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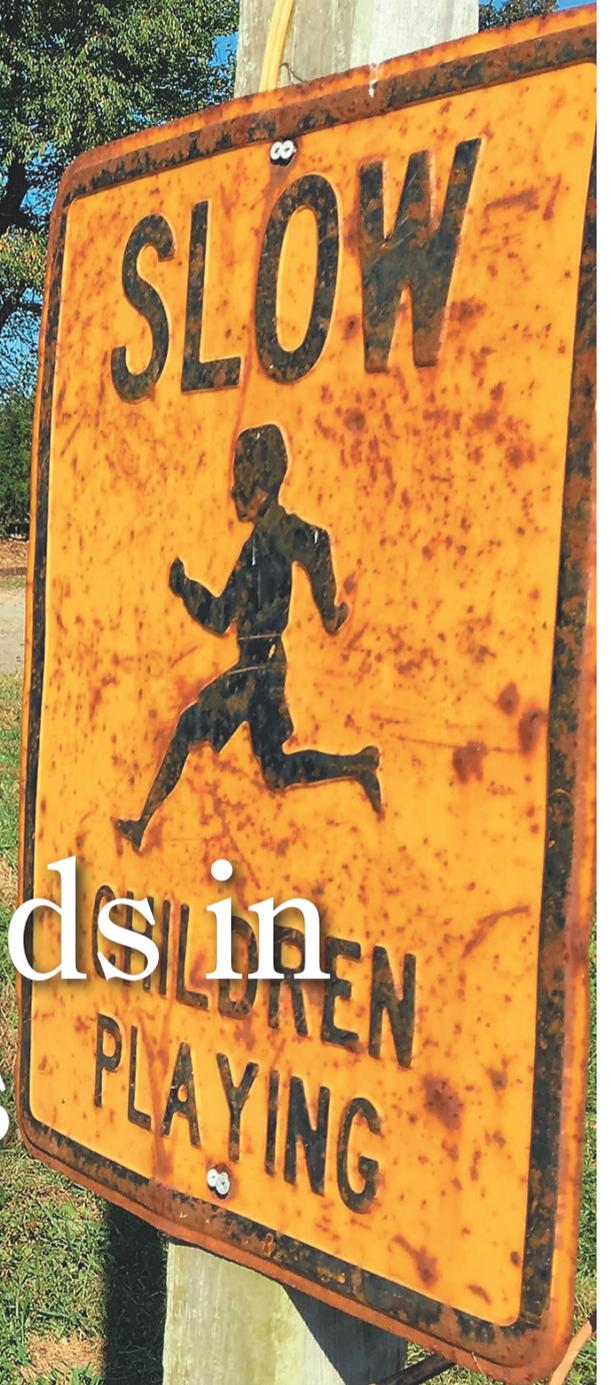
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Great Falls CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 8

Passengers prepare for a hayride at Krop's Crops.
Great Falls businesses provide outlets for fall family fun



Fall Fun Abounds in Great Falls

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Great Falls Studios to
Host Art Tour Preview

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Seneca Hill Animal
Hospital Celebrates
25 Years of Accreditation

NEWS, PAGE 2

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OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY C.J. GRECO/THE CONNECTION

OCTOBER 10-16, 2018

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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NEWS



CONNECTION ARCHIVE PHOTO

Several dogs chase each other, enjoying the unlimited play time at Seneca Hill.

Seneca Hill Animal Hospital Celebrates 25 Years of Accreditation

Seneca Hill Animal Hospital is earning recognition for practicing the gold standard of veterinary medicine for 25 consecutive years. Since 1993, Seneca Hill Animal Hospital has voluntarily submitted itself to the American Animal Hospital Association's (AAHA) Standards of Accreditation. Achieving accreditation by AAHA is an important milestone to delivering quality pet care.

"Congratulations to Seneca Hill Animal Hospital on their 25th anniversary of being accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association," said Michael Cavanaugh, DVM, DABVP (Emeritus), AAHA chief executive officer. "Not every companion animal practice is accredited by AAHA; choosing to be AAHA accredited and maintaining that for a quarter century demonstrates true commitment to veterinary excellence by the entire practice team. Pet owners can rest assured knowing they take their beloved companions to an accredited hospital."

"Pet owners can rest assured knowing they take their beloved companions to an accredited hospital."

— Michael Cavanaugh, DVM, DABVP (Emeritus), AAHA chief executive officer

AAHA is the only organization in the United States and Canada that accredits companion animal hospitals based on standards that go above and beyond state and provincial regulations. Accredited hospitals are the only veterinary practices that choose to be evaluated on approximately 900 quality standards ranging from patient care and pain management to staff training and advanced diagnostic services.

AAHA standards are continuously reviewed and updated to keep accredited practices on the cutting edge of veterinary excellence. Only the top small animal hospitals in the United States and Canada have achieved accreditation by the Association. To maintain accredited status, Seneca Hill Animal Hospital must continue to be evaluated regularly by AAHA.

Seneca Hill Animal Hospital was recognized for its achievement during the AAHA conference, Connexity, on Sept. 13. For more information about accreditation, visit aaha.org or connect on Facebook.

WEEK IN MCLEAN

10th District Candidates Forum Cancelled

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area announced they had to cancel the 10th Congressional District Candidates Forum that was to be held on Oct. 24, 7-9 p.m.

"While Senator Jennifer Wexton has accepted, Congresswoman Barbara Comstock did not respond to our invitation. Therefore, in accordance with the non partisan policy of The League of

Women Voters, wherein we neither support nor oppose any candidates for office or any political parties, we are unable to host an event with only one candidate in attendance. Our co-host for the 10th District Congressional Candidates Forum, the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations, concurs; it has the same policy," said The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area in their statement.



There are plenty of things to do at Meadows Farms' Fall Festival at their Great Falls location.



The inside of the Bronto-Bus is filled with all types of Halloween regulars.

Fall Fun Abounds in Great Falls

BY C.J. GRECO
THE CONNECTION

A humongous friendly metal monster looms over the side of Leesburg Pike, and its name is the "Bronto-Bus". The bus is part of Meadows Farms' Fall Festival at their Great Falls location. The modest festival grounds there sport a cornucopia of pumpkins and a moon-bounce as well as the bus, which children can enter to hang out with various spooky caricatures.

In addition to these light-hearted installations, Meadow's Farms also has a slightly more serious effort every Columbus Day weekend.

"This is our Pink Day Weekend," said Andrea Soto, Assistant Manager at the Great Falls location.

Ten percent of all items sold at Meadows Farms locations that were not already on sale, in addition to individual contributions by customers and certain auctioned-off items, are donated to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure for breast cancer. While the Pink Day weekend lasts only through Columbus Day weekend, Meadows Farms accepts donations throughout October.

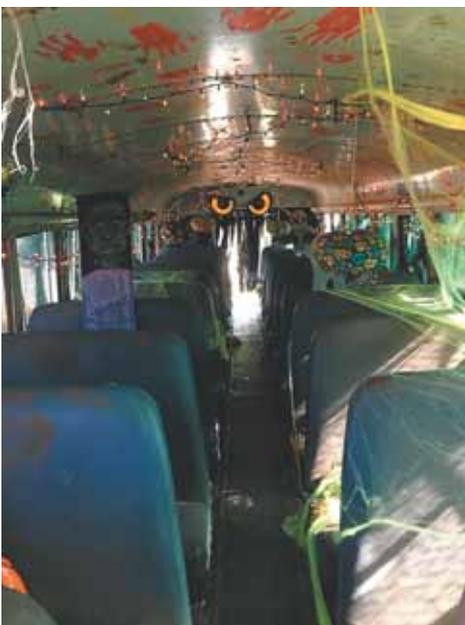
A few miles away is another fall-themed ride, this one a little more traditional and much more mobile than a dinosaur.

"[Hayrides] run on the weekend, on Saturdays they go pretty much constantly," said Sammie Rosenbloom, an employee at Krop's Crops in Great Falls. "There's also a corn bin that the kids can play in, it's great for pictures."



Passengers prepare for a hayride at Krop's Crops.

PHOTOS BY C.J. GRECO/
THE CONNECTION



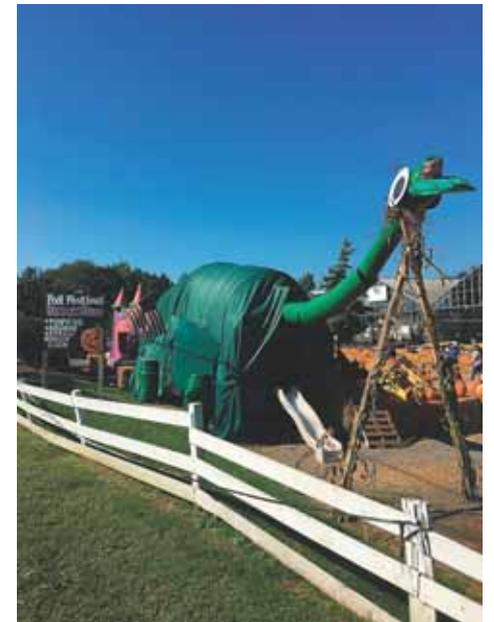
You have to be brave enough to pass through the inside of the Bronto-Bus to get to the slide beneath the eyes



Krop's Crops is located at 11110 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls.



Meadows Farms' Pink Day effort and its supporters have raised \$134,000.



The "Bronto-Bus" watches over the Fall Festival at Meadows Farms Great Falls location.

Check Voter Registration

Confirm your voter registration before Oct. 15; vote early if you qualify.

If you plan to vote in Virginia, you should hop online now to check that you are still registered to vote at your current address. Nevermind that the last time you went to the polls, you were able to vote. You should check again. Monday, Oct. 15 is the deadline. Go to elections.virginia.gov or call your local Elections Office. The Fairfax County Elections office at 703-222-0776.

If for any reason you didn't vote on the last Election Day or the one before that, and you might have missed a possible postcard asking you to confirm your residence, it's important to check that you are registered to vote. A Supreme Court decision specifically allows states to move forward with purging voters under some relatively common circumstances. Whenever names are purged from a list, the likelihood of mistakes is present. Voting is so important, no matter what your inclinations, this year. Check your registration now.

EDITORIAL

To determine whether eligible and registered to vote in this election, visit the Virginia Department of Elections website at elections.virginia.gov or call Fairfax Elections office at 703-222-0776.

To vote on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018, 6 a.m.-7 p.m. (General Election)

- ❖ Register/update address by: Monday, Oct. 15. Or ...
- ❖ Request absentee ballot by mail by: 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 30. Or ...
- ❖ Vote early, in-person absentee, by appearing in person by 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3

Really, if you qualify for any of about 20 reasons to vote absentee, there is no reason to wait until Election Day Nov. 6 to vote.

Early voting is already well underway. One of the 20 reasons is if you might be working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department

of Elections list to see if you are eligible: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html>

There are two ways to vote absentee, in-person and by mail. To do either, you should first check your voter registration status to make sure it is up-to-date. If you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location.

Early Voting Locations, Dates and Hours

Through Saturday, Nov. 3 at the government center, and Oct. 13-Nov. 3 at the satellite locations.

Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Room 2/3, Fairfax, VA, 22035

Until Oct. 12:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Oct. 15-Nov. 3, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturdays, Oct. 6-Nov. 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Satellite Locations are open Oct. 13 - Nov. 3

Weekdays: Monday thru Friday, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sundays: Closed

- ❖ Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310
- ❖ Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton, VA 22079
- ❖ Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003
- ❖ McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101
- ❖ Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
- ❖ North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190

- ❖ Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031
- ❖ Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151
- ❖ West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152

Virginia Voter ID

You must show identification to vote. Acceptable forms of valid identification: Virginia driver's license, Virginia DMV-issued photo ID, United States passport, Employer-issued photo ID, Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia, Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID, Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID, or Virginia Voter Photo ID card

Need a Photo ID?

If you don't have an ID, go to your voter registration office to get a free Voter Photo ID, even on Election Day. You will be required to complete a photo ID application, have your photo taken and to sign a digital signature pad.

Forgot your photo ID on Election Day?

If you get to your polling place without acceptable photo ID, you can vote a provisional ballot. You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count. A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card.

For more information on voting in Fairfax County:

Fairfax County Office of Elections
12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323

Fairfax, VA, 22035
Voter Registration: 703-222-0776, TTY 711
Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725

Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov
Election Officer Info: 703-324-4735, TTY 711

For 24-hour recorded information call 703-324-4700

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Meeting on VDOT Proposed Pilot

To the editor:

VDOT's Proposed Pilot Project to limit access to the Beltway off Georgetown Pike between 2 and 7 pm on weekdays will be discussed at an upcoming public meeting on Oct. 18.,2018 at 7 p.m. at the McLean High School.

This proposal is designed to relieve the cut-through traffic currently adversely impacting residential neighborhoods in Great Falls and McLean without adversely impacting peak hour traffic over the American Legion Bridge into Maryland.

In northern Virginia, rapid economic growth in eastern Loudoun County and the Tyson's Corner areas have greatly increased evening traffic and the numbers of vehicles seeking to enter Maryland via the American Legion Bridge via the Georgetown Pike causing significant problems in residential neighborhoods in the area.

Long term our traffic problems will continue to grow worse until the number of lanes crossing the Potomac River is expanded. Early engineering studies of these issues in both Virginia and Maryland are underway, but actual construction seems years or even decades away. Thus we need interim solutions.

I hope that all concerned citizens will attend the Oct. 18 public meeting, learn more about VDOT's

analysis about the impacts of the proposed action and register comments on their support of or opposition to this proposal.

Vic Kimm
McLean

Northern Virginians Deserve Better

To the Editor:

Over the past 19 months a Republican Congress and Administration have continued to chip away at Obamacare (Affordable Care Act) with U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) toeing the party

line. Cutting subsidy payments, shortening the enrollment period to sign up, eliminating funds to nonprofits that assist with enrollment and ending the employer mandate have meant higher costs for families. Already high, premium costs are predicted to spike next year. Cigna and CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, both of which offer plans in Virginia under Obamacare, have filed for increases with the Virginia Bureau of Insurance. CareFirst requested a 64 percent increase; Cigna an average premium hike of 15 percent.

Jennifer Wexton, candidate for the 10th Congressional District and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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LETTER

Volunteer Drivers Needed For Great Falls Charity

To the Editor:

A new organization has been formed to provide assistance to Great Falls senior citizens aging in place. The Shepherd's Center of Great Falls (SCGF) will offer free rides to non-driving seniors, transporting them to medical and other critical appointments. Often the elderly who have lost the ability to drive – whether temporarily or permanently – become isolated socially and physically, and the cost and difficulties of getting transportation to critical appointments become an obstacle to proper care and good health.

Shepherd's Centers are operating in more than 60 towns and cities across the U.S.

SCGF's ride service operates as follows:

- ❖ Screened seniors who are accepted into the program make a ride request for a certain day and time, to a certain place.

- ❖ Screened driver volunteers view ride requests online (24x7) and can accept rides that match their schedule and preferences. There is never an obligation for a volunteer to accept any particular ride or to drive any minimum number of times.

- ❖ The volunteer drives his/her car and provides the fuel. Out of pocket trip costs such as parking are the responsibility of the rider. Miles driven are tax deductible as a charitable contribution on state and federal tax returns.

SCGF is hoping to start providing rides in November and building a team of volunteers now is a critical need for us. Volunteers receive background checks, paid for by SCGF, and training before their first ride. Typical volunteers are retirees, stay at home parents, people with flexible or at-home work, and even high-school and college students. The only requirement is a minimum age of 18 and a good driving record.

People who are looking to meet others in Great Falls and like to have personal contact with the people they are helping make great volunteers. Shepherd's Center volunteers tell heartwarming stories of interesting people they've met and seniors they've developed great relationships with. It is very rewarding to have direct contact with people you are helping. Volunteers also enjoy the freedom and flexibility ride service allows to volunteer when it's convenient for them. Students get the added value of getting service credits at their school or college for their volunteer time.

For more information on SCGF, volunteering, riding, or making donations, visit SCGF's website at theSCGF.org or call 703-586-9696. They can be reached by mail at PO Box 64, Great Falls VA 22066.

Philip Pifer

Great Falls/SCGF President

Senior Center October Events

Great Falls Senior Center has announced the following events for October:

- ❖ Oct. 12, 1-3 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, Great Decisions, South Africa's Fragile Democracy

- ❖ Oct. 16, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, Dr. Matthew A. Greenhouse discusses the James Webb Space Telescope Project. Reservations are a must. Send reservations to pollyfitz1@verizon.net or

call Polly at 703-759-4345.

Give Back Donation this month is laundry detergent.

Oct. 22, Technology Workshop, 1-3 p.m. at the Great Falls Library.

Email your questions regarding photo management or one on one help

Space is limited; RSVP early, *no later than Oct. 15*. RSVP to: GFSCTECH@GMAIL.COM



COURTESY OF GENE PHILLIP

Living Rosary

Families of Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Great Falls participated in a Living Rosary on Sunday evening, Oct. 7, in celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The feast goes back to the 16th century when Pope Pius V asked Catholics to pray the rosary to protect Catholic lands.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

THROUGH SUNDAY/OCT. 14

Vienna Wireless Society Celebrates. This year marks the 55th anniversary of the Vienna Wireless Society (VWS), the premier Amateur Radio Club in Northern Virginia. Learn more about amateur radio or VWS at viennawireless.net.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 10

Great Falls Historical Society Program. 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Speaker Carole Herrick is author of "Ambitious Failure: The First Bridge Across the Potomac River." Free and open to the public. Visit gfhs.org.

Author Event: Immaculée

Ilibagiza. 7-9:30 p.m. at Oakcrest School. Immaculée Ilibagiza will speak at Oakcrest School about finding God in the midst of the horrors of the Rwandan genocide. Free and open to the public. There will be a book signing after the program. Seating is limited, pre-registration at bit.ly/oakcrestimmaculee is required. Learn more at Oakcrest.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 12

Riverbend Bird Walks. 8-10 a.m. at Riverbend Park - Visitor Center, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Riverbend Park is offering free birding walks in October. Participants should be prepared to walk about two miles in comfortable, closed-toed shoes. There likely will be gentle uphill and downhill stretches on slightly uneven terrain. Bring binoculars. Rain or shine. Call 703-759-9018, or stop by the Visitors' Center front desk to register.

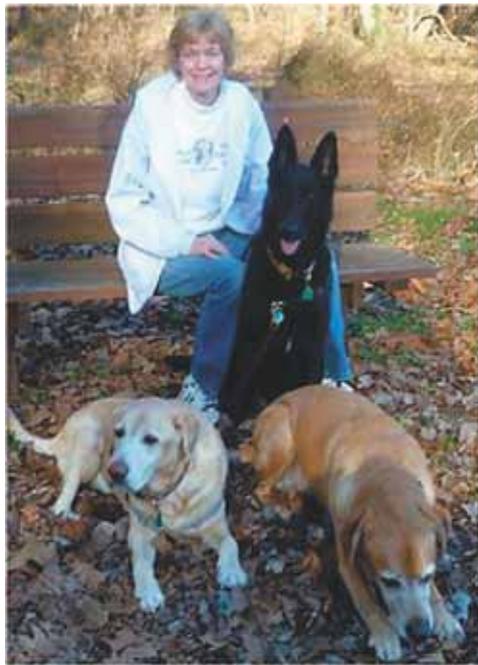
Movie: "Jurassic Park" (1993). 7 p.m. at The Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Revisit (or discover) the Spielberg movie that spawned a whole army of sequels. Then, join The Alden on Saturday, Nov. 17, for "Hold on to Your Butts," the ingenious and hilarious live, two-person-plus-Foley-artist, scene-for-scene recreation of the movie. \$4; \$2 MCC district residents. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 13

Bulb Sale. 8 a.m.-noon at Town of Vienna Farmers Market, on the grounds of the Vienna Community Center. The Ayr Hill Garden Club presents its annual bulb sale supporting the community gardening efforts of the Ayr Hill Garden Club. Email emilielarson@rcn.com.

LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at all Fairfax County Fire Stations. In celebration of Fire Prevention Week, all Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will be hosting an Open House. Stop by a local station that day to meet firefighters, see the fire trucks, join in the activities and learn about fire safety. Find a local Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department Fire Station at bit.ly/2ReXaHk.

Halloween on the Green. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the Town Green. The Town of Vienna is getting in early on spooky fun for children ages 2-10. Costumed kiddos are invited to haunt away at Halloween on the Green. The fun includes crafts, games and prizes, storytelling, moon bounces, a petting zoo, goodies, two Vienna Singing Princesses, and a chance to carve or paint pumpkins. Free and open to the public. In the event of inclement weather, call 703-255-7842 for event status.



Vienna's Anne Davis and Team 'Rudy's Friends' are taking part in DogFest DC Benefiting Canine Companions for Independence



Debra and Stephen Push, of McLean.

DogFest Walk 'n Roll DC

Last year, hundreds joined in the biggest celebration to support Canine Companions for Independence with an agility course, demonstrations, treats, freebies, raffles, and best of all, stories of graduate teams who live and work in and around D.C. Admission is free, parking is free and our event is accessible. Create a fundraising page and share the story of a family pet. Saturday, Oct. 13, 11:30 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Visit cci.org or call 1-800-572-BARK.

14th Annual Merrifield Fall Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mosaic District. Presented by the Greater Merrifield Business Association (GMBA), in conjunction with URBNmarket and Mosaic, and held will be in the heart of the Mosaic District with food vendors, a beer garden, music and entertainment, as well as a pre-holiday handmade and vintage market. Children's activities including: Vienna Singing Princesses, pumpkin painting, face painting, hair braiding, sack races, karate, peace mural painting, carnival games and more. Visit greatermerrifield.org/merrifield-fall-festival.

Improv Master Class for Teens. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at MCC Class Programs/Registration Office, 6645 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Participants will learn several games they can play just about anywhere, learn how to develop scenes, create characters within seconds and learn exercises to help create "group mind" to better work and act together. Designed for 9th-12th graders who are on an improv team, who are involved in theater or are interested in improvisation. \$8, \$5 MCC district residents. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

Indie Author Day Celebration. 3-5 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Northern Virginia is fertile ground for writers. Drop in and meet some of them. Find new books and authors. Learn about the experiences of independent writers in developing their craft and getting their work published. Featured authors include: Russell Ginns (Children's Fiction), Joyce C. Grand (Fiction); Aimee Hix (MYS), Margaret Placentia Johnston (Religion); Donna Migliaccio (Fantasy), and Martin Wilsey (SciFi). All ages. Call 703-938-0405 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4402316.

Opening Concert: Tysons McLean Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. at The Falls Church Episcopal auditorium, 115 E.

Fairfax St., Falls Church. Opening concert of Tysons McLean Orchestra's 49th season. European Travelogue featuring Miriam Burns, Music Director and Conductor with soloist Sean Lee, violinist performing Rossini L'italiana in Alferi; Wieniawski Violin Concerto Number 2 in D. minor. Adults \$40, seniors \$30, youth/educators \$15. Visit tysonsmcleanorchestra.org or call 703-893-8646.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 13-14

Make a Scarecrow. Noon-2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Make a "friend" for the garden or lawn. Bring pants and a shirt to outfit a scarecrow, plus an old pair of panty hose for the head and body. The folks at Colvin Run will supply the stuffing and know-how. No reservations required. \$6 per scarecrow. Panty hose can be purchased on site for an additional \$1. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

"A Tuna Christmas." Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. at Vinson Hall Community Building Ballroom, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean. The McLean Community Players will present "A Tuna Christmas" by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard. "A Tuna Christmas" is the second in a series of comedic plays set in the fictional town of Tuna, the third-smallest town in Texas. MCP's cast of seven will play 22 roles. \$18-\$20 at 1-800-838-3006, www.McLeanPlayers.org or at the door.

SUNDAY/OCT. 14

Reston Chorale Concert. 4 p.m. at Saint Luke's Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Reston Chorale "Out of the Shadows" concert highlights 900 years of music composed by women. Guest artists are Ysaye Barnwell, composer and former member of Sweet Honey in the Rock and P. Lucy McVeigh, soprano. Tickets are \$20-\$25 on line; \$25-\$30 at door. Active military and youth under 17 free. Visit www.RestonChorale.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 17

Dinner with a Cop. 6-7:30 p.m. at

Dranesville United Methodist Church, 1089 Liberty Meeting Court, Great Falls. Enjoy visiting with our special guest, Officer Horita from Fairfax County Police who will host a "no-agenda" discussion about crime concerns in our area. All are welcome. Free. Dinner provided. Desserts to share are welcomed. RSVP to help plan food to wendy@dranesvilleumc.org. Walk-ins also welcome. Call 703-430-3137 or visit www.dranesvilleumc.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 19

Dining with Dorothy. 12:30 p.m. at Red Galenga Modern Asian, 144 Church St NW, Vienna. Join with friends or make new ones. Newcomers are always welcome. To reserve space, contact event chair, Dorothy Flood at dflood1706@gmail.com.

The Old Firehouse Haunted Friday Night Trip. 4:30-11 p.m., leave from The Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Teens can get in the Halloween spirit and spend a spooky Friday night with the Old Firehouse. Only the brave-hearted are invited on this journey. The night will start with a group dinner beforehand so participants can stay alert for ghosts, zombies and whatever creepy creatures might appear in the night. \$60, \$50 MCC district residents. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 19-20

"Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight." 8 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Kathleen Barth makes her Vienna Theatre Company directorial debut when "Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight" is staged the final two weekends of October and the first weekend of November. Tickets are \$14. Advance tickets may be purchased online at viennava.gov/webtrac or in person at the community center; if available, tickets may be purchased at the door.

SATURDAY/OCT. 20

Riverbend Bird Walks. 8-10 a.m. at Riverbend Park - Nature Center, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls.

Riverbend Park is offering free birding walks in October. Participants should be prepared to walk about two miles in comfortable, closed-toed shoes. There likely will be gentle uphill and downhill stretches on slightly uneven terrain. Bring binoculars. Rain or shine. Call 703-759-9018, or stop by the Visitors' Center front desk to register.

Bulb Sale. 8 a.m.-noon at Town of Vienna Farmers Market, on the grounds of the Vienna Community Center. The Ayr Hill Garden Club presents its annual bulb sale supporting the community gardening efforts of the Ayr Hill Garden Club. Email emilielarson@rcn.com.

Lax-O-Ween Tournament. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Lax-O-Ween 2018 is sponsored by JMHS Athletic Boosters. \$65. Email monicaschmude@yahoo.com.

Becky Love Foundation 5K/1K Fun Run. 9-11 a.m. at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Walk or run to support those who struggle, have lost a loved one or have been affected by mental illness or depression. Race proceeds fund tools for those impacted. \$35. Email sarah.blfound@gmail.com or visit www.beckylovefoundation.org/events-1/5k-for-mental-health. See www.beckylovefoundation.org for a map and more details.

Tea Tasting Seminar. 1-3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Exploring Teas of the Himalayas - this focused tea tasting seminar with Certified Tea Specialist Chef Laurie Bell will awaken taste buds to high grown premium teas. Tea infused treats and a take home tea sampler included. \$35. Use class activity code 266 407 0501 and visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-222-4664 to register.

Uncorking a Rich, Full Life. 5-8 p.m. at the home of Supervisor John Foust and Dr. Marilyn Jerome Foust. Wine/Beer Tasting and Benefit Auction to raises funds for Langley Residential Support Services programs and activities. Discover the perfect wine or beer for upcoming holiday meals and gatherings, enjoy a delicious buffet of hearty hors d'oeuvres, socialize and network with interesting people, and bid on great silent and live auction items. \$100 per person. Visit www.langleyresidential.org/wine-beer-tasting-benefit-auction.html to register.

Make our Garden Grow: Music of Bernstein and Sondheim. 8 p.m. at Church of the Holy Cross, 2455 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Voce Chamber Singers joins the worldwide celebration of the 100th anniversary of Bernstein's birth. Join the celebration to kick off Voce's 30th anniversary season. \$25 general admission; \$20 age 62+; \$10 student (18+); children under 18 free. Call 703-277-7772 or visit www.voce.org.

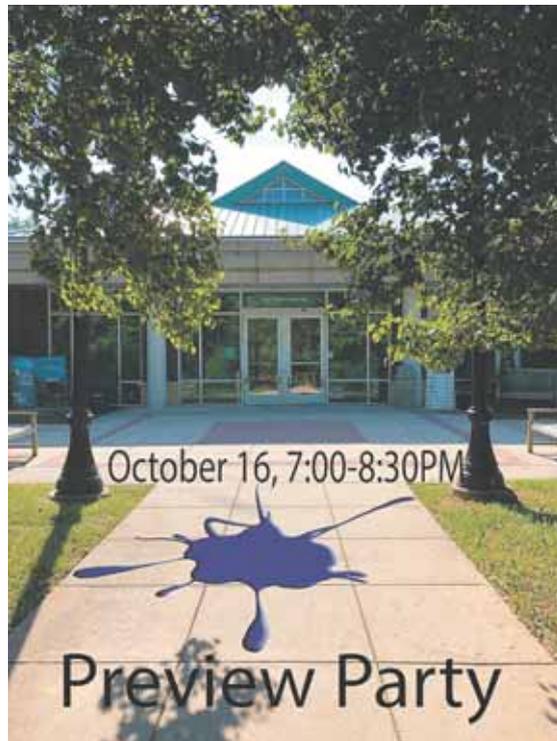
SUNDAY/OCT. 21

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-noon at Vienna American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Vienna. Get omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy and more. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$4. Call 703-938-6580.

20th Anniversary Gala. 5:30-10 p.m. at Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna hosts 20th Anniversary Gala featuring Entertainers Bobby McKey's Dueling Pianos. Join the party for an evening of laughter, singing and dancing as SCOV celebrates their 20th anniversary of service to the community. Visit www.scovgala.org or call 703-281-0538.

NEWS

The Preview Party will be at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike on Tuesday, Oct. 16 from 7 to 8.30 p.m.



Great Falls Studios to Host Art Tour 2018, Preview Oct. 16

Great Falls Studios 15th annual Art Tour will begin Friday, Oct. 19, and run through Saturday and Sunday.

The Studios invite art lovers to the Preview Party to be held at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike on Tuesday, Oct. 16 from 7 to 8.30 p.m. You may preview examples of the artist's art, meet artists, ask questions about the event and more while enjoying refreshments and a little light music.

There will be artist demonstrations from painter Robert Gilbert (using oils and/or

watercolor), photographer Robin Kent (who will demonstrate time lapse photography), printmaker Will Tuthill (who will demo using his Mini Halfwood Press) and painter Parinaz Bahadori (who will demo how she makes art with collage from a hotel room while traveling).

Great Falls Studios thank their major sponsor this year, TD Bank, along with other local sponsors who continue to make it possible for them to host this event.

For more details visit GreatFallsStudios.com/studiotour



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Great Falls Fire House

Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department to Host Open House

National Fire Prevention Week concludes this Saturday with the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department hosting an Open House. Bring the family by for an education-filled event, with activities for the children, games, popcorn, and the always popular fire truck and ambulance climb-aboard. Firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs will be on hand for demonstrations and information. The theme for this year is "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere." It emphasizes three basic but essential steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire — and how to escape safely in the event of one:

❖ "Look" for places fire could start. Take

a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

❖ "Listen" for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.

❖ "Learn" two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department Open House will be held Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 9916 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER

In a coastal home, interior designer Anne Walker chose Capiz shell chandeliers over the dining table and Capiz shell pendants over the kitchen counters. “The result was beautiful and the cost was effective,” she said.

Holiday-Ready Kitchen

Minor changes deliver big impact in time for holiday gatherings.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Though Halloween is still three weeks away, the holidays are not far behind the ghosts and goblins. Thanksgiving ushers in the start of a season of festive entertaining for family and friends. As the kitchen is often a gathering place and command central for celebratory gatherings, this is the time to give your eating space a pre-holiday spruce-up. Local design aficionados say there is still time to make upgrades to make a kitchen welcoming for guests and functional for the chef.

A refrigerator that is functional, spacious and stylish is at the top of the must-do list of Reston-based interior designer Rachel Grandin’s holiday kitchen spruce-up list. “With all of the delicious food that we make during the holidays, it’s critical that we have a space to store it safely,” she said. “If your refrigerator doesn’t seem reliable, this is the perfect time to replace it. A stainless steel French double-door refrigerator can hold a large turkey and all of the sides, but more importantly it’s eye-catching and chic and will probably be one of the first things guests notice when they enter your kitchen. It’s a quick way to give your kitchen an updated look.”

Lighting is a critical element in any kitchen, advises Potomac-based Anne Walker, “Changing a light fixture might be the easiest and quickest way to make a big design statement before the holidays,” she said. “In a Potomac kitchen I designed, sea glass beaded pendant lights, which reference not only the shimmering aqua glass backsplash tiles, but also the custom Willem Smith bar stools with aqua leather seats.”

New flooring can take the design of a kitchen to

the next level, says Alexandria-based interior designer Courtney Grace, “Right now, I see hardwood and ceramic tile flooring as being on trend,” she said. “I just finished a kitchen for a client and we installed ceramic tile that was actually made to look like wood. So she was able to get the look she wanted, but with a material that was more durable. New flooring can really transform a space without the expense and the time of total kitchen remodel. Choose something durable, for the holidays and beyond.”

If you’re on a budget, consider a new kitchen rug, advises Grace. “Rugs can add color and warmth to a kitchen, and an indoor-outdoor rug can stand up to high-traffic and things like spills.”

Cabinets are usually the biggest part of any kitchen design and renovation project, advises Walker “If your cabinets are structurally sound, you can save a lot of money, but make a huge impact by having the cabinets professionally painted.”

Gray is still the most popular color for kitchen cabinets, followed closely by white, suggests Walker. “I recently renovated a small, charming home for resale, and did just this: had the kitchen cabinets painted a soft shade of gray,” she said. “What a difference. You will want to have a professional paint the cabinets for you. This is not the time for DIY. With all of the heat, grease, and daily use, paint can easily chip if not applied professionally.”

Walker also recommends new cabinet hardware. “Soft brass and bronze has made a resurgence in popularity lately, so if the other elements of your kitchen, [such as] paint color and light fixtures would support it, warm brass hardware would add an elegant, updated look to your kitchen,” she said.

A new coat of paint is a simple change that can make a big impact, advises Walker. “Walls and trim get so much wear and tear in a kitchen” she said. “It’s the room we use most, and it takes a beating. Make sure to use a medium sheen so it will be wipeable. I most often use Farrow & Ball’s Modern Emulsion in kitchens. Their colors are sublime and the paint holds up well in high traffic areas.”

“Changing a light fixture might be the easiest and quickest way to make a big design statement before the holidays.”

— Anne Walker, Anne Walker Design LLC

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Potomac School dignitaries participate in the groundbreaking. From left: Matthew Giuliano '19, president of the Student Government Association; John Mathews, head of the Middle and Intermediate Schools; Nancy Powell, head of the Lower School; John Kowalik, head of school; Dr. Marjorie Brennan, chair of the Board of Trustees; Tim Jaeger, assistant head of school; Doug McLane, head of the Upper School; Daija Yisrael '19, vice president of the Student Government Association.

Potomac School Breaks Ground on Center for Athletics, Community

Rain was in the forecast for Sept. 7, the first Friday of the new academic year at The Potomac School, but sunny skies prevailed, allowing the school's traditional Opening Assembly to be held outdoors as planned.

The annual ceremony includes a procession of seniors and kindergartners, remarks of welcome, and the presentation of Potomac's Excellent Teaching Award. This year, something special and entirely new was added to these traditions: a ceremonial groundbreaking for the school's Center for Athletics and Community.

Technically, the ground at the construction site was broken before the school year began, with site preparation having gotten underway in July. But with the students back on campus, this was the first opportunity for the Potomac community to celebrate this milestone moment together.

Head of School John Kowalik notes, "This new building is for the benefit of our students, and we want them to be informed and excited about it. So we decided to hold our groundbreaking at a time and place where the students could be part of the fun."

And fun it was, with members of the Potomac School community donning white construction hats and the school's mascot, the Potomac Panther, distributing the ceremonial shovels and high-fiving the groundbreakers as they prepared to turn over dirt that had been trucked in from the construction site.

POTOMAC SCHOOLS 76,500-square-foot Center for Athletics and Community will include a gymnasium with one competition basketball court and three practice courts; an indoor jogging track; seven squash courts; a weight room, cardio room, and multipurpose activity room; and flexible gathering spaces. In combination with the school's existing facilities, the center will support an athletics program that fields teams in 26 interscholastic sports. In addition, the new facility will meet the school's need for an indoor gathering space large enough to accommodate the entire Potomac School community.

John Kowalik explains, "Potomac is committed to being a connected community, and we have events throughout the academic year that are designed to bring our entire K-12 community together. With 1,050 students plus faculty and staff — and, for some events, parents — we do not have an interior space large enough to accommodate everyone. We can hold certain events outdoors; but when the weather fails to cooperate, we have to move into our current gym and decide whom to exclude. Not a happy decision — and one that we will no longer have to face when the new center comes on line."

He adds, "The limitations of our current athletic facilities also affect scheduling, negatively impacting both athletics and academics. The new center will give us increased flexibility and be an important asset for our overall program."

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REAL ESTATE

McLean & Great Falls Quarterly Market Analysis of Home Sales (Based on Final Closed Price):

| 1 st to 3 rd 2018 compared to 1 st to 3 rd 2017 and 2008 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|---|----------------|----------------|------------|
| 2018 1 st to 3 rd Total Sales: 861 | | | | | | |
| Zip Code | >\$3 Mil | \$2-3 Mil | \$1.25-2 Mil | \$1-\$1.25 Mil | \$750k-\$1 Mil | <\$750k |
| 22101 | 18 | 34 | 102 | 51 | 127 | 44 |
| 22102 | 7 | 9 | 31 | 26 | 41 | 192 |
| 22066 | 0 | 4 | 49 | 36 | 64 | 26 |
| Total: | 25 | 47 | 182 | 113 | 232 | 262 |
| Combined Total Upper Brackets: 254 | | | Combined Total Lower Brackets: 607 | | | |
| 2017 1 st to 3 rd Total Sales: 938 | | | | | | |
| Zip Code | >\$3 Mil | \$2-3 Mil | \$1.25-2 Mil | \$1-\$1.25 Mil | \$750k-\$1 Mil | <\$750k |
| 22101 | 15 | 30 | 110 | 73 | 139 | 59 |
| 22102 | 8 | 11 | 31 | 22 | 35 | 217 |
| 22066 | 4 | 9 | 40 | 43 | 75 | 17 |
| Total: | 27 | 50 | 181 | 138 | 249 | 293 |
| Combined Total Upper Brackets: 258 | | | Combined Total Lower Brackets: 680 | | | |
| 2008 1 st to 3 rd Total Sales: 590 | | | | | | |
| Zip Code | >\$3 Mil | \$2-3 Mil | \$1.25-2 Mil | \$1-\$1.25 Mil | \$750k-\$1 Mil | <\$750k |
| 22101 | 8 | 16 | 47 | 25 | 55 | 113 |
| 22102 | 8 | 15 | 20 | 5 | 22 | 128 |
| 22066 | 4 | 9 | 37 | 23 | 36 | 19 |
| Total: | 20 | 40 | 104 | 53 | 113 | 260 |
| Combined Total Upper Brackets: 164 | | | Combined Total Lower Brackets: 426 | | | |

Three Quarters Softer Than Last Year McLean and Great Falls real estate market first through third quarter comparison 2018 to 2017 to 2008.

BY KAREN BRISCOE



The number of real estate transactions in McLean and Great Falls closed out the first three quarters 2018 softer than in the same time period in 2017, with 861 transactions compared to 938 the previous year.

To provide perspective to the 2008 market a decade ago, 2018 is up over 45 percent. The market shift has likely occurred for several reasons.

First, inventory levels in many segments are low relative to demand. Buyers do not have as many choices available, particularly in the lower price points. In those market dynamics, buyers are faced with several options. Either they raise their price point, make concessions, or put their move on hold until more choices became available. Many are still sitting on the sidelines waiting for prices to be in line with the market and/or for more inventories to become available.

Second, interest rates are up over the historic lows. Buyer's purchasing power is affected as interest rates rise. In some cases interest rates increasing can have a positive market effect as buyers have urgency to purchase and lock in the rate.

Note that in comparison to the 2008 market a decade ago, all brackets have improved considerably.

Inside the beltway McLean zip code of 22101 continues to remain the strongest due to the most housing type options and proximity to DC metro center. Outside the beltway McLean zip code of 22102 offers both condos in the Tysons market as well as estate style houses on large lots. That area is a bit down year over year. Great Falls zip code 22066 remains generally flat year to date 2018 over 2017.

As we move into the final quarter of 2018, there are strong indications that homes priced well and in good condition will sell for solid prices. Should demand continue to remain strong relative to supply, some market segments may experience price appreciation.

The final quarter 2018 is poised for strong activity. Home buyers in the area can still purchase with the confidence that purchasing in an up market cycle frequently proves advantageous over time. Now is the time to work with professional agent to be in your new home before 2019!

Karen Briscoe with HBC Group at Keller Williams is an active and experienced Realtor® in the Northern Virginia marketplace. Karen, alongside her partner Lizzy Conroy and team, works with sellers, buyers, investors and builders in all price ranges. www.HBCGroupKW.com, 703-734-0192, Homes@HBCGroupKW.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

SOBER-RIDE FOR HALLOWEEN

Free Sober Rides. Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 28, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 5 p.m. on Oct. 27 on

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

www.SoberRide.com. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 10

Walk to School. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will participate in International Walk to School Day in

an effort to promote physical activity and reduce traffic congestion and pollution near schools. Students and employees are encouraged to bike or walk to school and work. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children to school, and to work with

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 18

their school and PTA or PTO to assemble bike trains or walking groups for the event. FCPS has compiled information on walking and biking to school, including information on applying for grants and safety tips at www.fcps.edu/resources/safety-and-transportation/transportation-services/safe-routes-school-srts. Motorists are urged to be vigilant of bikers and pedestrians on Bike to School Day.

THURSDAY/OCT. 11

Hispanic Connect NOVA. 8:30-9:30 a.m. at 8300 Boone Blvd., in the Partners' Conference Room, Suite 450, Vienna. Join the Virginia Hispanic Chamber for this recurring event series designed for chamber members and newcomers alike. Members, business owners, community leaders, entrepreneurs and more connect with their peers, share ideas and gain useful knowledge. RSVP at www.vahec.com/hispanic-connect-nova.

Post-Secondary Education Options - Coffee and Conversation. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. In this workshop hosted by FCPS Career and Transition Services, find information on post-secondary education options for students with disabilities. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center to register.

New and Prospective Member Orientation. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Tower Club, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 1700, Vienna. Learn more about the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce and how to make the most of a membership through the various events, committees, member benefits and marketing opportunities. Meet the Chamber staff and hear from Board Members how membership benefits small, medium, large and non-profit companies. Registration is required. Free for new and prospective members. Sandwiches provided. Visit www.tysonschamber.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 12

Rethink Church, Rethink Mission Conference. 7-9 p.m. at McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Hear from authors David Platt ("Radical"), Francis Chan ("Crazy Love") and Andrew Scott ("Scatter") as they cast clear vision for every Christian to go and make disciples. \$25. Visit crazylove.scatterglobal.com for tickets.

SATURDAY/OCT. 13

Spiritual Gifts Workshop. 9:30-3 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Fairfax. This workshop is an opportunity for to discover hidden spiritual gifts and talents. BYO lunch (refrigerator and/or microwave available). Free (donations appreciated). Call 703-239-2471 or visit www.eventbrite.com/e/spiritual-gifts-workshop-tickets-50920594870 for tickets.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 17

Hormone Seminar. 6-7 p.m. at Rose Wellness, 2944 Hunter Mill Road, Suite 101, Oakton. Functional Medicine Physician Sushma Hirani and Acupuncturist Virginia Mitchell will speak about their integrative approach for balancing male and female hormones and the various health benefits of acupuncture. Free. Call 571-529-6699, option 3 to RSVP or visit www.rosewellness.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 4

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News I Know Now - And You Do, Too



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Stay the course. Meaning, to write short a long story: same three week chemotherapy interval, same medicine/dosage, same quarterly scan to be followed up by usual and customary same post-scan appointment nine days later with my same diagnosis-to-date oncologist.

The reason being, to lengthen a short paragraph: the tumors that had slowly progressed - which at some point, generally speaking, was not totally unexpected, given the underlying diagnosis, and which had precipitated the most recent series of columns exploring my anxiety concerning tumor growth after five-plus years of mostly "stable" CT scan results - have once again been stabilized.

My doctor's thinking/hope is that returning me to the more aggressive/frequent treatment interval: three weeks between chemotherapy infusions versus the previous seven-week infusion intervals, might have nipped the previous growth in the bud; not enough medicine and too infrequently administered. However, just a theory because I did have a tumor, previously noted radiologically but mostly off the radar that has grown significantly.

But the doctors can't say with any certainty if this 'significant' growth occurred during the preceding months when my treatment interval had been extended to seven weeks or had it grown during the most recent seven weeks when I had three separate infusions and thus had actually stopped the growth as compared to the October 2017 scan referenced by the radiologist.

Not knowing definitively which scenario was correct, and rather than switch off the horse that we rode in on so successfully, we decided to commit to another familiar quarter of alimta every three weeks, etc., and re-assess in 12 weeks when my next typically/regularly scheduled CT scan will occur. Then we can re-evaluate our options.

If in the interim however, I feel this newly acknowledged tumor growing, and given its location directly under my Adam's Apple, it's likely I will feel/see something unlike I would with any of the other tumors located throughout my lungs, I will, as they say, alert the authorities.

To be clear - as clear as layman Kenny can be after hearing an oncologist's answer to one of Kenny's muddled what-if cancer questions - this currently focused-on tumor does not represent "spread" movement in non-medical terms. And movement/"spread" in the cancer-patient's world is not good. So far as I understand anyway.

However thankful I am that this tumor's appearance doesn't indicate 'spread,' its growth is nonetheless concerning. Unfortunately, for our sanity, the best course of action, all things considered, per Friday's appointment/discussion/agreed-on strategy going forward, is to wait and see.

Hardly ideal. But in the cancer treatment business, there is some reactive rather than proactive pursuits.

As much as I want and expect my oncologist to know answers/outcomes in advance, he doesn't/just can't. Cancer is in control and what it decides to do is anybody's guess. For my oncologist, it's an educated guess. For the patient (yours truly, anyway), it's not a guess, it's a hope and a prayer.

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

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