would imagine.

The only problem: what am I going to get at the hardware store, other than the employees' pity about how little I know about so much? Most of the time when I'm in a hardware store (typically I'm not browsing, unlike the cookie aisle at the supermarket), I'm attempting to solve a problem I have at home for which I have very little experience and extremely poor instincts at rectifying. Not only do I rarely know what I'm talking about, I don't even know the proper questions to ask to enable/assist the employee in figuring what the heck my problem actually is - other than me, that is.

I'm very much out of my element in a hardware store. A fish out of water doesn't begin to describe my situation. Tevye, from "Fiddler on the Roof" in speaking to his daughter, Chava, about marrying outside the faith came close: "a bird may love a fish, but where would they build a home together?" Build a home? I have enough difficulty maintaining one that's already built.

When I'm asked, or when I offer it, usually I say: "I know two things: sports and chocolate." I guess I could also add being a cancer patient/survivor, but I don't want to redirect a perfectly innocent conversation into a totally different direction: me and my druthers. Although, my situation has been publicly consumed in the Connection Newspapers going on eight and half years; in person, I try to not let it be the first or even second thing that comes out of my mouth. And I never initiate, though I'm happy to respond if asked. Generally speaking, I'd rather it not be about me and my cancer. As my mother used to say "It's enough already."

But none of this comes up in a hardware store. In fact, the only thing that comes up is my Adam's Apple as I sheepishly swallow and admit how incapable I am as a homeowner/do-it-yourselfer and how much help I need to do almost anything. At least the parking is free so it's not a total loss.

As you might imagine, this situation doesn't exactly lead to an easy conversation or a satisfying outcome. Quite the contrary. I know one thing for sure however, if left to my own devices, either I will cause additional and costly damage in my crude attempt to self-repair, or I will hurt myself in the process. And waste money as well, as the end of the day will likely find me and the problem no closer to a resolution than we were at the beginning of the day.

As William Shakespeare might have written: it will be much ado about nothing as nothing much will have been done. In these recurring circumstances, all I can hope for is a safe landing, so to speak, one in which, as pilots often joke: I can walk away uninjured.

Given that I'm a tool twit and have failed miserably at homeowner 101, what then could I possibly buy at the hardware store with my gift certificate? I just got an idea: lightbulbs. I couldn't possibly screw that up, could I? I mean, they're supposed to be screwed up - into the socket, right? What could be more natural for me?

One last question though: when I place the bulb into the socket, do I screw them to the right or to the left?

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



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