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McLean CONNECTION



Something to Celebrate

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Tenth District Candidates Debate in McLean

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Community Workshop on Downtown McLean

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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.

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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.:



Map courtesy of Fairfax County

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.

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 5 and older. Residents who plan to attend are en-

couraged to RSVP. Childcare will be 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 Newton with Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning at 703-324-1380.

Week in McLean

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.

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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. From left: Martin Nohe, Chairman of the NVTA, FAAB president Jeff Armstrong, Jenifer Joy Madden, 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.



Photo courtesy of FAAB

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.

Something to Celebrate Latest transportation improvements in Tysons acknowledged with ribbon-cutting ceremony

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

Cooperation. 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.

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 Civil, 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 Jarrett 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,”

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Photo courtesy of VDOT

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.

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 the new pathway.

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

“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 (FAAB) 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.”

“We usually get 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.”

Tenth District Candidates Debate in McLean

Economic Equality Caucus hosts 10th Congressional District candidates.

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

An invitation to the opening session of the area Economic Equality Caucus at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in McLean on May 23, 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 Paul Pelletier, 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 Trustees 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 "would you 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.

"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 asked 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 our citizens?"

Hill did not directly respond to Deanna Heier's question "Would you support reforming 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 assistances 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 educa-



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."

Photos by Andrea Worker/The Connection

tional 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."

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



Photo contributed

Potomac School senior Mike Grimes.

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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Photo contributed

From left: Potomac School students Ellen Oskoui, Sarah Raman, and Kat Plaza will attend Governor's Foreign Language Academies this summer.

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.

Opinion

Preventing Gang Violence

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



Families through out 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 fight gang violence. When I was chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, we worked with local law enforcement, the business community, and the faith and civic communities to reduce gang crime and gang association. We hired the county's first gang prevention coordinator and started tattoo and graffiti removal initiatives. We collaborated with the Boys and Girls Clubs to launch 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 a bipartisan basis, 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 resume 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 and 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 and evidence-based programs to reduce gang violence by \$18 million.

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 you cannot allow immigrants into our country and maintain security.

We know this is a false choice, and runs contrary to the American and Fairfax experience. I've rejected the ant-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.

One More Time

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



Reading another column about the failure of the Virginia General Assembly to expand Medicaid may be as painful for you to read 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 who are not now eligible for Medicaid. Nervously I stand by that prediction. Even the Majority Leader of the Senate whose members have been holding up the budget in opposition to Medicaid expansion has been quoted in news account 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 hold up?

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 million dollars to the budget and frees up hundreds of millions of dollars that can be used for education and other needs. By not adopting an expanded program of Medicaid, 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 hold

up? 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 thousands of constituents who would benefit in better health care from it. For an even more conservative constituent waiting in the wings to challenge the legislator in a pri-

mary there 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 voted weeks ago to pass the budget with Medicaid expansion in it. A majority of 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, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

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.

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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 in-

accessible 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, chairman 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."

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.



Photo by Marti Moore/The Connection

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.

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I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Study (NEXT)

I-495 (Capital Beltway) in vicinity of Dulles Toll Road interchange to American Legion Bridge and Maryland line

Fairfax County Public Information Meeting

Monday, June 11, 2018, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presentation starts at 7 p.m.
Cooper Middle School
977 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101

Learn about the Virginia Department of Transportation's environmental study regarding plans to extend the I-495 Express Lanes by approximately three miles from the Dulles Toll Road interchange towards the Maryland line, in the vicinity of the American Legion Bridge.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared. VDOT is currently conducting environmental analyses and coordinating with regulatory agencies to obtain information about environmental resources in the vicinity of the project.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to learn more about the project and discuss your questions with VDOT staff. A short presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

Review study information on the VDOT website (www.virginiadot.org/projects), at the public information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Give your written comments at the meeting or submit them by **June 25, 2018** to Susan Shaw, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Study" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Susan Shaw, P.E. at 703-691-6715.

Federal: NHPP-0495(095), State: 0495-029-419, UPC: 113414

Calendar

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

ONGOING

"Trees, Trees, and Beyond."

Through May 31 at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Vienna Arts Society Exhibition. Free. Open 10-7 p.m. in April; 10-7:30 p.m. in May. Visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org or call 703-319-3971.

Vienna Art Society Exhibition.

Through late June at North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Visit viennaartsociety.org.

Oakton Farmers Market.

9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats/eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Admission is free. Visit community-foodworks.org.

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.

Free Tai Chi.

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

The Freeman Store & Museum

Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

Bingo Night.

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

Gentle Yoga.

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

The Golden Girls of Northern

Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Games are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna, April-October. Other activities during the year. Visit www.goldengirls.org.

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.



Path to the Bluebells by Cindy Dibbs.

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/.

pimmit-regional for more.

MAY 31-JUNE 24

"Swimming with Whales."

Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. This world premiere production invites audiences 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 awakens in Owen a forgotten boyhood and connection with the sea. General admission, \$33; senior (65+), \$30; student and military, \$15. Closed captions and audio description will be offered for select performances. Purchase tickets at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Summer on the Green: U.S. Navy Band - Country Current. 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.viennava.gov for more.

Tyson's Concert Series: Mat

Kearney. 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Tysons 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 Tysons 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

Tyson's-Pimmit Book Sale. 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 sale on Sunday. Call 703-790-4031 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-tysons-

address, home address, and your home and cell telephone number. Your check is your registration. Contact Marion at 703-698-8702 or mjacknow@aol.com.

or call 703-757-8560.

SUNDAY/JUNE 10

Northern Virginia FARE Food Allergy Heroes Walk. 9 a.m. at Nottoway Park, 9601 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Registration and activities will go from 9-10:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 10:45. There will be mission driven arts and crafts, a DJ, face and nail painting, engaging activities, allergy friendly vendors, superheroes, games, silent auction, photo booth, and of course, a walk around the park. Registration is free, but required to participate. Visit fare.foodallergy.org.

Max and Zach's Lemonade Stand.

Noon-3:30 p.m. at Chesterbrook Elementary School, 1753 Kirby Road, McLean. Each year since 2014, Max (a leukemia survivor) and his brother Zach hold a charity lemonade stand in support of childhood cancer research. They will have lemonade, treats, snow cones, spin art and more. All proceeds benefit Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. Free. Donations accepted. Email weinstockmr@yahoo.com or visit www.alexlemonade.org/mypage/1438237.

Concerts on the Green: Scott Kurt and Memphis 59.

6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Sundays throughout the summer, bring a picnic and chairs for an evening of free, live music. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 12

McLean Historical Society

Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the temporary office of the McLean Community Center, 6631 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The program will feature Carole Herrick 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:

Rocknocerous. 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. Sponsored by Vienna Moms, Inc. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 15

Chillin' on Church with The Rockits. 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.viennava.gov for more.

Tyson's Concert Series: Ryan Cabrera. 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Tysons 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 Tysons Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 17

Concerts on the Green: Wes Tucker and The Skillets. 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Sundays throughout the summer, bring a picnic and chairs for an evening of free, live music. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org for more.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

TUESDAY/JUNE 5

The C&O Canal. 12:30-2 p.m. at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Learn about the C&O Canal, its history, its beauty and its uses. Presented by Carole Herrick. One lesson for 1 hour, 30 minutes. Cost is \$7/\$5 MCC district residents.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 6

Forestville Elementary Open House. 4-5 p.m. at Forestville Elementary School, 1085 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls. Join the Forestville Elementary teachers, staff and PTA members to see the newly renovated building and the unveiling of the "Tile Wall." All members of the community are welcome to see the "new" school and enjoy refreshments. Free. Call 703-404-6000 or visit www.Forestville.edu for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 7

Benefit of Chocolate. 6-8:30 p.m. at Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave., Vienna. The Stroke Comeback Center is hosting the Benefit of Chocolate cocktail reception to support its programs for survivors of stroke and brain trauma. Guests will enjoy a delicious hors d'oeuvres buffet, wine, artisan chocolate and an opportunity to bid on auction items. \$100. Visit strokecomebackcenter.org for more.

Author Event: Joseph Esposito.

7:30-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Meet Joseph A. Esposito, the author of "Dinner in Camelot." Enjoy a glimpse into a long-gone era of politics and cultural activity at the Kennedy White House. Books available for sale and signing. Free admission. Call 703-938-0405 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3931227 for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 8

Summer on the Green: Vienna Idol Finale. 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. Rain date is June 9. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

Tyson's Concert Series: The Legwarmers. 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Tysons 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 Tysons Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 8-9

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Pre-sale open to members of the Friends of the Library Thursday, June 7, 6-8 p.m. Membership purchased at the door for the pre-sale-night-only, \$15. Thousands of lightly-used donated books, CDs, DVDs in every category. Many like new. Great for care packages, beach house, building home library, literacy programs, traveling companions. Free admission. Email friendsofthegreatfallslibrary@gmail.com

JUNE 1-30

Photography Exhibit: "Nature's Palette." At Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Cindy Dibbs takes every opportunity to enjoy and photograph nature 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.cindydibbs.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Used Book Collection. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at SunTrust Bank, 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 703-527-4206.

Spring Fair. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pleasant Grove historic site and museum, at 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Free community fair will feature "attic treasures" quality yard sale and antiques, a homemade bake sale, lunch, an artisan-made quilt raffle, 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 Terpak Blues Explosion. 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Sundays throughout the summer, bring a picnic and chairs for an evening of free, live music. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org for more.

MONDAYS/JUNE 4, 11 & 18

Mah Jongg Lessons. 1-4 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. A three-session Mah Jongg class for beginners. Do not register unless you are prepared to play at least once a week the first few months. Enrollment is limited. Plan to attend all three sessions. Cost for 9 hours of lessons with your Mah Jongg Card is \$85. To register, send a check made out to WoTRS (Women of Temple Rodef Shalom) - to Marion Jacknow, 8110 Timber Valley Ct., Dunn Loring, VA 22027. Include your e-mail

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.

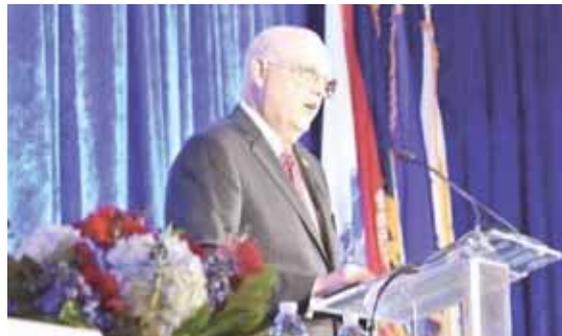
"This year, we celebrate our 83rd anniversary and another successful year," Cody said. "Our team has stayed focused on operating safely and soundly, improving our business processes and systems, and ensuring that we help our members do better financially. Investments in our call centers, technology and 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. 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."

Schenck highlighted PenFed's commitment to communities where PenFed donates at least 2



Ed Cody, PenFed Credit Union Board of Directors Chairman.



James Schenck, PenFed Credit Union President and CEO.

Photos contributed

percent of earnings to charitable organizations. PenFed's charitable donations topped \$5 million in 2017.

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 total-

ing \$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.

He 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 pay-

ments, 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.

Let us know about an upcoming event
www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

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UPCOMING SPECIAL SECTIONS

JUNE

6/6/2018.....Wellbeing
 6/13/2018.....Father's Day Dining & Gifts
 6/20/2018.....A+ Graduations & Summer Education
 6/27/2018.....Connection Families

JULY

7/4/2018.....Wellbeing
 7/11/2018.....HomeLifeStyle
 7/18/2018.....A+ Camps & Schools
 7/25/2018.....Connection Families: Our Pets

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 Friday 10-6
 Saturday 10-5
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Bulletin

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Announcements

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Announcements

Announcements

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Announcements

Announcements

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Announcements

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Announcements

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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 gronbiz@aol.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 many 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 or 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

Adventures in Learning. Times vary, at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Sample of classes include: t'ai chi, intermediate/advanced bridge, "Over the Air Television," world affairs, and Socrates cafe. Visit www.scov.org/files/ail/ail_schedule_2018_spring_040918.pdf details.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Help Children Navigate Adolescence in the Digital Age. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 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

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Bulletin

From Page 10

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 execs and the professional business community at American Prime. Live music, raffles, discounted drinks tickets and a buffet. \$30 online; \$40 at the door. Visit www.eventbrite.com and search "Instrumental to Business" for tickets.

MONDAY/JUNE 11

Lunch N' Life: Estate Planning. Noon at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Join the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna's (SCOV) Lunch N' Life event with guest speaker Collins Law Firm's Phillip J. Kenny, JD, CFP, an experienced estate planner. Prepayment of \$15 per person required by Wednesday June 6. No refunds. To register, call 703-281-0538. To view event flyer, visit www.scov.org/announcements.

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 around 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 mcleancitizens.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 16

FCCPTA 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.fccpta.org.

Examined Life Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Twenty-one steps of self-inquiry and growth for those who have found themselves at a crossroads in their lives will be the topic of a workshop by Jungian analyst and author James Hollis, Ph.D. The half-day workshop is based on Hollis' book, *Living An Examined Life: Wisdom for the Second Half of the Journey*. Suggested donation is \$20. To register, visit unityoffairfax.org/events. Call 703-281-1767 or visit www.unityoffairfax.org/events for more.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 20

2018 Annual Meeting. St Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road, McLean. Highlights will feature reports on the financial condition of the Tysons McLean Orchestra, a summary of artistic achievements, administrative developments, challenges addressed and those faced, and a vision for the future. The agenda will include election of Officers and Trustees and recognition of those who have provided vital support. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by June 18, at info@tysonsmcleanorchestra.org or 703-893-8646.

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 around 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.

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View to a Shril



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I watch a little bit of television. Okay, maybe I watch a lot of television (probably too much if truth be told). And in the curse of watching that television, like it or not, fast-forwarding or not, commercials will be seen and unfortunately heard. Sometimes, what I see and hear causes me to interact with my television, verbally. And even though this verbalization is rarely responded to (other than by my wife, Dina), these outbursts (again if truth be accurately characterized) make me feel so much better.

What irritated me today – which led to this column being written, was a television commercial for a cellular phone company, an (“Approved AARP provider since 2008”) providing “exclusive benefits for AARP members” which, as I consider my age, and associations which have value, I would have to say, to quote my late father: “The idea has merit.” The commercial featured – among other facts and figures – endorsements from a half a dozen or so satisfied customers. The praise was typical of what you might expect/hear; all good about everything: price, service, reliability, value, etc. One woman’s comments however caught my attention. I believe I heard her correctly when she said: “Wild horses couldn’t drag me away from” And then off I went.

Really? Are you kidding me? Rather than change your cellular service, you’d consent to being dragged behind a team of wild horses? Do you actually mean to say that if you had your hands and feet bound and you risked being ripped to shreds, you still wouldn’t change carriers? You can’t be serious? As Minnie Driver asked Matt Damon in a scene from the 1997 movie “Good Will Hunting” discussing his having studied organic chemistry “a bit”: “Are you mad? Have you completely lost your mind?” This customer appeared to be of sound mind but, her comments were so ridiculous that it diminished her value as a “spokes-customer.”

I suppose however, if one were to analyze this amazingly, incredibly loyal comment (and take it at face value), one would have to be impressed. Who wouldn’t want the kind of service whose reliability, service, value, cost, etc. was worth dying for? For me, if the choice was between being dragged behind a team of wild horses – and being torn to pieces/possibly even dying in the process, or changing cellular service companies, I’d change in a minute or as quickly as I could (given the phone calls required) to avoid this Western-era torture. This woman can’t be telling the truth, can she? I mean, it is television where hyperbole and coercion go hand and hand with the remote, and I imagine there was a script involved. Nevertheless, her comments started at the top and went up from there. Apparently, being reasonable isn’t part of this commercial’s equation. Their “spokes-customers” haven’t just drunk the Kool-Aid, they’ve invited the Kool-Aid Man, pitcher and all, into their homes and offered us viewers a drink.

The problem for me, other than I spend too much time watching television, is that when what I’m watching tests the bounds of believability, be it content or especially commercials/advertisements, it inevitably turns a positive message into a negative one. Subsequently, my take-away: don’t bother me with nonsense; I’m not interested. The exact opposite of the intended effect. If truth be told (yet again), I’m likely overreacting (really?) but, when a line is crossed, sometimes I can’t go back, like Burt Lancaster/“Moonlight Graham” couldn’t in the 1989 movie, “Field of Dreams.”

To invoke/extrapolate Capt. Woodrow F. Call from the epic, 1989 mini-series, “Lonesome Dove:” “I hate rude behavior in a man. Won’t tolerate it.” Well, neither can I tolerate commercials which take me for a dope. Can’t handle it.

I may not be the sharpest knife in the drawer, but I do have a little intellect and substance to draw upon even when I’m sitting on the couch watching television. I haven’t completely lost my mind, yet.

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



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