Something to Celebrate

Tenth District Candidates Debate in McLean

Community Workshop on Downtown McLean

With the snip of the ribbon – officially opening the pedestrian/cyclist trail connecting Route 7 from the west, over the Dulles Toll Road into Tysons, and celebrating the completion of the project that included widening the bridges over the highway and improved ramp access between the two major arteries.
News

Downtown McLean Planning Study Launches with June 4 Community Workshop

Fairfax County is launching its planning study for downtown McLean with three community workshops in June.

The first meeting will take place on Monday, June 4, 7-9 p.m. in the cafeteria of McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The study focuses on the 230-acre area that's called the McLean Community Business Center in the county's Comprehensive Plan. More commonly called downtown McLean, this is the area centered around the intersection of Chain Bridge Road and Old Dominion Drive.

This undertaking will give residents the opportunity to update the vision for downtown McLean. The process will consider changes to land uses, development intensities, transportation, public facilities and possible urban design.

The county has hired a consultant, Streetsense, to assist in the visioning process. Streetsense will facilitate three community workshops in June.

After the workshops are completed and the consultant has compiled and analyzed community input, the county will sponsor two community meetings in the fall to help finalize the vision plan. Afterwards, a task force made up of residents will work with county staff to translate the community's vision into recommendations for changes to the Comprehensive Plan.

The task force meetings will be open to the public.

The workshops are designed to build on each other and will cover different topics. But it is not necessary to attend all three:

❖ Monday, June 4, 7-9 p.m.: This first workshop will focus on market influences and development decision making.

❖ Wednesday, June 13, 7-9 p.m.: This second workshop will focus on planning, design and placemaking.

❖ Saturday, June 23, 9:00 a.m.-noon: This third workshop will focus on community immersion and understanding.

Each workshop will be held in the cafeteria at McLean High School, located at 1633 Davidson Road in McLean. Childcare is available for children age five and older; reservation can be made by contacting Amy Ordonez at 703-787-4962, TTY 711, or by email.

Additional information can be found on the McLean Community Business Center Study at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/mclean-cbc-study.

For more information about the study, future meetings or reasonable ADA accommodations, contact Katrina Newsom with Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning at 703-324-1380.

The 230-acre McLean Community Business Center, more commonly called downtown McLean, is focused around the intersection of Chain Bridge Road and Old Dominion Drive.

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Fundraiser Supporting 1st Stage

A fundraiser for 1st Stage has been announced by HBC Group’s (Keller Williams Realty) Community Charity Champions. Have dinner on Tuesday, June 12, 5-8 p.m. at Pulcinella Italian Host in McLean to support 1st Stage. Approximately 70 percent of the proceeds from food and drink will go directly to 1st Stage, as long as the diner brings the flyer for the event. Contact HBC Group at 703-734-0192 or visit www.HBCGroupKW.com to receive a flyer.

Sponsors of the event are: Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy with the HBC Group of Keller Williams Realty, Marcus Simon with EKKO Title, Kevin Dougherty of Pillar to Post, Kathy and Justin Neal of The Neal Team/US Bank, Jim Harris of BOWA, The McLean Chamber of Commerce, and Moe Jebali with Pulcinella Italian Host.

Submissions Sought for MPAartfest

McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) is currently seeking submissions for their 12th annual MPAartfest, a one-day juried fine art and craft show and sale to be held Oct. 7, 2018 in McLean Central Park.

Recently named one of Sunshine Artist’s Top 100 Fine Art and Design Shows, this annual celebration of the visual arts attracts 5,000-6,000 visitors each year.

One hundred percent of sales to be retained by artist. Additional rules and submission instructions are available at mpa.submittable.com/submit/111560/mpaartfest-2018.

The deadline for submissions is June 8, 2018.
Something to Celebrate

The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FAAB) heartily approves of the Route 7/Dulles Toll Road improvements. They joined in the celebrations at the official opening of several multimodal improvements at Route 7 and the Dulles Toll Road in Tysons.

It took all of those things to bring the $47.5 million project to completion, “ahead of schedule and under budget,” said Bill Cutler, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)’s District Construction Engineer for Northern Virginia.

Cutler praised the excellent working relationships between VDOT, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and staff, lead construction contractor Wagman Heavy Civili, and members of the community for making the project a success in enhancing connectivity for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists in the area. As he read name after name of agencies, companies, and individuals, Cutler joked that the list was like “the credits at the end of a movie” but that it was a fact that without that additional cast of characters, the complex project, with so many moving and interconnected parts, could never have been realized.

“A success story in cooperation,” was Martin Nohe’s categorization of the work that rehabilitated the two Route 7 bridges over the Dulles Toll Road, and widened the road from four to six lanes between Tyco Road and J arrett Valley Drive. Nohe, the Chairman of the NVTA and Prince William County Coles District Supervisor, added that it wasn’t just people crossing the expanded bridges with less congestion, but “technology and data are flowing across as well.”

The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FAAB) president Jeff Armstrong, VDOT District Construction Engineer for Northern Virginia Bill Cutler, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Del. Kathleen Murphy, Bruce Wright and Keri Hitt.

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

C ooperation. Collaboration. Alliance. Partnership - words that were repeated throughout the remarks made by the speakers to those gathered on May 22 to celebrate the official opening of several multimodal improvements at Route 7 and the Dulles Toll Road in Tysons.

What it’s all about – safe, efficient, alternate options for transport to and from the thriving and growing Tysons area, connecting to all its offerings and to the Spring Hill Silver Line Metro station.

It usually gets only complaints or pointed suggestions about transportation from our constituents,” acknowledged Virginia Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34), whose district includes Vienna, McLean and Wolf Trap. A project that helps ease congestion, contributes to data and technology flow, offers multimodal transportation options and is deemed “fun” by a member of the public, must be music to the ears of all who participated in the “cooperation, collaboration, alliance, and partnership.”

Members of the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling join Bill Cutler, the Virginia Dept. of Transportation’s District Construction Engineer for Northern Virginia, for a ride on the recently completed pedestrian/cycling path that is a major part of multimodal transportation improvements in the Tysons area.

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

What it’s all about – safe, efficient, alternate options for transport to and from the thriving and growing Tysons area, connecting to all its offerings and to the Spring Hill Silver Line Metro station.

It’s fantastic, what they’ve done,” said Jenifer Joy Madden, cycling enthusiast and advocate. Madden rode to the event from Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna. “That would have been impossible before these improvements.”

Madden joined Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling president Jeff Anderson, and fellow FAAB members Bruce Wright and wife Keri Hitt in the pedal-power cheering section at the event. After the official ribbon-cutting, the four were later joined by Cutler for a celebratory bike ride along the trail.

And what were the findings after the inaugural spin? According to Anderson, “First class! Looks like a lot of fun! This should be an example for others to follow.”

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referring to the inclusion of considerable quantities of new fiber optic lines that were added as the bridges were re-built.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said it was a real pleasure to “reach this finish line,” calling the project “essential” for the economic health and future of the region.

BULOVA pointed to the window behind her in the meeting room of the Sheraton Tysons Hotel, where the celebration began. “This venue couldn’t be more appropriate,” she declared. “From here we can see all of our transportation efforts coming together.”

Almost as if it had been painted for the occasion, the window framed a view of the Silver Line Metro rail, the new pedestrian/cycling trail that crosses the Toll Road, a portion of the widened bridge, and the new ramps leading from the Toll Road onto Route 7.

In addition to widening the bridges, the project earned its designation as a multimodal effort by constructing a bicycle/pedestrian link from the west with almost 6,000 feet of lighted path. Offering a non-motor alternate access to the Spring Hill Metro station in Tysons, the plan is to connect future western trails to the new pathway.

TUNNELS under, and walkways over, the Dulles Toll Road were also incorporated into the project.

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Tenth District Candidates Debate in McLean

Economic Equality Caucus hosts 10th Congressional District candidates.

By Andrea Worker

An invitation to the opening session of the area Economic Equality Caucus at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in McLean on May 3, offered candidates for the 10th Congressional District race a more back-to-the-grassroots venue and vantage than the forums in which they have participated of late. For starters, the setting was much more intimate than an audience-filled auditorium. Nor was there a traditional moderator, asking questions on wide-ranging topics from the candidates’ knowledge of foreign affairs to their stance on the prevention of gun violence and school safety. There wasn’t even a time-keeper, holding up countdown signs, or buzzing that a candidate’s 30 second rebuttal had come to an end. There wasn’t even that rebuttal moment, since the candidates did not appear together.

Instead, candidates and audience members crowded together in the church foyer. In between presentations by a number of local nonprofits and organizations concerned with social justice, Democratic candidates, Dan Helmer, Alison Friedman, Lindsey Davis Stover, Julia Biggins, and Republican contender Shak Hill were afforded the opportunity to provide a more in-depth look into their backgrounds, their “key issue drivers” and their motivations for running for office. Each was a solo act, scheduled at staggered intervals and given about 15 minutes each to talk about their campaigns and answer questions.

True to the nature of the larger purpose of the gathering, the four questioners represented social and economic concerns advocated from the community. They were Lee Powell, the Economic Equality Caucus Co-Chair; Walter Tejada, president of the Virginia Latino Leaders Council; Megan Malone, Board of Trustee member; Phillips Programs for Children and Families; and Deanna Heier, Social Concerns Committee chair at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

THE SAME QUESTIONS were posed to each candidate.

Acting as host and making the introductions, Lee Powell got each candidate started by inquiring about their position regarding “President Trump’s trickle-down economic policies,” and how “you would support the well-being of American working families?”

The Democrats were unanimous in their disapproval of President Donald Trump’s recently enacted Tax Bill. With the same starting point of overturning or significantly modifying the legislation, they offered slightly different approaches to creating “true tax reform, not tax cuts that will bankrupt our future,” as candidate Paul Pelletier said. “With 30 years of experience, I can say that history has proven that trickle-down doesn’t work.”

Quizzing the candidates at the Economic Equality Caucus at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in McLean. From left: Walter Tejada, president Virginia Latino Leaders Council; caucus co-chair Lee Powell; Deanna Heier, Social Concerns Committee chair at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer; Eileen Ellsworth, CEO, Community Foundation of Northern Virginia; and Megan Malone, Board of Trustees member, Phillips Programs for Children and Families.

Shak Hill was the lone Republican candidate at the forum and offered views and positions sharply contrasting with those of the Democratic contenders. But as caucus co-chair Lee Powell noted, “The audience listened with respect and interest. We can still do that in this country.”

Working from the foundation of a tax code that prioritizes people but encourages businesses, was Julia Biggins response. Biggins feels that Democrats are too often seen as anti-business.

Shak Hill, the lone Republican present since Rep. Barbara Comstock had not responded to the invitation, dedicated much of his time to making the case that the President’s tax plan was the way to support working families. Without specifics, Hill asserted that companies were repatriating to the United States from overseas “to the tune of $2 trillion,” were reinvesting in their businesses, and thus creating more employment opportunities.

“The President is improving the economy through increased competition.” Hill cited the growth in the stock market and other economic factors that he said indicated the President’s policies helping to bring an end to “stifling regulations” was creating wealth.

On the subject of infrastructure investment, Pelletier said that Trump had actually reneged on this often-repeated campaign promise. With his focus more on attacks on minorities and immigrants and “tax bills that create even bigger tax loopholes,” Pelletier said “there’s no more money” or impetus to work on “our eroding infrastructure.”

Walter Tejada said what policies a candidate would offer to promote economic opportunity for women and minorities. Taking the issue a step further, Tejada also asked that each share their thoughts on the “Dreamers” and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) issues, concerning the status of the children of illegal immigrants.

Again, the Democrats shared one starting point of equality and opportunity for all, with varying degrees of specifics on how they would address these issues.

Again, Hill was the dissenting voice. “I heard another candidate say that Trump’s position on these issues is from extreme hate. I say his position is from extreme love. Love for Americans.”

Acknowledging his own immigrant heritage, and expressing compassion for the immigrant population, Hill still asked “Who should we be taking care of? People who are here outside the law, or our citizens?”

Hill did not directly respond to Deanna Heier’s question “Would you support re-forming and improving the basic safety net programs like Obama care?” but the Democratic candidates each outlined their approaches to ensuring quality healthcare through either a single-payer system or some type of opt-in Medicare option open for all. Alison Friedman staunchly defends programs that help provide for children in need. Citing several statistics, she said “Children across this country don’t have enough to eat. Those are the federal assistance we need.”

TO THE FINAL QUESTION, posed by Megan Malone, regarding public education in the context of the Trump administration and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos’ policies, Hill offered that he did not see that the Federal government “had a mandate to participate in the education of our children – in fact, I prefer the government not be involved.”

As a “firm believer in property rights,” Hill eyes any government subsidies with a wary eye, including federal funds for education. If the issue was before him, he would prefer to see any funds “follow a child’s educational journey,” leaving decisions up the states and to the individuals.

The Democrats, on the other hand, see investing in education as akin to investing in infrastructure.

Helmer insists that it is essential to support the educational journey before Pre-K if equal opportunity is to be had by all, and if the country can develop a workforce to meet the demands of today and tomorrow.

He is also one of the Democratic candidates suggesting a National Service program where young people can work off some of their student debt.

Still carrying some $80,000 in student loan debt, Lindsey Davis Stover is in full agreement with this proposal, as well as funding the Pell Grant system and finding other ways to make education or training beyond high school “in reach for all.”

Few questions from the audience were permitted, but were related to the lack of affordable housing in Northern Virginia and in Fairfax County in particular and the changes that the Federal Communications Commission is pushing to end Net Neutrality. The candidates who received those questions answered honestly that they were as concerned as the questioner, but didn’t have the answers – “At least not yet,” said Helmer.

Members of the audience, when questioned following the event, were unwilling to offer any opinion on an individual candidate, but several were quick to voice disappointment that Comstock had not attended or failed to send a surrogate in her place, much like absent state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33) had enlisted her colleague Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) to address the assembly. “After all,” said host Lee Powell, “she already is our elected representative. She should be talking to her constituents.”
Three Potomac School Students to Attend Governor’s Foreign Language Academies

Three students from The Potomac School have been honored with invitations to attend Governor’s Foreign Language Academies, sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education. This summer, junior Ellen Oskoui, sophomore Kat Plaza, and sophomore Sarah Raman will attend the Latin Academy, the French Academy, and the Spanish Academy, respectively.

The Governor’s Foreign Language Academies are summer residential programs for students who have distinguished themselves as being talented, motivated, and passionate language learners. All candidates must take a language test and place among the top scorers in the state in order to participate. More than 8,750 students have completed these programs since VDOE began sponsoring them in 1987.

People

Potomac School Student Wins $10,000 Scholarship in Junior Achievement Essay Competition

Junior Achievement of Greater Washington recently announced the winners of its 2017 Junior Achievement Essay Competition. Potomac School senior Mike Grimes was selected as the second-place winner in Virginia. He will be awarded a $10,000 scholarship for this accomplishment.

The essay prompt was “Several great entrepreneurs, including Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg, dropped out of college before getting their degrees. How important do you think a college degree is to your future success?” More than 1,100 students across the region submitted essays in response. They were judged based on creativity and originality, persuasiveness, grammar and spelling, understanding of the subject matter, and relevance of the response to the topic question.

Grimes, who lives in Washington, D.C., wrote about the “10,000 Hour Rule,” cited by Malcolm Gladwell in his book “Outliers,” which posits that approximately 10,000 hours of practice is required to become truly expert in any skill or area of endeavor. Grimes asserted his belief that college is a place to begin acquiring this extensive experience – a place that offers “access to teachers, technology, and other resources critical to reach mastery.”

This fall, Grimes will be enrolled in the College of Charleston’s Honors College. He plans to major in finance and commercial real estate and minor in entrepreneurship. He will reside in the college’s Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community, where he will have daily interaction with students with similar interests.

At Potomac, Grimes plays point guard for the varsity basketball team and is involved in peer leadership activities, serving as a mentor and role model for younger students.

Founded in 2008, the Junior Achievement Essay Competition is sponsored by David M. Rubenstein. First-, second-, and third-place winners are selected from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, and each of these winners is awarded a $10,000 scholarship. One grand-prize winner is selected to receive a $20,000 scholarship. All of the scholarship recipients were recognized by Junior Achievement and Mr. Rubenstein at a private awards ceremony, held this year on May 21.

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Preventing Gang Violence

By Gerald E. Connolly
U.S. Representative (D-11)

Families through our community have been shaken by the recent rise in gang activity across the Washington region. This is a serious issue that must be addressed with collaboration and cooperation from all levels of government. We know the problem, and now we must find the right solution.

Fairfax County offers a model for what our country can do to stem gang violence. I was chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors when we launched the “Join a Club, Not a Gang” campaign, and expanded after school programs to all 26 of our middle schools. And we reached out to parents to help them understand the signs of gang involvement. Thanks to this collaboration, the number of teenagers involved in gang activity declined by 50 percent and the crime rate fell to a 32-year low. Fairfax County remains the safest jurisdiction of its size in the United States.

I brought that local government experience with me to Congress and on one bill I worked with former U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf to secure federal funding for the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force (NVRGTF). In fact, I offered the last earmark for the NVRGTF before the House Majority abolished earmarks, stripping the task force of its federal funding.

The best thing we can do is reserve funding for regional task forces that focus on gang prevention, intervention, and suppression in our communities. It is not enough to fund programs and organizations that focus solely on prosecuting gang members after their crimes have been committed. We must take a well-rounded, holistic approach to community safety by restoring the federal government’s commitment to preventing these crimes from ever being committed in the first place. We know that collaborative programs like the Task Force work. Regional task forces provide local governments with law enforcement bodies with unified organizations that span jurisdictional boundaries and allow for streamlined input from various stakeholders across a community. That is why, recently, I introduced the Preventing Gang Violence Act, legislation that will increase funding for competitive grants of $1 million to jurisdictions with the largest numbers of gang-related incidents.

This bipartisan legislation builds upon our success in Fairfax County by providing community-based violence prevention grants to effective regional task forces across the country. Grant applications would be evaluated based on a number of factors, including an applicant’s record of implementing best practices in gang violence prevention, evidence of collaboration between relevant stakeholders, an effective grant implementation plan, and plans for evaluating results.

In addition to its bipartisan support in Congress, this proposal has the support of a diverse set of expert organizations, including the National Alliance of Gang Investigators, Associations (NAGIA) and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ). As NAGIA notes, this legislation “recognizes that communities must be equipped with prevention programs to keep their children from joining gangs.” And CJJ makes clear that the bill brings a “community-based approach to bear on our nation’s gang violence problem.”

Some, most notably the President, would have you think America must shut its borders. That is a bipartisan solution. It is our responsibility to both secure our country and maintain security.

We know this is a false choice, and runs contrary to the American and Fairfax experience. I rejected the anti-immigrant proposals pushed by the Administration, including its unconstitutional travel ban. Our immigrant communities contribute so much to the fabric of life in Northern Virginia. We shouldn’t drive them into the shadows.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Fairfax County has made progress, but we need the Federal Government to remain a partner. The Gang Violence Prevention Act is a down payment on making our communities safer.

By Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum
State Delegate (D-36)

One More Time

Reading another column about the failure of the Virginia General Assembly to expand Medicaid may be as painful for you as it is for me to write. I know I have been predicting for months that a biennial budget would be passed for the Commonwealth and that it would include an expansion of health care coverage for those now not eligible for Medicaid. Nervously I stand by that prediction. Even the Majority Leader of the Senate who holds membership has been holding up the budget in opposition to Medicaid expansion has been quoted in news accounts that a budget will be passed and that it will include Medicaid expansion.

So, what is the problem? And as many constituents ask me, what is the holdup?

Historically, biennial budgets for the state have passed by near-unanimous numbers. Not everyone has agreed with every number or every provision of the budget, the document is always a bundle of compromises that satisfies as many people as possible when there are always strict limitations on resources. Ironically, the addition of an expanded Medicaid budget brings hundreds of millions of dollars to the budget and trims up the works of millions of dollars that can be used for education and other needs. By not adopting an expanded program, Virginia has foregone about ten billion dollars of federal money that required no state match. The funds coming to Virginia would not add to the national debt because of the tax funding included in the Affordable Care Act to support the program.

But I have explained the economics of the program in many past columns. It is a good deal for the state and a wonderful expansion of health care to those who are most in need. What is the holdup?

Many of you have already figured out that it is the politics of the issue. For many years it was opposition to anything that had to do with ObamaCare. The former President has gone on to another career, but there have been many unsuccessful attempts in the Congress to undo his legacy as it relates to health care. For those who were part of the opposition to the expansion for many years there may be a problem pivoting to supporting it even if there are those who have a stake in better health care from it. For an even more conservative constituent waiting in the wings is an opportunity to accuse the incumbent of flip-flopping on the issue.

House of Delegates members had a “refreshing” meeting with their voters last November. Some of the strongest incumbent opponents to Medicaid expansion lost their seats. A majority of the newly elected House have voted weeks ago to pass the budget with Medicaid expansion in it. A majority of the senators support it and should be allowed to vote. Those who do not can explain their position to voters in the next election cycle leading up to the election in November 2019. I hope I do not have to explain this one more time.

Send Father’s Day Photos

Father’s Day is Sunday, June 17, and once again this newspaper will publish a gallery of Father’s Day photos. Every year at this time, we put out the call for photographs of fathers and their children and their families and their children’s families.

Send in photos with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 12. You can submit your photos online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday. You can also email photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.
Wearing Orange, Discussing Second Amendment at ViVa Vienna

Virginians William “Bill” Sanner of Bristow and Kate Desvenain of McLean discuss the Second Amendment to the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution Monday at the corner of Church and Center streets in Historic Vienna. Both participated May 28 at the annual community festival Viva Vienna! over the Memorial Day Weekend. Sanner, 68, dons a Colonial Period uniform of the Heroes of ‘76 — a patriotic arm of a fraternal organization called the National Sojourners Inc. The Springfield-based organization represents Master Masons who have served in the U.S. armed forces. Desvenain, 49, belongs to a local chapter of Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense in America. She encourages Northern Virginians to wear orange and attend two community rallies Friday and Saturday in Arlington June 1 at 6:30 p.m. in Courthouse Plaza and Alexandria June 2 at 7 p.m. in Market Square for victims of gun violence — including former Chicago teenager Hadiya Pendleton, whose birthday inspired this annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day event. The majorette was killed in 2013 at age 15, a week after performing with her high school band at the second inauguration of President Barack Obama, according to online reports. Pendleton’s friends honored her 18th birthday June 2, 2015 with a party for peace that marked the first National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Because fluorescent orange is the protective color worn by hunters, Pendleton’s peers selected it to speak loudly for their movement to keep their generation safe from gun violence. Learn more online at the websites of these groups at nationalsojourners.org, momsdemandaction.org, hadiyaspromise.org and wearorange.org.

Transurban Awards $10,000 Grant to joint EMS Bike Team from Fairfax County and Vienna

Transurban, operator of the 495 and 95 Express Lanes, met last week in Reston Town Center with representatives from Fairfax County to award the joint Emergency Medical Services Bike Team from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department a $10,000 community partnership grant to support their ongoing cooperative operations to provide emergency response to citizens throughout Fairfax County. The special one-time grant from Transurban was created last November in honor of the five-year anniversary of the 495 Express Lanes. “We are excited to support the EMS Bike community partnership with this special grant,” said David Mueller, vice president of operations, Transurban North America. “Their team is a great example of the value in long-term community partnerships that help improve people’s lives, which is a value that we share at Transurban, as we work to collaborate and innovate with partners in the Washington, D.C., area and around the world to keep people moving.” The winners were selected from more than 40 applicants from the region. The grant application was opened to Washington, D.C., area nonprofits, which were invited to partner together on a project or initiative that would benefit their respective communities. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department entered with a proposal that would enhance their joint EMS Bike Team, which provides swift response for medical emergencies at large, crowded events; in parks; and on trails inaccessible by typical emergency response vehicles. “Enhancing our joint EMS Bike Team in Fairfax County and the Town of Vienna is a valuable investment for the safety of our residents,” said Sharon Bulova, chairwoman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. “Thank you to Transurban, and congratulations to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.”

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**ONGOING**


**Vienna Art Society Exhibition.** Through late June at North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Visit viennartassociates.org for more.

**Oakton Farmers Market.** 9 a.m.1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats, eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Admission is free. Visit communityfoodcoalition.org for more.

**Great Falls Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, breads, meats, baked goods, delicious bakery, spices from around the world, wild-crafted fish, grass-fed, free-range, organic meats, organic-fed eggs, pomegranate, pomegranate juice, pomegranate and pomegranate juice. Photos/artwork encouraged. Submit entertainment announcement to PGM via e-mail at pgm@bgva.com. Fees: $7/adult, $5/child. For information, call 703-591-3971 or visit www.cindydibs.com.

**Fishing Rod Rentals.** Rentals available during visitor and special events. Fees: $7/adult, $5/child. 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. Visit www.cindydibs.com.

**Path to the Bluebells by Cindy Dibs.**

The path is open to the public and open to the public. Call 703-698-8702 or mjacknow@aol.com.

**JUNE 1-30**

**Photography Exhibit: “Nature’s Palette.”** At Katie’s Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Cindy Dibs takes every opportunity to enjoy and capture the beauty whether hiking in Great Falls National Park, Glacier National Park or strolling along the beach. Her photos reflect the beauty of nature and she hopes the images will inspire others to protect and treasure the valuable gift of nature. Visit www.cindydibs.com.

**June 2-30**

**Used Book Sale.** The Corner Center’s 5th annual free Summer Concert Series offers a variety of musical guests and has proven to be a popular event for families, couples and teenagers. The Plaza is located off of the Tyson Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.

**TUESDAY/JUNE 5**

**“Dinner in Camelot.”** Enjoy a glimpse and a Tom Sawyer clean-up day. All proceeds are donated to Pleasant Grove. Stop by Friday to drop off donated “attic treasures.” Visit www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org.

**SUNDAY/JUNE 3**

**Concerts on the Green: Mike Akerne.** 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tyson Corner Center. Tyson Corner Center’s 5th annual free Summer Concert Series offers a variety of musical guests and has proven to be a popular event for families, couples and teenagers. The Plaza is located off of the Tyson Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.

**FRIDAY/SUNDAY/JUNE 1-3**

**Tysons Pimmit Branch Library.** Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Half price $10 per bag on Sunday. Call 703-780-4031 or visit www.fairfaxcountylibrary.org/branches/friends-of-tysons-pimmit-regional-for-more.

**Address, home address, and your home and cell telephone number. Your check is your registration. Contact mjacknow@aol.com or call 703-757-8560.

**TUESDAY/JUNE 5**

**6:30-8 p.m.** at the C&O Canal, its history, its beauty and its recreation. Join Emilia Winn, author of “Hoot ‘n Holler.” One lesson for 1 hour, 30 minutes. $35/MCC district residents. Email friendshipgoldeagles@gmail.com or call 703-757-8560.

**THURSDAY/JUNE 7**

**Benefit of Chocolate.** 6:30-8 p.m. at Westminster Country Club, 800 Maple Ave., Vienna. The Great Falls Corner Center is hosting the Benefit of Chocolate at the Corner Center to support its programs for survivors of stroke and brain trauma. Guests will enjoy delicious chocolate and coffee and will bid on auction items. $100. Visit stoveckemakebcntr.org for more.

**Antique Appraisal/Free Admission.** Joseph Esposito, 7:30-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The Corner Center is hosting the Benefit of Chocolate at the Corner Center to support its programs for survivors of stroke and brain trauma. Guests will enjoy delicious chocolate and coffee and will bid on auction items. $100. Visit stoveckemakebcntr.org for more.

**SUNDAY/JUNE 3**

**Spring Fair.** Join us! Admiration is free. Visit communityfair.allergyfree.org.

**TUESDAY/JUNE 12**

**McLean Historical Society Meeting.** Please check the temporary office of the McLean Historical Society, 105 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The program will feature Jeanette Lance presenting “A Walk Along the C&O Towpath.” Free, all are welcome. Call 703-356-8223 for more.

**WEDNESDAY/JUNE 13**

**Summer on the Green: Rockin’N’Rollin.** 6:30 p.m. Area residents can catch a new and diverse musical act at the Town Green or at Chillin’ on Church. Bring blankets and chairs, but please leave Fido and any other pets at home. The concerts are free and open to the public. Visit www.townofgreatfalls.org/events.

**FRIDAY/JUNE 8**

**“Swimming with Whales.”** Thursday, 7:30 p.m.-Friday at 8 p.m. Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m. Sundays at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 8th, and 10th Grade, Great Falls. This world premiere musical audience into a world of healing, compassion, and renewal. While visiting his family’s secluded cottage on the shores of the Atlantic ocean, Owen, a typically urban 15-year-old boy, and his fisherman father clash until an unlikely and healing communion with an injured whale in Owen a forgotten boyhood and connection with the sea. General admission, $33; seniors 65+, $30; student/6 p.m. on the Plaza at Patrick Henry Library, 515 Maple Ave., E. Vienna. Used books, CDs, DVDs, software, children’s books, records, and recent books will be accepted. No encyclopedias, VHS or audiotapes. The Book Sale will be held on Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Spring Hill Recreation Center. The sale proceeds benefit scholarships for women. Questions? aauwbookfair@gmail.com or 703-222-1291.

**Spring Fair.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pleasant Grove historic site and museum, at 8645 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Free cultural activity at the Kennedy White House. Book sale for sale and signing. Free admission. Call 703-938-0450 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3931227 for more.

**FRIDAY/SUNDAY/JUNE 1-3**

**Summer on the Green: Virginia 1760.** 6:30 p.m. Annual special event at the Town Green or at Chillin’ on Church. Bring blankets and chairs, but please leave Fido and any other pets at home. Registration and open to the public. Visit www.townofgreatfalls.org/events.

**TUESDAY/JUNE 5**

**“Dinner in Camelot.”** Enjoy a glimpse and a Tom Sawyer clean-up day. All proceeds are donated to Pleasant Grove. Stop by Friday to drop off donated “attic treasures.” Visit www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org.

**SUNDAY/JUNE 3**

**Concerts on the Green: The Leeggarems.** 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tyson Corner Center. Tyson Corner Center’s 5th annual free Summer Concert Series offers a variety of musical guests and has proven to be a popular event for families, couples and teenagers. The Plaza is located off of the Tyson Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.

**MONDAYS/JUNE 4, 11 & 18**

**Mah Jong Lessons.** 1:30-3 p.m. at Temple Shalom, 21000 Bothell Pike. Pre-sale open to members of the Friends of the Library. Thursdays, June 7-6 p.m. Membership donors at the door for the pre-sale night only. $15. Thousands of lightly-used donated “attic treasures.” Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.

**FRIDAY/SATURDAY/JUNE 8-9**

**Used Book Sale.** Used Book Sale, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Vienna. Pre-sale open to members of the Friends of the Library. Thursdays, June 7, 6-8 p.m. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.

**SUNDAY/JUNE 17**

**Concerts on the Green: Wes Tucker and The Skilletels.** 6:30-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Pre-sale open to members of the Friends of the Library. Thursdays, June 7, 6-8 p.m. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.
PenFed Reports on Record Growth, Best-in-Class Service and Commitment to Community

At its 83rd Annual Meeting on May 17, PenFed Credit Union’s Chairman of the Board Ed Cody and PenFed President and CEO James Schenck reported on the most successful year in the credit union’s history with record membership, assets and earnings. They also reported that its members ranked PenFed among the country’s top-rated firms for service excellence.

“This year, we celebrate our 83rd anniversary and another successful year,” Cody said. “Our team has stayed focused on operating safely and soundly, improving our business processes and systems, and ensuring that we help our members do better financially. Investments in our call centers, technology and people culminated in our members ranking PenFed among the country’s top firms for service excellence.”

In his business update, Schenck reported that PenFed increased net new membership by 10 percent, ending the year with 1.63 million members. Total assets grew by $1.6 billion from $21.3 billion in 2016 to $22.9 billion in 2017. Net income was a record $179 million in 2017, up from $169 million in 2016. He reported on the safety and soundness of the institution, noting PenFed is well capitalized at 10.3 percent, far exceeding industry standards of 7 percent for a well-capitalized institution.

To best serve a fast-growing membership, Schenck said PenFed expanded its workforce by more than 11 percent in 2017, ending the year with 2,399 employees. “Every day, our 1.6 million members vote with their wallets. Every day, our 1.6 million members vote with their wallets. Our members vote for PenFed over 11,000 other financial institutions in America,” Schenck said. “I attribute this to the extraordinary talent and commitment of our employees and the market-leading products and services they deliver 7 days a week, 24 hours a day to our members.”


Cody provided an update on the PenFed Foundation and its commitment to give back to our nation’s defenders through its key programs:

❖ The Military Heroes Fund, which provided 557 grants in 2017 valued at $686,921, in emergency financial assistance to wounded warriors and their families;
❖ The Dream Makers program, which provided 125 grants totaling $598,476 to help first-time homebuyers make down payments on their homes. These grants ensured that about $20 million in mortgages became a reality;
❖ The Asset Recovery Kit program provided 1,890 interest-free loans totaling $886,300 to military service members as a safe alternative to payday lenders.

Schenck also noted the Foundation’s partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs to end veteran homelessness. Through the end of 2017, the Foundation made 552 grants for rent and utility payments, transportation vouchers and critical household items valued in excess of $583,982. The Foundation also partnered with the VA to provide relief for those affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria; 554 grants were made totaling $166,000.

The PenFed Board of Directors announced the reelection of Directors Alfred E. Rudolf and COL (Ret.) Robert W. Siegert, III to three-year terms as members of the Board.

To learn more about PenFed Credit Union, visit PenFed.org.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz2@att.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept. 30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and may host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation. Visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration.

THURSDAY/MAY 31

Meet with Virginia WMATA Representatives. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Virginia’s representatives to the board of directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will meet the public in a forum sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. The event will include a presentation focused on funding, governance and safety, followed by a question-and-answer session. The facility is within walking distance of the Vienna Metro station. Visit www.novatransit.org.

THURSDAYS/MAY 31-JUNE 14


FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Help Children Navigate Adolescence in the Digital Age. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2314 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. What else can parents do to keep their teenager safe on the internet? Join Richard Stegman, FCPS Educational Specialist, to learn the top internet dangers for teens and seven steps for good digital parenting. Free. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center.

MONDAY/JUNE 4

Community Workshop. 7-9 p.m. in the McLean High School cafeteria, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The study focuses on the 230-acre area that’s called the McLean Community Business Center in the county’s Comprehensive Plan. More commonly called downtown McLean, this is the area centered around the intersection of Chain Bridge Road and Old Dominion Drive. This workshop will focus on market influences and development decision making.
making. Residents who plan to attend are encouraged to RSVP, visit eventbrite.com, search McLean CBC.

WEDNESDAY/ JUNE 6
Grow Your Business. 6-8 p.m. at American Prime, 1420 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Join Tysons McLean Orchestra to network with the tech, telecom, real estate and financial services executives and the professional business community at American Prime. Live music, raffles, discounted event tickets and more. $30 online, $40 at the door. Visit www.eventbrite.com and search “Instrumental to Business” for tickets.

MONDAY/ JUNE 11

WEDNESDAY/ JUNE 13
Community Workshop. 7-9 p.m. in the McLean High School cafeteria, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The study focuses on the 230-acre area that’s called the McLean Community Business Center in the county’s Comprehensive Plan. More commonly called downtown McLean, this is the area centered and the intersection of Chain Bridge Road and Old Dominion Drive. This workshop will focus on planning, design and placemaking. Residents who plan to attend are encouraged to RSVP, visit eventbrite.com, search McLean CBC.

Public Safety Program. 7:30 p.m. at McLean Governmental Center Community Rooms, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. The June McLean Citizens Association Public Safety Program will focus on the Fairfax County Independent Police Auditor. The Auditor, Richard G. Schott, will provide a presentation to explain his responsibilities and to answer questions. Visit mcleanconnection.com.

SATURDAY/ JUNE 16
FCPCTA Leadership Training Summit, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria. The Spring 2018 PTA Leadership Training Summit will provide training and leadership development for PTA officers, committee chairs and leaders in preparation for the 2018-19 school year. Visit www.fcpta.org.

ExaminEd Life Workshop. Noon in the SATURDAY/JUNE 23 Community Workshop. 9 a.m.-noon in the McLean High School cafeteria, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The study focuses on the 230-acre area that’s called the McLean Community Business Center in the county’s Comprehensive Plan. More commonly called downtown McLean, this is the area centered and the intersection of Chain Bridge Road and Old Dominion Drive. This workshop will focus on community immersion and understanding. Residents who plan to attend are encouraged to RSVP, visit eventbrite.com, search McLean CBC.
JD Sold More Homes Last Year in 22101 Than Any Other Agent!

6303 Stoneham Lane, McLean
*LIGHT and BRIGHT* fabulous 5BR/3BA home features kitchen leading to cozy family room; living room with large picture window and fireplace, plus formal dining room with picture window and built-ins; finished LL includes spacious recreation room with fireplace, 2 bedrooms and updated bath plus walkout to patio; large, level backyard with beautiful landscaping. 2-car garage!

1913 N. Underwood St, Arlington
*DON'T MISS* this incredible home in sought-after North Arlington location! Fabulous open and updated kitchen leads to beautiful screened-in porch which overlooks the lovely landscaped backyard garden; gorgeous hardwood floors; updated baths; MBR addition with updated luxury bath!

1616 8th Place, McLean
*WONDERFUL* 3BR/2.5BA rambler with beautiful landscaping in superior cul-de-sac location! Hardwood floors; open kitchen floorplan; finished, walk-out lower level; blocks to Balducci shopping center and downtown McLean; Longfellow Middle School, McLean High School pyramid! Open Sunday, 6/3, 2-4pm!

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