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Great Falls **CONNECTION**

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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14



Bluebell Festival At Riverbend Park

NEWS, PAGE 8

**Two Sides to Two
And a Half Cents**

NEWS, PAGE 3

**Cirque du Soleil's
Dazzling 'Luzia'**

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

Naturalist Marijke Gate gives a walking tour of the Virginia bluebells and wildflowers at Riverbend Park in Great Falls during the Bluebell Festival.

APRIL 18-24, 2018

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

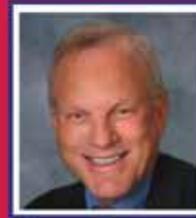
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LO9932796 - \$2,125,000 - Round Hill
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FX9962498 - \$1,269,000 - Vienna
1284 Cobble Pond Way: 5 BR, 6FB, 2HB
Captivating Details Abound in this Updated/Renovated Home. Master Suite Offers a Sitting Room w/ Fireplace, Spa Bathroom, & Walk-in Closet. Minutes to Tyson's, Reston, & the Metro.



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Meticulously Maintained Condo near Reston Town Center. Brand New HVAC Installed Prior to Listing. Kitchen Includes Granite Counters & SS Appliances. Walk-out Patio w/ View of Private Wooded Area.



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LO9587027 - \$815,000 - Leesburg
41603 Canongate Dr: 4 BR, 4.5 BA
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Sold

FX10127483 - \$476,000 - Falls Church
3229 Holly Hill Dr: 4 BR, 2 BA
Beautiful Screened In Porch Overlooking the Large Side Yard. Gas Fireplace in Living Room. LL Includes Large Family Room w/ Kitchenette, Office, & Utility Room.

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12149 Purple Sage Ct: 3 BR, 2.5 BA
End Unit Townhouse with Large Family Room Addition with Hardwood Floors. Fully Fenced Backyard with Large Deck Backing to Trees.



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FX9859062 - \$650,000 - Great Falls
11430 Seneca View Way: 2.4 Acre Lot
Lot located in Great Falls w/ Prior Approval for SBR Home. Price to Sell Prior Perc Test Had Been for SBR Home.



Sold

FX9937861 - \$1,199,000 - Herndon
11698 Caris Glenne Dr: 5 BR, 5FB, 2HB
Magnificent SFH Offering High Ceilings, Hardwood Floor, and Dramatic 2 Story Foyer with 2nd Level Overlook. Fabulous Lower Level w/ Indoor Pool, Deck, Patio, & Yard



Sold

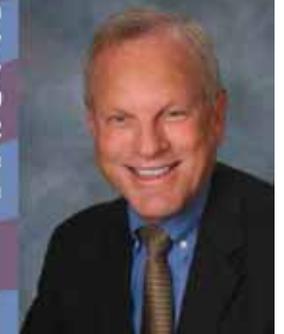
OR9906263 - \$475,000 - Lake of the Woods
136 Edgemont Cir: 3 BR, 2.5 BA
88' of Shoreline w/ Your Own Private Dock. Relax in the Great Room Next to a Stone Fireplace, Read in the Sun Room, or Watch the Sunset from the Covered Porch.

Join us on Monday, May 14th at our:
Military Appreciation Monday (MAM)
Event at The Old Brogue in Great Falls.
We will be raising funds for the group:
Our Community Salutes

and

Join us on Wednesday, April 25th at our:
Law Appreciation Wednesday (LAW)
Event at El Tio's Tex Mex in Great Falls.
We will be raising funds for the group:
Virginia Public Safety Foundation

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Two Sides to Two and a Half Cents

Supervisors to vote on proposed budget, possible real estate tax increase on May 1.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

James Parmelee was the seventh speaker before the Board of Supervisors on the proposed budget. Following school personnel, county employees and a speaker from the PTA, Parmelee was the first to oppose the proposed real estate tax increase.

"I figured somebody in the room should try to speak for the average taxpayer," said Parmelee, a perennial opponent of taxes, when he gave his opinion of the proposed budget on the first of three days of public comment.

More than 150 speakers testified, 158 signed up to speak, during the three days the Board of Supervisors allotted to hear from the public on the FY 2019 budget and proposed tax rate. The public comments lasted more than 11 hours and 20 minutes.

Advocates voiced passion on topics ranging from the environment, health and human services, people with disabilities and who are aging, early childhood education, fire and rescue services, pay for public safety personnel, the opioid epidemic, affordable housing, diversity, mental health treatment, school bonds and capital improvements, the triple A bond rating, the arts, libraries, competitive pay for teachers, and more.

But the issue for the board to decide on May 1 is whether to support County Executive Bryan Hill's proposed budget including a two and a half cent real estate tax increase. The board can accept the real estate tax increase or vote for a smaller amount but can not raise Hill's suggested increase.

"When the voters in Fairfax County have had an opportunity to vote on tax increases, you saw what happened last time," said Parmelee. "The voters of Fairfax County, on the very same day that they overwhelmingly voted for Hillary Clinton, they also overwhelmingly voted against the tax hike."

If the Board of Supervisors were to adopt the full two and a half cent tax rate increase, it would amount to an additional \$268 on the average homeowner's annual tax bill.

Only four speakers, and approximately 21 minutes, divided Parmelee from speaker No. 12, Kimberly Adams, of Clifton.

"As a mother, taxpayer and employee here in Fairfax County, my life and livelihood are impacted by every budget that this country adopts," said Adams.

"We have to remember that we are preparing the future for more than 185,000 students each year. I would encourage the



Helen Kelly, Herndon, League of Women Voters



Louise Epstein, McLean Citizens Association



Dale Stein, McLean Citizens Association



Kay Larmer, McLean, Commission on Aging



Leann Alberts, Springfield, Disability Services Board



James Parmelee, Centreville



Kimberly Adams, Clifton



Arthur Purves, Vienna



Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, Oakton



Kofi Annan, Fairfax County NAACP

Their Own Words, A Glimpse

Kofi Annan, Fairfax County NAACP

"Fairfax County's demographics are rapidly changing as you know. It is becoming increasingly diverse, and with these changes often come a unique set of challenges.

"The county's revenue outlook is the most promising it's been in years. However the rate of revenue increase is not reflected in the rate of investment in the poor and working class communities. The low income Fairfax residents, a disproportionate amount of whom are minorities, will not automatically benefit from the improved economy. Thousands will remain reliant on low-wage service sector jobs and many will not receive pay increases. Many of them will not be able to provide for their kids with pre-K education or have access to affordable housing. Therefore, we request that the county direct greater attention and resources to serving the needs of the less fortunate among us."

Annan expressed concern that the county is underfunding Pre-K education for needy families.

"This opportunity gap eventually turns into an achievement gap, and that widens over time.

"Fairfax County NAACP calls on the county to commit the resources to enroll at least 300 additional kids into Pre-K in 2019 budget and devise a long-term plan to fund at least 2,000 over the next five years.

"Expand access to affordable housing. Many low income residents will not be able to afford to live in Fairfax County. Many of these families will spend up to half or more of their annual budget" on housing.

"For the past few years, 40 percent of police use of force has been directed toward African Americans, who only make up about 10 percent of the county.

"And for the past few years, we have been asking the county to fund an outside organization to conduct a study to determine the causes of this disparity, so we can begin the process of reversing that trend."

Helen Kelly, Herndon, League of Women Voters

"We support the new property tax rate because we believe it gives you more flexibility in meeting unexpected challenges and we applaud your increased contributions to the reserve funds to satisfy the bond rating agencies. As taxpayers we appreciate your efforts to the county's triple A rating."

Kelly supported Diversion First, gang prevention, the opioid task force, the South County police station and the Office of Elections.

Dale Stein, president, McLean Citizens Association

"MCA is concerned about the context of the increases in spending and the apparent lack of cost savings. MCA feels that each budget should include new efficiency, in operations particularly in budgets of \$4.3 billion. ..."

Louise Epstein, chair, McLean Citizens Association's budget and taxation committee

"We really support teacher raises" while also expressing concern about allotting millions for raises for administrators in the school system.

Kay Larmer, McLean, Commission on Aging

"We applaud your commitment to making Fairfax a livable community for people of all ages.

"Currently in Fairfax County, about one in seven residents are older than 65. By 2020, the proportion will nearly be one in five.

"We will need more affordable and accessible housing, improved and more creative transportation services, increased home based and community based services, new communications technology, programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity."

Leann Alberts, Springfield, Disability Services Board

"Working age people with disabilities make up nearly 15 percent of the Virginia's population and are far more likely to be unemployed and to live in poverty than people without disabilities. Supports for people with disabilities are vital to the fabric of our community. They are every bit as essential to Fairfax County as our roads, emergency first responders, schools and environmental services. They are value added services that empower people with disabilities to live and prosper in the community."

Enrique Carrero, Fairfax County employee

"I am proud to be the first one in my family to graduate from college, and I feel it's important to give back to the community through my job as a public employee. I help families in need get heating in the winter and air conditioning in the summer. I've heard some people say millennial workers don't care about retirement. So, let me clear that up. As a 23-year-old millennial, I care deeply about my future and believe that we all deserve to live comfortably when we're too old to work."

school system to go under a similar lines of business review that the county has gone through," said Adams, who suggested that savings from collaboration between schools and the county could be identified.

"If at the end of that exercise, savings are not identified, then we must move forward in a responsible manner that may mean raising taxes once more or looking for possible alternatives to property taxes that we have found to be so elusive here in the county," said Adams.

THE PROPOSED \$4.29-BILLION budget would transfer 54 percent of the total to the school system to fully fund FCPS's budget request. It would also fund pay increases for teachers and county employees.

Adams spoke for many others when she addressed quality of life.

"Like so many here, I am happy to have amazing schools, fire and rescue professionals, human services, parks and libraries within my reach. It is why my family lives here," she said, in the three minutes given to each individual speaker.

"All residents deserve an equitable opportunity to succeed if they work hard, but families that cannot afford homes in this area are a growing group. Many families are working hard but there are not enough good-paying jobs, not enough affordable care options, and certainly not enough affordable homes in this area. ... I appreciate it when you spend my tax dollars to support many who live in need alongside those of us who are doing well. We are Fairfax County and the people who live here want an inclusive and welcoming community for all."

BECAUSE OF VIRGINIA LAW, Fairfax County depends almost entirely on real estate taxes for revenue, putting a burden on homeowners in particular, whose increasing property values don't always demonstrate an ability to pay more.

"For nearly 20 years, this board has been raising real estate taxes two or three times faster than household income," said Arthur Purves, of Vienna.

"This goes on year after year," said Charles McAndrew, of Oak Hill.

Phil Niedzielski-Eichner is the Providence District Planning Commissioner and former school board member. But last week, Niedzielski-Eichner spoke as an individual from Oakton and was the 23rd speaker.

"The key, of course, is attracting and retaining high-quality personnel to both [schools and county]. This budget begins to recover our competitiveness in relation to compensation offered by other governmental jurisdictions. I also support the \$25 million annual increase in FCPS bonding authority to expedite its school renovation and support new construction that will alleviate severe overcrowding in some of the

SEE VOTE, PAGE 15

NEWS

Wish List Project Food Drive

Once again, the kindness of the community made a difference by helping those in need.

For the first time, the Wish List Project called on their “Angels” to coordinate a Spring Break Food Drive. They collected non-perishable items and grocery gift cards to distribute to needy families in the community. Without hesitation, volunteers gathered and delivered four carloads of food and more than \$1,000 in grocery gift cards to families across the county. The Food Drive was a fulfilling experience for all parties involved, as one donor put it, “Can’t let children go hungry. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to help!”

Over Spring Break, hundreds of children in Fairfax County struggle to find food to eat. These students receive breakfast and lunch at school and additional weekend supplements through the “Backpack Program.” The week break from school can leave students without adequate meals.

Wish List Project coordinators, Christine Shumadine and Lissa Perez, worked with the staff at Hutchison and Buzz Aldrin elementary schools and Second Story Shelter to help those students most affected.

For 18 years, the Wish List Project has provided individual gifts from a wish list to individuals and families during the holidays. With the desire to do more, in 2017 the group collected 75 food baskets to provide a Thanksgiving meal to families who cannot afford an elaborate meal. With the great success of these additional volunteer projects, the Wish List Project is dedicated to finding new ways to service to the community.

Coming up on the horizon, the Wish List Project will coordinate an event in June to benefit our local homeless and domestic abuse shelters with the collection of toiletries, towels, washcloths, twin sheets, socks, underwear, undershirts, laundry supplies, laundry baskets and more.

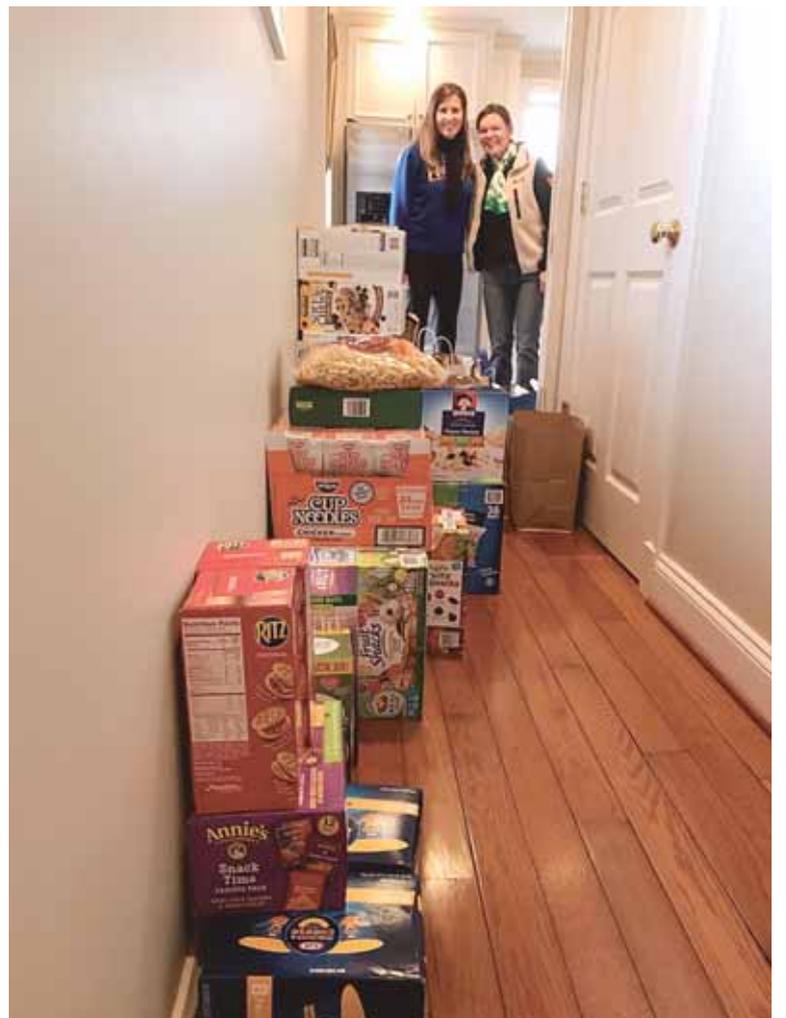
To get involved in this project, contact coordinator Christine Shumadine at cshumadine@gmail.com.

The Connection welcomes letters on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.
By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com



Great Falls teenagers fill the first of four cars with items collected for the Spring Break Food Drive.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



From left, Wish List Project Coordinators Christie Shumadine and Lissa Perez collect pantry food and grocery gift cards to help feed children during Spring Break.

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Since 1987

SCAN Honors SafeSpot Leader

Bootsie Humenansky has been named a 2018 Ally in Prevention by SCAN of Northern Virginia. SCAN stands for Stop Child Abuse Now.

Humenansky's story begins as a volunteer. For 20 years, she made a difference for children in Fairfax County and beyond. She volunteered with the Washington Area Chapter of Childhelp USA as well as the Childhelp Children's Center of Virginia. Humenansky worked on everything from developing a program for student athletes who work with abused children to being a spokesperson for the center to mentoring youth at the residential center.

These accomplishments were all leading to 2012 when the Childhelp Children's Center closed unexpectedly, leaving Fairfax County without a Child Advocacy Center (CAC). Humenansky refused to believe Fairfax County couldn't sustain a CAC, and began to research requirements, recruit volunteers and gain IRS nonprofit status. By 2014, SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax was able to open its doors, ensuring that children who have been abused have a safe, child focused environment where they can receive support, guidance and treatment from a coordinated team of professionals and county agencies.

"When we had a vision of forming SafeSpot from scratch, we had no appreciation for the work required to pull together the number of moving parts and parties that had to be linked together at the federal and local government and community service organizations," notes Humenansky. "We were fortunate that numerous friends, volunteers, and organizations were willing to pitch in and provide guidance and help to be part of our vision."

"Bootsie is tireless in her efforts," adds her nominator. "She has enormous energy and her enthusiasm is infectious ... she inspires each person she meets to help build a better community."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
NBC4's Leon Harris, SCAN Honorary Board Member and emcee of the event; 2018 Ally in Prevention Award Winner Bootsie Humenansky from Fairfax; and Sonia Quiñónez, SCAN Executive Director.

While serving on the board, recruiting volunteers and raising funds to keep SafeSpot growing (last year it had four employees and served 425 children), she never lost "her zeal for awareness-building and abuse prevention education." Today she is an active participant in the Pinwheels for Prevention effort, inspiring pinwheel gardens from Great Falls to Mount Vernon. Bootsie also advocated for prevention education programs in FCPS elementary schools, and is now a volunteer instructor for the Speak Up Be Safe program.

OBITUARY

Patrick S. Korten



Patrick S. Korten of Great Falls, a Justice Department spokesman during the Reagan Administration, died Thursday, March 29, in Fairfax, after suffering a stroke. He was 70 years old.

The son of Margaret A. (O'Grady) and John S. Korten, he was born March 17, 1948, in Neenah, Wis. He was a 1966 graduate of Homestead High School in Mequon, Wis. and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he majored in political science. He was a founder and first editor-in-chief of the Badger Herald, an independent student newspaper.

He began his broadcasting career at the university radio station, and then worked at a local Madison radio station before moving to Washington, D.C., where he worked on the Congressional staffs of U.S. Reps. Bob Bauman and Barry Goldwater Jr., and at the American Conservative Union.

From 1975 to 1981 he was a reporter and anchor at WTOP News Radio, the CBS affiliate in Washington, D.C.

He left broadcasting to join the Reagan Administration where he was director of policy and communications at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management under Director Donald J. Devine from 1981 to 1985.

From 1985 to 1988 he was deputy director and then director of public affairs at the U.S. Department of Justice serving under Attorney General Edwin Meese III.

For 11 years, from 1989 through 2000, Patrick was a media trainer and consultant for Rowan & Blewitt Manage-

ment Consultants in Washington, D.C.

Patrick also was deputy vice president for communications at the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) from 1995-1996; vice president of communications for The Cato Institute, a Libertarian think tank, from 1996 to 1999; and vice president for communications at The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty from 1999 to 2004.

He was senior vice president of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, a 1.9 million member Catholic fraternal benefit society, from 2004 to 2014. He retired in 2014.

He served as director of communications for the Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus and was a longtime member of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Great Falls, where he was a fourth degree knight, a lector, and a tireless volunteer.

He was also a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an avid photographer, and a major fan of the Washington Nationals baseball team and the Green Bay Packers football team.

Patrick is survived by his wife of 44 years, Anita (Norfolk); three sons: Sean; Brian, and Patrick John; a sister, Jean Korten, wife of Carl Moser, and one granddaughter, Erin.

ARLINGTON

Festival of the Arts

North Highland Street and Washington Boulevard
in the Clarendon district of Arlington, VA



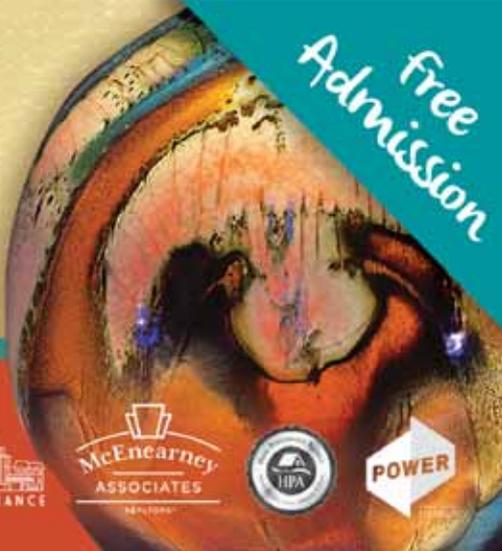
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OPINION

Send in Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13 this year, and as every year at this time, This newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date taken, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information.

You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

Mother's Day is just one of many occasions throughout the year that we would love to receive photos from our readers. Send us photos and notes when anything of note is happening in your family, neighborhood, school, club ... Be sure to include basic information: Name everyone in the photo, the approximate date taken, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information. Send to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Soon after we publish our Mother's Day

photo galleries, we will begin to ask for submissions for our Father's Day galleries. Father's Day is June 17 this year.

Each year we seem to receive many more photos for Father's Day. We're curious whether that is because it is the second of the set so readers are more aware or because mothers are more likely to send in images of the Dads.

Twice a year we ask you to send photos and tell us stories about your pets and how they have come into, touched and left your lives, publishing the last week in July and the last week in February.

In late summer, we invite readers to share what they know about their community for neighbors and newcomers alike.

And wrapping up the year, we gather writing and art from local students to fill our holiday edition. Each year, through an enormous effort by area teachers and school staff we receive an amazing display of student talent.

Regular contributions to our entertainment calendars, community bulletin boards, school notes, and business notes help us to share news in your community. We also always welcome photos and captions from community organizations (Scouts, sports teams, faith groups, school activities, etc.) and local businesses.

Please start by sending in photos for Mother's Day, preferably by May 4. www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/.

Virginia Press Association Winners

Connection writers and photographers garnered awards at the Virginia Press Association annual award banquet Saturday, April 14. Here is the list of our winners, with more details to come in the future:

First Place, Michael Lee Pope, Business and Financial Writing, Great Falls Connection
First Place, Bonnie Hobbs, Public Safety Writing, Chantilly Connection
First Place, Mark Mogle, Pictorial Photo, Great Falls Connection
First Place, Mark Mogle, General News Photo, Arlington Connection
First Place, Eden Brown, Public Safety Writing, Arlington Connection
Second Place, Dan Brendel, Government Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Second Place, Vernon Miles, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Second Place, Fallon Forbush, Breaking News Writing, McLean Connection
Second Place, Fallon Forbush, General News Writing, Reston Connection
Second Place, Bonnie Hobbs, General News Writing, Fairfax Connection
Second Place, Marilyn Campbell, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection
Third Place, Shirley Ruhe, Personality or Portrait Photo, Arlington Connection
Third Place, Fallon Forbush, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection
Third Place, Mary Kimm, Editorial Writing, Great Falls Connection

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's Time to Give Volunteers the Credit They Deserve

To the Editor:

This week, April 15-21, is National Volunteer Week, an opportunity for organizations across the country to pause and recognize the importance and impact of the millions of selfless individuals who volunteer in our communities. Governor Northam recently honored some of Virginia's most remarkable individuals and organizations that have committed to service across the Commonwealth at the 2018 Virginia Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Their stories of service were touching, uplifting, and an inspiration for all of us to do more for others. I encourage you to read more about these remarkable volunteers at VirginiaService.virginia.gov.

And yet, this amazing group of volunteers are just a fraction of the more than 2 million who serve annually in Virginia. Each day, individuals give their time and talents to make our communities safer, healthier and stronger. Whether it is the parents and grandparents volunteering in our

schools, community members collecting and donating food to our food banks, or busy professionals utilizing their skills to help individuals and organizations in times of need — volunteers are the force behind addressing our greatest challenges.

On behalf of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism, I would like to thank these fantastic volunteers. Thank you for caring. Thank you for committing. Thank you for understanding the power of service. We want you to know that we see you and we hear stories of how you are changing communities for the better. You provide hope to so many and inspire others to follow your lead to serve.

Jessica Bowser

Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

Long Backups at Park Entrance

To the Editor:

With spring upon us, the weekend traffic problem at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive (entrance to Great Falls Park) is causing long backups from both directions on Georgetown Pike and also north

on Old Dominion Drive. The lack of turn lanes increases the congestion.

In the absence of physical changes to the intersection, there should be police presence during busy mid-day hours on weekends to direct traffic and not allow long backups when the Park's parking is full.

As Great Falls Park is a National Park, one would assume that the responsibility for traffic management would belong to the US Park Police. No private venue would be allowed to avoid responsibility if their venue created this kind of problem. The alternative to the Park Police is the Fairfax County

Police Department. In any event, mitigation of this problem belongs to one or more of our governmental entities.

The Park is a treasure and a wonderful part of our community. We have visitors from all around the area who very much appreciate and enjoy the Park. Reasonable traffic management would make their experience a better one and improve the quality of life for those of us who use Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive for our normal weekend travels.

Peter Garahan
Great Falls

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.

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nam-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

Great Falls CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Salome Howard-Gaibler
Display Advertising
703-415-5394
salome@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



Small Victory Against Gun Violence

New state license plate bill calls motorists to action and “Stop Gun Violence.”

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Although proponents of tighter gun control legislation are disappointed by the 70-plus firearms safety bills that died recently at the Virginia General Assembly, they celebrate one small victory: House Bill 287, a special state license plate that says “Stop Gun Violence.”

Chief patron of this measure that helps promote their cause is Del. Marcus B. Simon (D-53) of Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church. He and his co-sponsors introduced this bill January in Richmond. It met both House and Senate approval last month and was authorized April 5 by Gov. Ralph Northam.

THE NEW LAW, effective July 1, states motorists can purchase a standard \$10 tag or a \$25 revenue-sharing license plate. The extra \$15 will benefit a fund to help Virginians receive treatment for mental health, developmental and substance abuse issues. The \$10 vehicle tag expires July 1, 2020 the same day the \$25 revenue-sharing plate becomes effective. The Department of Motor Vehicles budgeted \$9,376 for tag production, Simon confirmed.

He credits Falls Church activist Carol P. Luten of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence as the “driving force” behind this bill. She started the project two years ago and collected more than the required 450 prepaid applications needed to introduce the legislation at this year’s General Assembly. Luten said last fall the license plate is designed as a “moving billboard from city-to-city and state-to-state to help create awareness and a movement for change.”

She said Virginia motorists can buy the tag February 2019 at their Department of Motor Vehicles. Luten received help from other grassroots activists to educate nearly 6,000 Virginians throughout the Commonwealth from Fairfax to Roanoke, and Win-

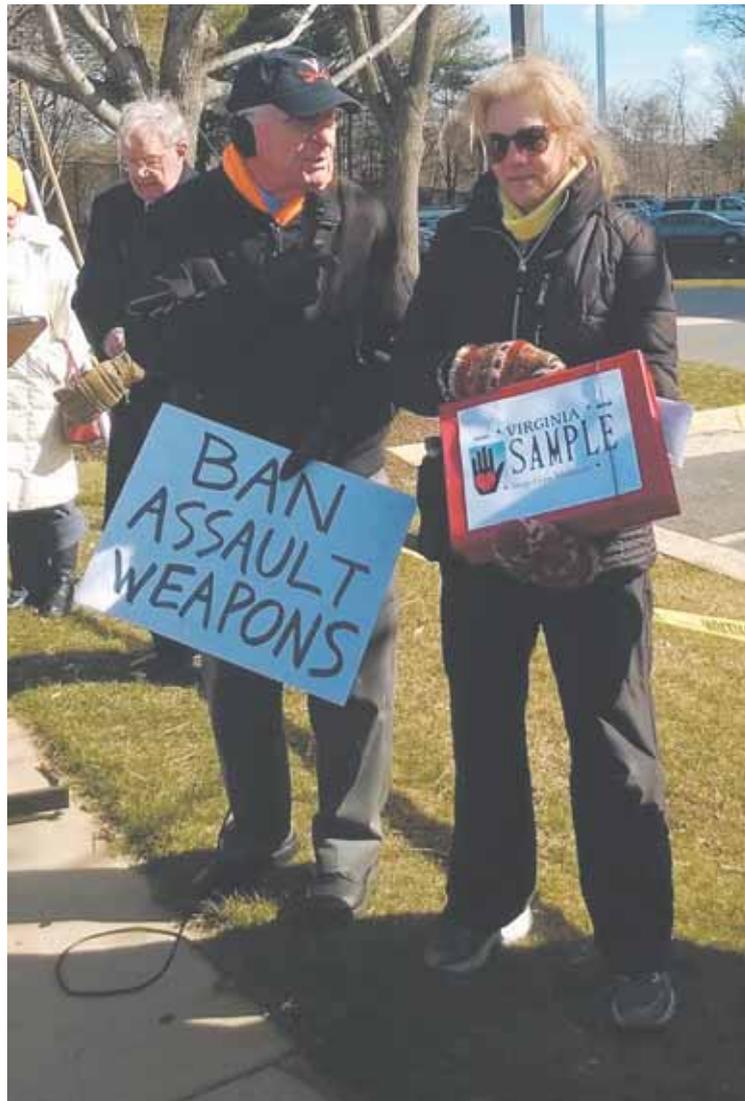


PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

chester to Williamsburg about gun violence prevention. She says former Falls Church resident Robin Bray is the professional artist who designed the graphic image a broken heart held in the palm of a hand displayed on the new specialty license plate.

Learn more about their effort online at www.stopgunviolence.info.

Virginia Sen. Janet D. Howell (D-32), who represents parts of Arlington and Fairfax counties, supported Luten’s effort March 14

at a monthly protest in front of the National Rifle Association headquarters in Fairfax at the same time students nationwide walked out of their classes for at least 17 minutes in memory the 14 teenagers and 3 adults slain Valentine’s Day at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

“Get your license plate,” Howell shouts to more than 160 adults who line the sidewalks along Waples Mill Road in near freez-

ing temperatures and 19 mile-an-hour winds on a cold Wednesday morning to stand up to the nation’s largest gun rights lobby for the countless lives lost to gun violence.

“Let everyone know where you stand,” she exclaims.

It’s the 63rd such gathering at the NRA since Dec. 14, 2012 when a 20-year-old gunman fatally shot 20 school children and 6 adults in Newtown, Conn., with firepower online reports say included a Bushmaster AR-15 rifle.

HOWELL says her father-in-law was murdered with a handgun in the 1990s. Since then, the state senator has tried to introduce at least one gun safety bill each year at the Virginia General Assembly. Howell authored two this year Senate Bill 797 that keeps people with protective orders from possessing firearms and SB 442 that prevents gun owners from leaving loaded, unsecured firearms in a reckless manner within easy access to people ages 18 and younger. Both measures were requested by the governor, “who has seen firsthand the damage guns have done to kids.”

Del. Kenneth R. Plum (D-36) of Reston was chief patron of four firearms bills he has tried to push through General Assembly four years in a row all of which have been killed in committee. Plum is a retired educator who remains steadfast in his effort to prevent more deaths from gun violence.

“We don’t give up. We don’t go away,” he said on March 14.



Graphic image of the new state license plate.

Del. Kenneth R. Plum (D-36) of Reston, left, congratulates Falls Church activist Carol P. Luten, right, of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence for her push to get the only gun control measure passed March 9 through this year’s Virginia General Assembly, House Bill 287, a special state license plate that says “Stop Gun Violence.”

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Naturalist Marijke Gate gives a walking tour of the Virginia bluebells and wildflowers at Riverbend Park in Great Falls during the Bluebell Festival.



Visitors to the Bluebell Festival enjoy snacking at the picnic tables.



Declan Suhr, 3, of Oakton, identifies the sessile trillium on the reference sheet during the walking tour of the Virginia bluebells and wildflowers at Riverbend Park in Great Falls during the Bluebell Festival.

Bluebell Festival at Riverbend Park

Visitors enjoy wildflower walks during peak season for native Virginia Bluebells.

Riverbend Park in Great Falls held its annual Bluebell Festival on Saturday, April 14, 2018. Wildflower walks every half hour to look at the Virginia bluebells, which are now in peak bloom, and other wildflowers, were the highlights for many visitors. At the end of the trail, visitors could look through a telescope to see an eagle family in its nest on Minnehaha Island.

Other activities included puppet shows, live music by Alyssa Janes, a moon bounce, wagon rides, face painting, meet the animals, tour a model longhouse,

and arts and crafts.

“The Virginia bluebells are native North American plants. They’re not bluebells like the European bluebells. They’re actually related to forget-me-nots,” said Naturalist Marijke Gate. “They’re a plant that grows naturally here in the floodplain. They like the slightly damp soil so they’ve been here many decades. They root vegetatively so they form a large colony. Their other name is the oyster leaf because their leaves taste a little bit like oysters and you can eat them in salads. And they’re also called the lungwort to help people with lung disorders in the old days. It’s an old English word for a herb.”

Riverbend Park is located at 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls, VA. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

— STEVE HIBBARD

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



Naturalist Marijke Gate explains about wildflowers at Riverbend Park.



Musician Alyssa Janes performs on guitar.



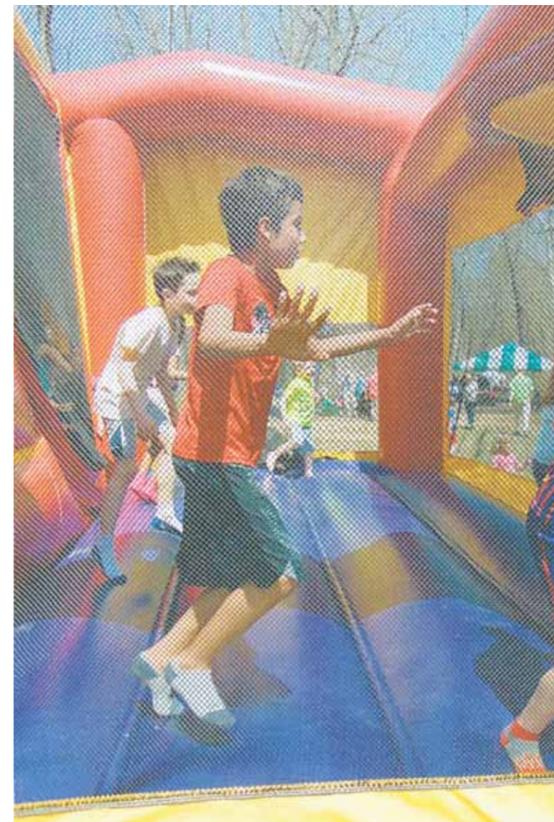
Food vendors at the Bluebell Festival at Riverbend Park in Great Falls.



Naturalist Marijke Gate points out the wildflowers at Riverbend Park in Great Falls.



Marijke Gate shows Oliver Moyer, 3 1/2, of Fairfax, the trout lily plant on the wildflower walk.



Children enjoy jumping on the moon bounce.

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THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

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Connection Newspapers' Special Section Focusing on Summer Camps

Our readers are super-involved parents who plan to spend millions of dollars on their children's summer camps, summer learning and summer fun. Let them know what you have to offer in this colorful special section. Reach more than 200,000 readers and viewers from the area's top demographic families. Call for special pricing on multiple publications.

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit. Through April 28 at The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The Landscapes of Ten Artists features work by Sheila Blake, Marsha Gallo, Gary Goldberg, Linda Greigg, Barbara Johnson, Robert McBride, Be Sargent, Thomas Xenakis, Susan Yanero, and Ellen Zeland. Visit www.theframefactory1.com.

“Fly By Night.” Through May 6 at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. It’s 1965 in New York City and the lights are about to go out. But not before a melancholy sandwich maker becomes enchanted with two sisters in this bittersweet romantic tale about finding hope in a world beset by darkness. Play by Kim Rosenstock, Michael Mitnick, and Will Connolly, directed by Kathryn Chase Bryer. \$38 general admission, \$35 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Visit www.1ststage.org or call 703-854-1856.

Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org for more.

Colvin Run Mill open 11-4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County’s operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

MPA to Host Art+Music Series. 7:30 p.m. at Bullock Hitt Gallery in MPA@ChainBridge, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Free. The Bitter Dose Combo (BDC)—DC’s premier gypsy jazz band—kicks off the festivities. RSVP at mpaart.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

The Unruly Theatre Project. 7 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Free admission. Teen improv troupe offers a hilarious night of comedy. For Old Firehouse activities, call 703-448-8336.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 20-21

“Blithe Spirit” Play Production. 8 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Noel Coward’s famous 1941 comedy. Presented by Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Department of Recreation. Tickets \$14. Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org.



Colors of Change

Filmmaker Jenny Nichols, who grew up in Great Falls, explores Greenland through the eyes of an artist, a NASA scientist, and an Inuit elder. Each character represents a different way that humans internalize information: heart, mind and spirit. They demonstrate the intersection of art, culture and science in a region defined by climate change. Presented by Great Falls Studios. Thursday, April 26, 7 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Contact James Diedrich at james.jemail@gmail.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 20-22

Mid-Atlantic Super Strength Weekend. At Tysons Playground Expo Hall, 8500 Tyco Road, Tysons Corner. Includes Drug Free Bodybuilding, Powerlifting, Olympic Weightlifting, Strongman/Strongwoman, Sports Modeling, Kid/Teen Fitness Challenges and other strength events. Will feature bodybuilder Jeremy Collins, age 38, who has Down Syndrome and had heart surgery when he was 6. Visit massweekend.com or the World Physique Alliance worldphysiquealliance.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Native Plant Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Vienna Community Center’s parking lot, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Hosted by the Town of Vienna Community Enhancement Commission. All plants are raised and sold by the Hill House Garden Nursery, which specializes in high-quality native plants. Plants include flowering perennials, native shrubs, and small trees. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted at the sale.

Family Fishing Rodeo. 9 to 11 a.m. at Wolftrap Creek in Wildwood Park, 700 block of Follin Lane, SE, Vienna. Pre-registration and \$5 tickets required. Limit of six tickets per household. Tickets may be purchased online at viennava.gov/webtrac or in person at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE. Participants over the age of 16 must possess a fishing license, available through the Virginia Department of Gaming and Inland Fisheries.

Bluebells and Bloodroots. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Learn to identify spring ephemerals and

PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY NICHOLS



PHOTO BY REBECCA SIGETY PHOTOGRAPHY

Lara Jae Evangelista, Dylan Kurtz and Evan Preta, the hosts and founders of the event, are pictured with Brian Varani, owner of Mookie’s BBQ.

Paws4vets Day at Mookie’s

Mookie’s BBQ will donate 10 percent of all sales all day to paws4vets, a nonprofit that places service dogs with veterans. Join your friends and neighbors at Mookie’s or enjoy take-out at home. Check out the online silent auction to benefit paws4vets running from April 12-26. Visit www.biddingowl.com/paws4people to bid on gift certificates for local restaurants, jewelry, event tickets and more. Wednesday, April 25, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. at Mookie’s BBQ, 1141 Walker Road, Great Falls. Contact Susan Kurtz at skurtzie@verizon.net or call 703-472-8079.

discover their folklore while walking along the banks of the Potomac River. \$8 per person. Attendees should meet at the Visitor Center. Canceled if rain. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/bluebells-bloodroots-2.

Traveling Players Open House. 1-4 p.m. at The Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Traveling Players will hold an Open House for Advanced Theatre Camps. The summer theatre camp, in residence at The Madeira School, trains teens and pre-teens in Shakespeare and takes them on tour to perform their shows throughout Virginia. Visit www.travelingplayers.org or call 703-987-1712.

SUNDAY/APRIL 22

Grinding Mill. Noon-3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Visit the historic site to see 19th century technology at work as grains are turned in flour and meal. The miller will be grinding, conditions permitting. No reservations are necessary for this free demonstration. Take a mill tour for \$7 for adults, \$6 for students 16 and older with ID, and \$5 for children and seniors. Call 703-759-2771 to confirm. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

TUESDAY/APRIL 24

Home & Garden Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tour four homes and gardens in Great Falls, Vienna and McLean – from a “quilt garden” at a 1750 home to a garden and cottage designed for retirement. Advance tickets are \$40 by April 17; tickets on day of tour are \$50 at Meadowlark Gardens. Tickets sold at tour homes and the Great Falls Library. Contact Garden Club of Fairfax at fairfax@vagardenweek.org. Visit www.vagardenweek.org.

Social Security – Know Your Options to Maximize Your Benefits. 12:30-2 p.m. at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Learn strategies that you can use to potentially maximize your benefit. Presented by Sarah Graham. One lesson for 1 hour, 30 minutes. Cost is \$7/\$5 MCC district residents.

Family Fun Night at the Telescope. 8-9 p.m. at Turner Farm Park, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Visit Observatory Park at Turner Farm and take a guided tour of the heavens. See the color of stars, open and globular clusters, nebulae, and galaxies. The cost is \$6 per person. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm/family-fun-night-telescope-3.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

Restaurant Fundraiser. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. at Mookie’s BBQ, 1141 Walker Road, Great Falls. Mookie’s BBQ will donate 10 percent of all sales all day to paws4vets, a nonprofit that places service dogs with veterans. Join your friends and neighbors at Mookie’s or enjoy take-out at home. Check out the online silent auction to benefit paws4vets running from April 12-26. Visit www.biddingowl.com/paws4people to bid on gift certificates for local restaurants, jewelry, event tickets and more. Contact Susan Kurtz at skurtzie@verizon.net or call 703-472-8079.

Wolf Trap History. 7-8 p.m. at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Join Ken Bigley of the National Park Service for “Performing Arts, Partnerships, and Public Lands: The Story of Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.” This program

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

NEWS

Performing with the 'Swing Team' at Cirque du Soleil's 'Luzia.'

PHOTOS BY MATT BEARD
© 2017 CIRQUE DU SOLEIL/
COURTESY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL



Cirque du Soleil's Dazzling 'Luzia'

Performances to June 17, 2018 under the Big Top at Tysons II.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where and When

An amazing world awaits patrons as Cirque du Soleil's newest touring tent show, "Luzia," is under the famous blue-and-yellow Big Top at Tysons II until June 17, 2018. "Luzia" promises to be a wonderful journey meant to open the imagination as a waking dream of Mexico.

"Luzia' aims to bring audiences to a fantastic imaginary world where light and water are blended together," said Cirque's Francis Jalbert. Patrons will travel to an imagined Mexico; a place of traditions and modernity by way of breath-taking acrobatic performances. Some acts are performed high up, perhaps 30 feet or more, while others are at eye level on the stage. The production includes music with a Latin flavor.

The production includes more than 50 performers, more than a dozen bold acts, and a story that connects them. "Performers will be in spectacular costumes with make-up that can take up to 90 minutes to apply before a show," added Jalbert.

"One of the newest features for the 'Luzia' show are indoor waterfalls, pouring showers and pools inside the Big Top," said Jalbert. The water features are used during a number of the acts; often drenching the performers.

During a recent backstage tour, several acts were at various stages of rehearsal. Cyr Wheel artists were warming up; spinning hoops around their bodies with smooth ease. Chinese Pole performers were rehearsing in costume high-up on flexible poles with show lights adding flair to the atmosphere.

Cirque du Soleil presents "Luzia" at Tysons II, 8025 Galleria Drive, Tysons. Performances to June 17, 2018. Tuesday at 8 p.m. (no performances, Tuesday, May 8 or June 12), Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m., Friday, 4:30 & 8 p.m. (except June 1 & 8, 8 p.m. only), Saturday 4:30 & 8 p.m., Sunday, 1:30 p.m. & 5 p.m. No performances on Mondays. Tickets start at \$38. Special tickets packages such as VIP Experience, Behind The Scenes, Producer seats and Family Pack are available. For groups of 12 or more there are also special offers. For detailed ticket information visit www.cirquedusoleil.com/usa/washington/luzia or call 1-877-924-7783. Note: There is paid parking available with discounts if reservations are made in advance. No event parking will be available at The Galleria. More information at: <https://www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/offers/shows/luzia/washington-dc/directions-luzia-washington-dc.aspx>

Then it was time to meet with one of the fearless "butterflies" featured in the finale. The butterfly was Shelli Epstein, who at 24, is a veteran with Cirque. She began her career as a gymnast living in London. Now a performer with the heart-stopping Swing Team routine, the fearless Epstein "loves the hustle and bustle" of the Cirque world.

Epstein spoke of the meaning of audience reactions to a performer. There is the absolute hush when she is propelled 30 feet into the air from one swing to land on another moving swing. The hush becomes cheers and applause for the Swing Team teamwork when she lands. The entire Swing Team is full of joy and pride that the audiences is thrilled and happy.

Why is Epstein in a butterfly costume? She is representing monarch butterflies that travel from Canada to Mexico each winter. She concluded our interview this way, "This is a dream job. Who won't want to perform in a circus?"

Performance of 'Cyr Wheels' at Cirque du Soleil's 'Luzia.'



McLean Community Center
The Center of It All

Here's What's Happening at MCC

The Old Firehouse Family Events The Unruly Theatre Project

Friday, April 20, 7 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
Free admission

The area's hottest professional teen improv troupe brings you a hilarious night of comedy.

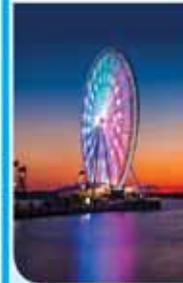
MCC Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.
MCC Administrative Offices
6631 Old Dominion Dr.
All Governing Board meetings are open to the public.



The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips Night Out at the National Harbor

Friday, April 27, 3:30-11:30 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$55/\$45 MCC district residents
For 5th-9th Graders
View Washington D.C. from the Capital Wheel and explore a range of culinary options.



The Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Party "May the 4th Be with You"

Friday, May 4, 7-9 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$35/\$25 MCC district residents
This Star Wars-themed party includes music, an open dance floor and free catered food and beverages.



Sponsored by Friends of MCC Meet the Candidates Reception

Sunday, May 6, 2-4 p.m.
The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
Free and open to the public
Meet the nine Dranesville District 1A residents who are running for seats on MCC's Governing Board.

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org
Administrative Offices
6631 Old Dominion Dr.
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711

Teaching Lessons in Money Management

April is Financial Literacy Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

In an era when consumers can purchase merchandise and deposit money into a bank account using a smartphone, teaching money smarts to children can be fraught with complications. April is Financial Literacy Month and local financial advisors say teaching children how to manage their money responsibly is a necessary part of becoming a financially responsible adult.

“How a parent treats cash is the way their kids will treat cash; lead by example,” said Andrea Foster, professor and department chair of Business, Economics, Accounting, Computer Applications and Paralegal Studies (BEACAPS) at Montgomery College. “If your kid sees you cutting coupons and budgeting, when they grow up they will do the same. They will see the benefits and the value of your thriftiness.”

One of the most important financial lessons that a parent can teach is how to save, advises Foster. “Teach them how to budget so that they can learn how to save for what they want,” she said.

Children pay attention to and learn from the ways in which their parents manage money and it’s critical that they learn financial literacy at home, suggests Victoria G. Henry, assistant vice president at West Financial Services, Inc. in McLean.

“Explaining the concept of savings early to children is key,” added “It is natural to want to spend everything right away, so it may be hard to understand why it is important to set a little aside for future expenses.

“Explaining the concept of savings early to children is key. It is natural to want to spend everything right away, so it may be hard to understand why it is important to set a little aside for future expenses.”

— Victoria G. Henry,
West Financial Services, Inc.

Perhaps it could be explained by saying the savings will come in handy if a favorite toy breaks or is lost.”

An ideal time to offer a lesson in saving is when a child receives money as a present for a birthday or other occasion, says Henry. “It is a good practice to have them save even 10 or 20 percent of the

gift, and let them have the rest to spend how they want,” she said. “If they decide to



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Teaching young children about the concept of saving money is a critical part of financial literacy.

spend their fun money on something and then quickly return asking for money for something else, it is a good to remind them that maybe they should think more carefully about how they want to spend their money in the future. This will help them get into the practice of making wise choices with spending and saving down the road when they start earning money as well.”

Foster also suggests helping children develop savings goals. “[Whether] by piggy bank, envelope, can, or jar, a vessel is an important tool for teaching kids how to save for major milestones,” said Foster. “Identify a goal for the saving and have them save towards that goal.”

Transparency builds enthusiasm, adds Foster. “Using a clear jar for saving creates

enthusiasm and motivation as the kids see it fill up with the coins,” she said. “[Saving] also teaches then self-reliance and not counting on their parents to help them for everything. By giving a reward, kids can learn the value of money and how to spend money.”

Foster also suggests encouraging children to keep a spending diary and limiting the amount of money they can spend or the number of items they can purchase when shopping for themselves. “Show them that stuff costs money,” she said. “Have them keep track of all the money that mom and dad spend on them in one month, from food to clothing and other things. They will realize how much it costs to maintain them and how much all the stuff that they want costs.”

Involve children in a family’s charitable donations, advises Henry. “Ask your children to think about what kinds of charitable efforts the family should support,” she said. “Have them research and pick a charity and then make a small contribution to that organization on their behalf.”

“Have children earn their allowance and let children experience the pain of not having enough money if they don’t budget correctly,” said Dr. Brian Hollar assistant professor of Accounting, Economics & Finance at Marymount University. “Experience is a good teacher and learning when the stakes are low is invaluable.”

Hollar underscores the importance of teaching solid math skills. “It’s hard to develop strong financial literacy without understanding exponential growth,” he said.

Admissions to TJ Continue to Exclude Poor and Black Students

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has offered admission to 485 students for the Class of 2022 at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST).

A total of 3,160 students applied for admission.

❖ White students made up 870, or 27.5 percent of the applicants, and 111, or 22.9 percent of accepted students.

❖ Black students made up 220, or 7.0 percent of applicants, but only 10 black students were admitted, making up 2.1 percent of the incoming class.

❖ Latino students made up 276, or 8.7 percent of applicants; 23 Latino students were 4.7 percent of the incoming class.

❖ Poor students made up 336, 10.6 percent of applicants, with seven students who receive subsidized meals admitted, for 1.4 percent of the incoming class. About 28 percent of Fairfax County Public School students, or more than 51,000 students qualify for Free or Reduced Meals, a measure of significant poverty.

❖ Asian students made up 1,633, or 51.7 percent of the applicants and 316, or more than 65 percent of the incoming class.

Approximately 71.9 percent of the stu-

dents offered admission reside in Fairfax County and 28.1 percent are from Arlington, Loudoun, and Prince William counties and the City of Falls Church.

Approximately 94.8 percent of students offered admission are currently attending public schools.

Established in 1985, TJHSST is a governor’s school offering a comprehensive college preparatory program emphasizing the sciences, mathematics, and technology, and is often cited in rankings as the top high school in the country.

Specialized technical laboratories, including a technological computational center, enhance the academic curriculum and provide students with experience in state-of-the-art technology, opportunities for independent research and experimentation, and interaction with professionals from the scientific, technological, engineering, and industrial communities.

The selection process for admittance to TJHSST involves a holistic review of each candidate’s semifinalist essay, teacher recommendations, and student-authored information sheet, as well as consideration of grades and test scores on the admissions examination. A summer round of admis-

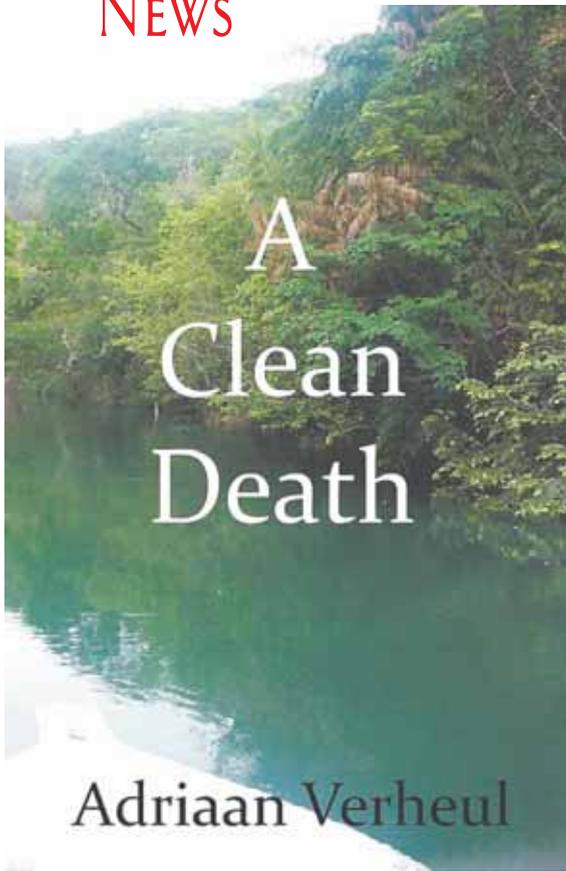
TJHSST Admissions Statistics for Class of 2022

	Applicants	Percent	Admitted	Percent
Reduced Fee or Waived Fee Paid	336	10.6%	7	1.4%
GENDER				
Male	1,683	53.3%	278	57.3%
Female	1,477	46.7%	207	42.7%
Total	3,160		485	
ETHNIC				
White	870	27.5%	111	22.9%
Black	220	7.0%	10	2.1%
Hispanic	276	8.7%	23	4.7%
Asian	1,633	51.7%	316	65.2%
Multiracial/Other*	161	5.0%	25	5.2%
Total	3,160		485	
SCHOOL TYPE				
Public	2,996	94.8%	460	94.8%
Private/Home	164	5.2%	25	5.2%
Total	3,160		485	

* This category includes students who checked “Multiracial” on their application and/or students whose ethnic designation numbered ten or fewer.

sions for eighth graders newly moved to a participating district after Sept. 30 of the previous year will add to the 485 offers at

the end of June. For more information, contact the TJHSST Admissions Office at 571-423-3770.



'A Clean Death:' Book cover.



Adriaan Verheul

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Great Falls Author Reflects on Peacekeeping Experience

Mix of literary fiction, murder mystery, and political thriller.

“A Clean Death,” by Great Falls resident Adriaan Verheul (of Dutch origin), is a novel based on the author’s experiences as a United Nations peacekeeper in Africa and elsewhere. The book is a mix between literary fiction, murder mystery, and political thriller. It tells the story through the eyes of four very different characters, in an unnamed country that bears some resemblance to Eastern Congo or Northern Uganda.

The main character, Oliver, is a junior banker who leads a comfortable and predictable life in a place like Great Falls. His suburban happiness is interrupted when his father Johan is murdered while on mission overseas. Oliver jumps on a plane to help repatriate his father’s remains and belongings.

“One of the things I tried to show in this book is how it affects somebody when you go from a place like Great Falls to a place like Eastern Congo, and back again,” Verheul said. “On another level, the novel is a critique of how well-meaning foreigners try to do good abroad, then hit moral snags and ultimately cause more problems than they solve.”

The book has received favorable editorial reviews, including a starred review from BlueInk Review, a site that provides professional editorial reviews for independently published books. BlueInk noted that “A Clean Death” was “a gripping novel ... writing style is crisp and witty ... fans of Graham Greene’s elegant writing and David Ignatius’s and Dan Fesperman’s topical thrillers will find similar pleasures here.”

Once overseas, Oliver is confronted with staggering corruption, gets distracted by a beautiful friend of his father’s, and doesn’t seem to get any straight

answers about who killed his father. One suspect is a cruel and evil warlord, who calls himself Captain Christmas. Johan was working for an international aid organization that was trying to disarm Christmas’s fighters and reintegrate them into society through employment or education.

Back in the US, Davey, a young and unemployed gun fanatic, hears about this disarmament effort and believes that it is part of an international conspiracy to take everybody’s guns away and establish a global world government. On a dare, Davey goes overseas to talk Christmas out of it. When Oliver, Christmas and Davey meet in the jungle, they all lose something of consequence: illusion, conviction or life itself.

“A Clean Death” is available on amazon.com in paperback and as e-book.

Great Falls Sales Associate Receives Company Sales Award

Mark Ackermann, president of Weichert, Realtors’ Capital Region, announced that sales associate Said Zangeneh of the Great Falls office was recognized for exceptional industry success in March.



Said Zangeneh

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A top producer, Zangeneh led the entire company in dollar volume for the month.

Zangeneh can be reached in Weichert’s Great Falls office at 731-A Walker Road, or call 703-759-6300 for more information.

Can't Vote at McLean Day for the 2018-2019 MCC Governing Board?

Vote by Absentee Ballot Now – May 16 at either:

<p>McLean Community Center (MCC) Administration Office: 6631 Old Dominion Drive McLean, VA 22101 703-790-0123/TTY: 711</p> <p>Class Programs/Registration Office: 6645 Old Dominion Drive McLean, VA 22101 703-744-9365</p> <p>Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed on Sunday</p>	<p>Old Firehouse Center (OFC) 1440 Chain Bridge Road McLean, VA 22101 703-448-8336/TTY 711</p> <p>Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. (closed on weekends)</p> <p>Absentee voting affidavits and ballots must be returned to one of these locations by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16.</p>
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OR

Requesting Absentee Ballots:
 You can pick up absentee ballot packages and vote at both MCC offices or OFC. You can also request absentee ballot packages by email at elections@mcleancenter.org or by telephone at 703-790-0123/TTY: 711.

Returning Completed Applications and Ballots:
 You can return your absentee voting affidavits and ballots to the front desk at either MCC location or OFC. You may also mail them using the pre-addressed envelope enclosed in the absentee ballot package. Mailed affidavits and ballots must be received by the due date.

Absent voting ends promptly at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16.
 Hand delivered absentee voting affidavits and ballots must be received at either MCC location or OFC by that time.

If you have questions:
 Contact 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or email elections@mcleancenter.org

The McLean Community Center
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www.mcleancenter.org

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ENTERTAINMENT

Appealing Musical 'Fly By Night'

**Area premiere at 1st Stage
in Tysons.**

By DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With plenty of upbeat energy, buoyant voices, a clever musical, "Fly By Night" is making its area premiere at 1st Stage in Tysons. It is the rock music tale of a small band of people who journey far-and-wide; from a small town in South Dakota to New York City and then into a myriad of personal intersections.

The year in question is the period just before and during the famous northeast United States electric Black Out in November 1965.

Directed with a warmhearted, nimble touch by Kathryn Chase Bryer, her skilled cast of seven hit their marks with great precision and care for the characters they portray. Bryer has a fine feel for what begins as a romantic-comedy, then veers to become more somber in its second act.

The cast represents people trying to find their way to fulfill a myriad of dreams from becoming a Broadway star to re-kindling unexciting lives too long behind a Brooklyn deli counter making sandwiches, and, a triangle of star-crossed lovers as well as a mature widower missing his just passed wife. And there is a natty narrator as a guide through it all.

With mostly rock-infused 18 musical numbers all powered by the driving wheel of music director Walter "Bobby" McCoy, "Fly By Night" can be a very toe-tapping evening. There is one song that some will find themselves humming a few bars with its simple rock chords. It is one of those tunes that can be played slowly with an acoustic guitar and a plaintive voice or amped up into a full-throated anthem. Appropriately enough it is called, "Fly By Night."

Kudos to a jaunty Jamie Smithson, who as the narrator (and several quirky female characters), is exceptionally winning with his daunting responsi-



PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY 1ST STAGE
Sasha Olinick, Tiziano D'Affuso, Ryan Manning, Caroline Wolfson, Aaron Bliden, Farrell Parker and Jamie Smithson in "Fly By Night" at 1st Stage (Tysons).

Where and When

1st Stage presents "Fly By Night" at 1524 Spring Hill Rd, McLean. Performances through May 6, 2018. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets: Adult general admission \$33, Seniors \$30, Students/Military \$15. Call: 703-854-1856 or **visit** www.1ststage.org. Note: Wheelchair accessible. Free parking is available. 1st Stage is about 2 blocks after leaving the Silver Line's Spring Hill stop.

bilities. 1st Stage veteran Aaron Bliden is very likeable portraying an introverted, confused young "deli" man seemingly in love with two different women. The two young women happen to be sisters. One sister is portrayed by Farrell Parker. She is out to find the more in life she seeks as a Broadway actor. Caroline Wolfson is a shy sister and waitress who can find the stars a place to get lost in. Sasha Olinick portrays a father and widower. He has the show's brightest moment with a song and dance routine (choreography from Robert Bowen Smith). It's a show stopper.

"Fly By Night" is an inviting musical evening to experience.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

will discuss the history of Wolf Trap and its visionary benefactor, Catherine Filene Shouse, and trace the path of Wolf Trap's development as our country's only national park for the performing arts. Contact Ken Bigley at ken_bigley@nps.gov or call 703-255-1809.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Art Exhibition: Aware. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at ServiceSource Headquarters, 10467 White Granite Drive, Oakton. In celebration of Autism Awareness Month, ServiceSource is hosting AWARE., an art exhibition featuring artists on the autism spectrum to raise awareness of disability advocacy efforts in the NoVA community. BBQ will be served. Free. Call 703-970-3653 or visit www.servicesource.org.

"Colors of Change" Film. 7 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Filmmaker Jenny Nichols, who grew up in Great Falls, explores Greenland through the eyes of an artist, a NASA scientist, and an Inuit elder. Each character

represents a different way that humans internalize information: heart, mind and spirit. They demonstrate the intersection of art, culture and science in a region defined by climate change. Presented by Great Falls Studios. Contact James Diedrich at james.jemail@gmail.com.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 26-29

"9 to 5, The Musical." April 26, 27, and 28 at 7 p.m.; with matinees April 28 and 29, 2 p.m. at McLean High School's Burke Auditorium, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Get up and work as McLean High School's "TheatreMcLean" presents Dolly Parton's hit musical comedy, "9 to 5." Tickets are \$12/online; \$15/door. To order tickets, visit theatremclean.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

Night Out at National Harbor. 3:30-11:30 p.m. Meets at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Part of the Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips. Cost is \$55/\$45 MCC District Residents. Take in extraordinary views of Washington, D.C., on the Capital Wheel, dinner and discover much more. Admission and dinner are included in the fee. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Fairfax Run for the Children. 8 a.m. at Fairfax County Courthouse Complex, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Join Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for the 8th Annual 8K and 3K races. The superhero-themed race attracts nearly 1,000 runners and walkers, 250 volunteers, and raises almost \$85,000 each year to support Fairfax CASA's advocacy work with abused and neglected children. www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com/

April in Paris Patrons' Gala. 6-11 p.m. at the Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Road, NW, Washington, D.C. Tysons McLean Orchestra's annual gala features extraordinary live auction packages and world-class live entertainment. The gala sponsors are rewarded with broad exposure to each other and the diverse and sophisticated audiences through marketing campaigns, website and program materials. Cost is \$275 per person. Visit tysonsmcleanorchestra.org.

FROM PAGE 6

Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

Volunteer 'Victims' Needed. Virginia Task Force 1 (VA-TF1) is holding a full scale exercise and needs volunteers to act as victims in need of rescue. The exercise will take place from the evening of Monday, April 23 through afternoon of Thursday, April 26. A minimum shift of six hours is expected – overnight volunteers are especially needed. "Victims" will need to be able to crawl in and out of rubble piles, capable of sitting or lying in place for extended periods of time, and don't mind getting dirty. Contact Christopher Yorty at christopher.yorty@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

Vote on Budget on May 1

FROM PAGE 3

county's fast developing areas," said Niedzielski-Eichner.

"As one who was on the front lines advocating for passage of the Meals Tax, I find this reality ironic in light of the significant voices arguing against the meals tax due to its regressivity. Since each one percent of the property tax rate is projected to generate approximately \$25 million in revenue, the proposed 2.5 cent increase in the real estate tax rate will generate about \$62.5 million. The meals tax was projected to generate a \$100 million per annum, with almost a third of this revenue, \$28 million, to be paid by tourists and visitors to Fairfax."

Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax County NAACP expressed concern that the county is underfunding services to low income families, including housing and Pre-K education for needy families.

"This opportunity gap [of not having access to PreK education] eventually turns into an achievement gap, and that widens over time.

"Fairfax County NAACP calls on the county to commit the resources to enroll at least 300 additional kids into Pre-K in 2019 budget and devise a long-term plan to fund at least 2,000 over the next five years."

Annan asked the supervisors to fund an outside study of racial disparities in police use of force.

"For the past few years, 40 percent of police use of force has been directed toward African Americans, who only make up about 10 percent of the county," Annan said.

"And for the past few years, we have been asking the county to fund an outside organization to conduct a study to determine the causes of this disparity, so we can begin the process of reversing that trend."

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If Only It Were That Simple



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I immerse you regular readers in the excruciating details of my cancer-affected life, rarely do I bombard unsuspecting conversationalists who unknowingly yet sincerely wander into territory with which many of you are intimately detailed. Not that I don't have stories to tell, and/or perhaps even unsolicited advice to offer; generally speaking, if I can avoid it, I don't want to drag the conversation into a cancer-centric black hole.

It's not because I'm uncomfortable talking about cancer, or that I would feel it an inappropriate invasion of my privacy, or that I would feel the need to blather on non-stop. Hardly. But I would see it as the end of an innocent inquiry undone that then takes on a more empathetic, sympathetic and possibly even pathetic tone, some of which might make me uncomfortable.

The reason being: part of what feeds my self-preservation and sense of well-being is reading and reacting to the feedback I receive from others when the subject matter turns to cancer, however well-meaning their intentions may have been.

Sometimes the reactions I get aren't helpful ("Tell me Ken, how's it feel to know you're going to die?"). Sometimes, I find myself rationalizing, explaining and revisiting issues and experiences more helpful and of interest to the party that asked the question rather than to yours truly who's now having to answer the question. Not that I don't want to be helpful or have difficulty empathizing; nothing could be further from the truth.

It's more that I don't want to see their expressions/hear their apologies when their innocent question ("So what do you do?") elicits an extremely unexpected answer. "Not too much. I have stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer."

Then I have to decide how I involved I want to get them in my life. Since I'd just as soon not get them involved for all the reasons I've outlined, usually I deflect their questions and/or redirect them away from me and back to them. I don't exactly shut them down. It's more like a gentle closing. I'm not rude or the least bit off-putting. I'm more like a traffic cop re-routing emotions to avoid any accidents – for all parties engaged.

My experience has been that responding to an innocent question with a "I have terminal-cancer"-type bombshell tends to take the conversation in an entirely different direction than likely intended. The seriousness of my response/situation and the emotions – maybe even memories it stirs in the person who asked the question, can hijack an evening and cause at least for a few minutes anyway, a rather dreary dynamic. All of which I don't want to happen and more so, don't need to happen. As a cancer patient, I don't need dreary. I don't need pity. I don't need negativity. I need humor. I need encouragement and compliments. I need to be made to feel, as Tony the Tiger might say: "Not just good, but GREAT!"

When I assess my nine-plus years post-diagnosis; having lived now years beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis, I can't quite attribute my amazing good fortune to anything in particular. However, I will admit to this: trying not think about my diagnosis/prognosis too much, trying to remain positive, trying to be funny and self-effacing, and trying to avoid people and situations where I might feel bad, are all components. Are they working to keep me alive more than the medicine, my pills and my miscellaneous non-Western alternatives are?

Yet another question or two I'd rather not answer.

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

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