The calm before the storm. Staff from the county’s Office of Emergency Management “at work” in the OEM’s Alternate Emergency Operation Center, giving insight into the department’s operations before participating in a statewide tornado response drill.
McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

2019 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS

The Governing Board and staff of the McLean Community Center (MCC) strongly encourage all qualified residents to vote for members of MCC’s 2019-2020 Governing Board. Your vote sends a very important message of your support of the Center’s programs and services.

Requirements to Vote:
1. You must be a resident of the MCC’s tax district (Dranesville Small District 1A); however, you need not be registered to vote in the general election.
2. You must be at least 18 years old to vote for an adult candidate. Adults may vote for up to three candidates. Teens turning 18 on or before McLean Day may only vote for adult candidates.
3. You must be 15 through 17 years old by McLean Day to vote for youth candidates. Youths have two votes and may vote for one candidate in the McLean High School boundary area, and one candidate in the Langley High School boundary area. Youths may not vote for more than one candidate in the same boundary area.
4. You must bring identification and proof of residency, such as a driver’s license. If you do not have identification, you may sign an affidavit.

When & Where:
Vote between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., at the McLean Day 2019 festival on Saturday, May 18, at Lewisville Park, 1559 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, Va. 22101.

Absentee Voting:
Want to vote, but can’t make it to the McLean Day festival on May 18? Vote by absentee ballot now through May 19! Call the Center at 703-744-9346 or send a request by email to elections@mcleancommunitycenter.org to have a ballot package sent to your home. You may pick up a ballot or vote at the Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., or The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd. Completed absentee voting affidavits and ballots must be returned to either site by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15, to be counted.

Write-in candidates are allowed and must have at least 10 votes from residents of the Center’s tax district in order to have their votes counted. For youth write-in candidates, the 10 votes must come from teens who live within the same high school boundary area as the candidate.

ADULT CANDIDATES Three positions open

Maria Federano-Guerin
mariaformccboard@gmail.com
I am excited to be a candidate for the board of the McLean Community Center, which has served my family for 14 years. We have greatly enjoyed the variety of events and offerings, and have strong ties with the Center’s many arts programs. I am a community leader and have volunteered extensively to support the theater and other programs. My experience in the arts and in community service will enable me to contribute to the Center’s mission of enriching the lives of all our members.

Suzanne Le Mensch
suzanne4mclean@gmail.com
I have been a Mclean resident for over 15 years. I am honored to be running for the Board. My family has lived in McLean for over 50 years, and I am committed to preserving the community we love. I am dedicated to supporting the arts, education, and recreation programs offered by the Center. My background in business and community service will enable me to effectively represent the community and be a strong advocate for its needs.

Sun Park
sunpark99@gmail.com
I am running to amplify the voices of young professionals, who are the future of McLean. We are the ones who will shape the community of our time. I believe that the McLean Community Center is an important resource for our community, and I am committed to ensuring that it remains a vibrant and dynamic place for all.

Carla Post
carlecommunity@gmail.com
Our family moved to McLean in 2008 and immediately fell in love with the wonderful community. Throughout the years, we have been privileged to see so many wonderful programs and events that have enriched our lives. I am excited to bring my skills and experience to the Board and work with others to continue to strengthen the programs and services that make McLean such a special place.

Barbara Pretacio
barbarapretacio@gmail.com
McLean has been my home for as long as I can remember. I am committed to preserving the community and ensuring that it remains a vibrant and dynamic place for all. I am dedicated to supporting the arts and providing opportunities for all members of the community.

YOUTH CANDIDATES Two positions open

Ali Z Ashraf
aliez.ashraf@gmail.com
I moved to McLean four years ago in eighth grade. Since then, I have had the opportunity to enjoy the many programs and events offered by the McLean Community Center. I am excited to bring my passion for the arts and my dedication to community service to the Board of Directors. As a candidate, I aim to ensure that the Center continues to provide enriching programs and activities for all members.

Anna Krause-Steenra
annakrause22@gmail.com
I have lived in McLean my entire life. I am excited to be running for the Board of Directors. I have a strong sense of community and I believe that the McLean Community Center is an important resource for our community. I am committed to ensuring that the Center remains a vibrant and dynamic place for all.

Megan Markwart
iltmarkwart@gmail.com
I am running for the Board of Directors because I believe that it is an opportunity to give back to a community that has given so much to me. I am passionate about ensuring that the McLean Community Center continues to provide enriching programs and activities for all members.

Sabrina Benmira
sabrinae703@gmail.com
McLean has been my home for as long as I can remember. I am committed to ensuring that the community remains a vibrant and dynamic place for all. I am dedicated to supporting the arts and providing opportunities for all members of the community.

Xavier Jimenez
xavierjimenez52@gmail.com
I am running for the Board of Directors because I believe that it is an opportunity to give back to a community that has given so much to me. I am passionate about ensuring that the McLean Community Center continues to provide enriching programs and activities for all members.

Lindsea Stresler
lcstresler@gmail.com
My name is Lindsea Stresler and I’m a junior at McLean High School. I am excited to be running for the Board because I believe that it is an opportunity to give back to a community that has given so much to me. I am dedicated to ensuring that the McLean Community Center remains a vibrant and dynamic place for all.

Meet the Candidates!
1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Va. 22101
703-790-0123/TTY 711
www.mcleancommunitycenter.org
Planning for Disaster

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

High winds are tearing through Fairfax County. Maybe a tornado? There is structural damage to a number of local businesses. Power lines are down, so there are outages being reported. No lights, so traffic is snarled at several major intersections, and some of those downed lines sparked a fire along a heavily-travelled “back road” in the area with the danger of trees falling, as well. The sudden, lashing rain will probably help extinguish the fire, but the overflowing stream on your route has blocked your way home with dangerous flood waters and debris. Is that other road similarly affected? How will you know before you try it?

It’s almost four o’clock in the afternoon. Did your kids get home safely? What about your spouse? Will he or she be able to find a way home, and soon? You keep trying to call them all, but the cell phone system is overwhelmed. And what about your parents? They live in an area prone to flooding with lots of old trees that may not stand up to this onslaught from Mother Nature. Your mom just had knee surgery. She can’t get around too well. Will anyone in her neighborhood check on them and help out if need be?

All of the above may sound like the plot line from a disaster movie, but Fairfax County government and emergency management personnel know that one emergency event can easily trigger another, and another, and within minutes that fictitious script can become reality with chaotic, and potentially deadly, consequences.

They want you to be prepared to help yourself and help others by asking yourself “what if?” instead of “now what?” and planning ahead for those often unexpected moments of danger.

It was no accident that county officials chose Tuesday, March 19 — the same day that the Commonwealth was conducting a state-wide tornado drill — to launch CERG, the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Guide.

Tornadoes are one of the deadliest and most damaging of natural disasters. They can be the trigger for more causes for concern — and they are one of 14 natural and human-caused hazard scenarios, and three “everyday” emergencies, covered in the CERG.

From extreme weather incidents like tornadoes, hurricanes or tropical storms, to man-made actions including cyber attacks, acts of terrorism and danger from chemical, biological or other agents, to structural fires, power outages and medical emergencies, there are practical steps to take to mitigate many of these events, and important actions to take during and after the crisis. The CERG outlines them all and offers additional resources to help citizens prepare and produce the best possible outcomes for themselves, their families and their neighbors.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova opened the session to launch the guide. She was followed by Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, who also chairs the board’s Public Safety committee.

“We’re proud that Fairfax County is once again taking a leadership role,” said Cook. “We are only the second county in the nation to put together such a comprehensive and accessible resource for our citizens.”

One of the key reasons for their efforts to provide the information was the need for everyone to do their part in working for the safety and wellbeing of the community, Cook said.

The Office of Emergency Management coordinates all hazard mitigation, response and disaster recovery for the residents of Fairfax County. Depending on the severity and the scope of the situation, Cook noted that local emergency services could be stretched to their limits.

In the event of a major disaster, residents may have to act as their “own first responders” and the guide discusses how to be ready to do just that for the first three to five days of a large-scale event.

While not suggesting that private citizens would, or should, assume the major duties of rescue and other responders, Cook, and Seamus Mooney, the OEM’s director, both offered that lives could be saved and the impact of any such catastrophe be reduced if residents prepare and plan for themselves, and look out for others around them.

“The call to 9-1-1 is still the first order of business,” said Mooney, but, again, if the event is severe and/or wide-spread throughout the region, those emergency personnel will be handling hundreds — if not thousands — of calls and prioritizing individual needs and the actions required to bring the situation under control.

The county has a comprehensive plan for response to these and other emergency scenarios and they are highlighted in the CERG, but, more importantly, the guide offers practical before, during, and after advice and resources for our citizenry. It all starts with “Make a Plan.”

The guide discusses the planning assumptions residents have to make. That could mean dealing with no water, no power, limited communications and possibly no access to retail, including pharmacies, no gasoline, and possibly no ATMs for cash or even the ability to use a credit card.

The CERG provides a basic checklist to help develop your plan for yourself, your family, your neighbors, your pets and even your business, if you are a business-owner.

Step 2 in the preparation stage is to “Practice Your Plan” since a plan is only useful if everyone knows it and can execute it quickly during a stress-filled situation.

The final ingredient to the planning stage is to assemble and maintain an Emergency Kit — and again, the CERG is your guide to knowing just what to include and how to safeguard lives and protect important items and documents. All this valuable information is covered in the first 20 or so pages of the more than 80-page reference book.

Next comes the “what to do’s” of response — the “during phase” — covering evacuation strategies, lock-downs and sheltering-in-place as safely as possible.

Resources for the recovery phase are next, from physical clean-ups to how to apply for assistance from local and federal agencies.

Before getting into the specifics of the different emergency scenarios, the CERG offers practical tips on how to mitigate the effects of flooding, fire, and high winds and what you can do to promote a continuity of utility services. There are also mitigation recommendations for shoring-up financial resilience and preparing to make insurance claims to lessen that pain and possibly shorten the wait for benefits.

After the “cheat sheets” for the different types of emergency, the CERG offers more resources, more checklists and templates to make the process as simple as possible, and encourage its use.

Mooney urges residents to sign up for Fairfax Alerts at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts. For residents with physical, sensory, mental health and cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities, as well as women in late-stage pregnancy and seniors, Mooney strongly recommends that they register with the Fairfax County Functional Needs Registry.
Every Year Is Election Year; in 2019 Twice

Primary Election Day, June 11, will determine the outcome of many races in Fairfax County.

First, go to vote.elections.virginia.gov/ VoterInformation and check that you are registered at your current address. Deadline to register to vote, or update an existing registration, is Monday, May 20, 2019.

On Tuesday, June 11, 2019, Primary Election Day for party candidates in Virginia, there will be an astonishing array of candidates on the ballot in Fairfax County. One reason is that many incumbents in local offices are retiring, and that causes a domino effect because incumbents in other offices will step down to run for something different. Change is coming. Voters must pay attention in the primary, so much will be determined.

Budget Equity

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

Increases in budget revenues as a result of federal tax changes and the ability to tax sales on goods purchased on the internet put Virginia in an unusual position to increase its budgeted funds mid-year of a biennial budget while at the same time providing many taxpayers with refunds.

As the fall elections approach the actions on the state budget will receive many different “spins.” Certainly taxpayers like getting money refunded. At the same time they recognize when programs to meet needs are underfunded, they may over a period of time become even more underfunded. It is more than mathematics and accounting to approve a budget when revenues have increased—it is also very much an expression of values on the part of decision makers.

An example of values affecting budgetary decisions came during the Great Recession of 2008. State revenues dipped at the greatest rate in modern times just as many businesses faltered and failed. A great bail-out went to businesses from the federal government as did the state. Many believed in recovery then and budgetary decisions reflected that belief. Now in Virginia’s recovery, the budgetary process which is driven by revenue, must reflect the state’s growth and recovery.

EDITORIAL

On the ballot: Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Sharon Bulova is retiring and there are four candidates in the Democratic primary. (We will miss Bulova, but that is a discussion for another day.)

All nine members of the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot, and in addition to Bulova, Cathy Hudgins, John Cook and Linda Smyth will be stepping down, and Jeff McKay will give up his seat as he is running for chairman. That is guaranteed change for five of nine seats, and more is possible.

All 12 members of Fairfax County School Board are on the ballot, three at-large and Nine District members. Several school board members will give up their seats to run for other offices. (4-year term)

All 40 seats in the Virginia Senate (4-year term) are on the ballot, nine in Fairfax County. All 100 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates (2-year term) are on the ballot, 17 seats in Fairfax County.

There is a rare challenge to the Fairfax County Commonwealth’s Attorney on the primary ballot. (4-year term)

Fairfax County Sheriff is also on the ballot. (4-year term)

Parties control information on primary candidates. See Fairfax County Republican Committee at https://fairfaxgop.org/voter-toolkit/; Fairfax County Democratic Committee at https://fairfaxdemocrats.org/2019/01/14/candidates-running-for-office-in-2019/

— Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Only now has the Virginia economy recovered such that the funding of education today is exceeding that of pre-2008 levels.

COMMENTARY

Major funding to state government. The feds did not match the private losses, but they did provide relief for some greater cuts for programs like education. Only now has the Virginia economy recovered such that the funding of education today is exceeding that of pre-2008 levels.

Beyond simply funding programs and services with more money next year than last year are the equity issues involved in distributing money across programs. My trip to Prince Edward County as I described in my column last week reminded me just how inequitable funding can be. There was no pretense of equity among black and white schools. The whites went to a brick school that was modern for its time; the black children went to school in a tar-paper shanty. With many federal court decisions we have gotten beyond the inequities of segregated services and programs, but inequities still exist.

The budget presented to the General Assembly by Governor Ralph Northam represented the greatest attempt at resolving equity issues that I have seen. Funding for schools was increased but with those who had the greatest needs receiving the most money. Programs for students with special needs were enhanced as was funding for historically black institutions of higher education. The Governor found himself with a major problem pushing his agenda as he got himself in political hot water for his behavior many years ago. Whatever way that situation is resolved, it need not take attention from the basic problem of increasing equity among school divisions, mental health programs and criminal justice programs.

There is ample evidence gleaned from numerous studies that document inequities that exist in the state’s budget. These facts will be manipulated among candidates this election season to gain advantage, but candidates need to acknowledge that inequities exist and must be dealt with fairly. I understand that most regions feel that they do not get a fair shake. There are metrics that can be used to find the inequities; once resolved the state will be stronger because of it.

Blythe and ensures support for the transition to renewables at the household level. Border adjustments ensure an equal playing field for international trade. Thank you, Rep. Connolly, and may the rest of the Virginia delegation pick up the call.

While the climate threat is not so visible and measurable as that from a coal ash pit, nor the solution so engineerable, it must be treated at an emergency scale of effort and urgency.

Meredith Haines
Vienna

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Welcome ‘Green New Deal’

To the Editor:

As we look back on the recently concluded General Assembly session in Richmond, there is not much to mark as progress on environmental issues. Only because they are a very visible and present danger, did coal ash pits get dealt with. We are left to rely on vetoes from Governor Northam in order for any regional coordination efforts on reducing greenhouse gases to have a chance to proceed.

Sensible solar bills? Common sense community controlled single-use plastics legislation? A moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure? Good things were proposed, but we got nothing through our representation in Richmond. Which is why the timing of some good news from our Virginia delegation in Congress on climate and related social justice issues is so welcome.

Rep. Gerry Connolly co-sponsored the ‘Green New Deal’ House Resolution - an aspirational set of goals for sure, but he has now followed it up with co-sponsorship of a piece of detailed climate legislation - the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763). Following all the dire climate projections, global experts concur that pricing carbon (CO2) is the best first step to address emissions causing climate instability. Returning all net revenues, in form of a monthly dividend, protects families and ensures support for the transition to renewables at the household level. Border adjustments ensure an equal playing field for international trade. Thank you, Rep. Connolly, and may the rest of the Virginia delegation pick up the call.

While the climate threat is not so visible and measurable as that from a coal ash pit, nor the solution so engineerable, it must be treated at an emergency scale of effort and urgency.
Robert Beatson II
Attorney/Accountant,
Former IRS Attorney
Admitted to DC, MD, VA & NY Bars
All Types of Federal, State, Local & Foreign Taxes
Individual • Business
Trusts • Estates • Wills
Amended & Late Returns
Back Taxes • IRS Audits
• Civil Litigation
Business Law • Contracts
703-798-3590 or 301-340-2951
www.beatsonlaw.com

Renovated 3 bedroom, 3 bath farm house located in an idyllic setting off a private road on a magnificent, private 2 acre open lot! Charms of yesteryear and the original log cabin dating back to the 19th century harmoniously intertwine with the spacious floor plan of the latter-day farm house renovation. Modern convenience and Great Falls’ natural charms invite a feeling of a more tranquil, unhurried lifestyle and an escape from everyday pressures. A rare find!
Come on by for a visit at our open house on March 31 from 2-4pm or call for a private tour. $949,900
829 Blacks Hill Road
Great Falls, VA 22066
www.829BlacksHillRoad.com

Kevin Knight Ins Agcy Inc
Kevin Knight, Agent
17736 Bowman Green Drive
Reston, VA 20190
ACROSS FROM RESTON TOWN CTR.
WWW.KYLEKNIGHT.ORG
703-435-2300

State Farm
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
Bloomington, IL

Kyle Knight Ins Agcy Inc
Kyle Knight, Agent
17736 Bowman Green Drive
Reston, VA 20190
ACROSS FROM RESTON TOWN CTR.
WWW.KYLEKNIGHT.ORG
703-435-2300

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
Bloomington, IL

Thinking Invisalign: the choice is clear

• Board Certified Orthodontic Specialist
• Experience (Invisalign over 15 years)
• Attending Faculty (Teaching Invisalign at-Washington Hospital Center Department of Orthodontics)
• Voted “Top/Best” Orthodontist in Northern Virginia
• Affordable: Full in-house financing with 0% interest and affordable monthly payments

Please call our office to set up your Complimentary Consultation

703.281.4868
BracesVIP@gmail.com
www.BracesVIP.com

Great Falls
9912D Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, VA 22066
BracesVIP.com
(703) 281-4868

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Free Estimates
703-214-8384

Two Poor Teachers
Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling
Select your products from our Mobile Showroom and Design Center
Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Since 1999

Same Company, Same Employees, Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

10% down - nothing until the job is complete for the past 17 years

Braces VIP

Dr. Allen S. Garai
• Specialist in Orthodontics
• Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics (Board Certified)
• VIP Top 1% Invisalign Provider
• Attending Faculty - Orthodontic Department Children’s Washington Hospital
• Over 15 years teaching orthodontics and private practice

“BEST ORTHODONTIST”
Washingtonian Magazine
Family Living Magazine

“TOP ORTHODONTISTS”
Northern Virginia Magazine
Virginia Living
Health & Beauty Magazine

Vienna
427 Maple Ave West
Vienna, VA 22180
BracesVIP.com
(703) 281-4868

Great Falls
9912D Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, VA 22066
BracesVIP.com
(703) 281-4868
Week in Great Falls

L’Auberge Chez Francois Hosts Luncheon for Great Falls Senior Center Members

The Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) event for April 16 will be a luncheon hosted by L’Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Road, Great Falls, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Luncheon includes a choice of two appetizers (Onion soup gratinees or Organic mesclun salad, vinaigrette); choice of two entrees (Sautéed fresh trout with toasted almonds or Beef Bourguignon, Spaetzles and mushrooms); choice of two desserts (Tahitian vanilla ice crème brûlée or Dark chocolate tart with vanilla ice cream).

Reservations may be made by sending checks made out to GFSC at a cost of $45 per person, tip and tax included along with tea, coffee or soda, to Sondra Taylor, 752 Boehms Court, Great Falls 22066 by April 11. For additional information contact Sondra Taylor, 703-759-6204. Visit gfseniors.org.

Wednesday/March 27

McLean Community Center Public Hearing on Programs. 7-9 p.m. MCC, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean Community Center (MCC) is asking residents what kinds of programs and services they would like to see offered at the newly renovated facility. The MCC Governing Board wants to hear from residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville, who pay a real estate surcharge to support the center. Tax district residents who wish to speak at the hearing are asked to call the Center at 703-744-9348, TTY: 711, to have their names placed on the speakers list; however, speakers are not required to sign up in order to speak. Residents also may submit comments by mail, fax (703-556-0547) email holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov or in person up to seven days after the hearing. For more information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit bit.ly/2tGi5IC.

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

Thursday/March 28

Hispanic Connect NOVA. 8:30-9:30 a.m. at 3200 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. Free with membership; non members, $10. RSVP at www.vahcc.com/hispanic-connect-nova.

GFES Kindergarten Orientation. 9:15-10:15 a.m. at Great Falls Elementary School, 701 Walker Road, Great Falls. Children who are five by Sept. 30, 2019 are eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2019-20 school year. Parents and eligible children are invited to attend the Great Falls ES Kindergarten Orientation. Our future students will experience what is will be like to be in a kindergarten classroom, while parents will receive information pertinent to registration.

See Bulletin, Page 11
This is more than great rates
This is more savings for wherever you’re going.

Platinum Savings Account
2.10%
Annual Percentage Yield for 12 months with new money deposits of at least $25,000 and a minimum daily account balance of $25,000 or more.

Guaranteed Fixed-Rate CD
2.40%
Annual Percentage Yield for an 12-month term with new money deposits of at least $25,000.

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: Heralds of Spring. Through March 29, library hours in the Great Falls Library large meeting room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Mary Ellen Magruder’s exhibit of abstract floral paintings is full of blooms exploding with color and light and brings spring to Great Falls a little early. Free. Visit www.maryellenmogee.com or call 703-785-5784.


WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27

NoVaTEEN Book Festival. Club Night. FRIDAY/MARCH 29


THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Langley Lacrosse Youth Night. 6 p.m. at Langley High School Stadium field, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Warm up with varsity players at 5:45 p.m. JV game starts at 6 and varsity at 7:30. Langley High School Girls Lacrosse is hosting Youth Night, Raffles, door prizes, and free youth t-shirts for the first 60 fans. Free admission for youth lacrosse players wearing their jerseys; $5 for others. Email jmuwaits98@yahoo.com for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 29

Club Night. 7-10 p.m. at Caffe Amour, 107 Church St., NE, Vienna. Spinning records and relaxing after a long week. Come by with family, play games, and unwind in a welcoming environment. Free admission. Call 703-938-1623 or visit caffeamouri.com/events/calendar for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

NoVaTEEN Book Festival. 9:30 a.m. at March 444 School, 7371 Lee圣经s Park, Falls Church. The NoVaTEEN Book Festival is back with a day full of panels, games, and signings with over 30 bestselling and emerging Young Adult authors. Learn more on the official festival website. The event is free and open to the public; tickets and a full schedule are available at novateenbookfestival.com.

Cra Art and Wine Festival Fundraiser. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at L’Auberge Chez François, 332 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Chef Jacques Haeringer, of L’Auberge Chez François and Jacques’ Brasserie, hosts a fun and delectable craft beer and wine festival fundraiser to support a group of fighters, police officers, and first responders representing the United States of America in the top division of volleyball at the World Police and Fire Games in China in 2019. $75. Visit www.laubergechezfrancois.com or call 703-759-3800.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31


VOCE Chamber Singers. 8 p.m. at Church of the Holy Cross, 2455 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. VOCE Chamber Singers presents Rachmaninoff: All-Night Vigil (Vespers). Rachmaninoff: All-Night Vigil (Vespers) is widely regarded as the “Mt. Everest” of the a cappella choral repertoire. Tickets $10-$25; under 18, free. Visit www.voce.org or call 703-277-7772.

MONDAY/APRIL 1

Langley Baseball Fundraiser. 4-8 p.m. at Chipotle, 6707 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Support the Langley Baseball Program by having dinner at Chipotle and help the baseball team build their new batting cage patio.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 3

Explore the Universe. 7:30-8:25 p.m. at Turner Farm, 1588 Springvale Road, Great Falls. “The Universe” is a blend of astronomy about stars and galaxies, dark matter and dark energy, and some weird physics that helps explain the universe. Designed for participants age 9-adult. $8 per person. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 4-6

Oakton Library Sale, Thursday, 1-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Oakton Public Library, 10304 Lymhaven Place, Oakton. The Friends of Oakton Library Spring Book Sale – purchase gently used books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, and more. The Friends member pre-sale is Wednesday, April 3, 2-5:30 p.m. at the door. Free admission. Email FriendsfOaktonLibrary@gmail.com or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-oakton for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Vinson Hall Community Talent Show, 7 p.m. in the Kathy Martin Community Building Ballroom, on the Vinson Hall Retirement Community campus, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean. “The Vinson Hall Talent Show” will feature acts performed by VHRC residents and staff, ranging from piano performances to song and dance numbers to a yodeler. Open to the public. Admission is $10, which will support Navy Marine Coast Guard Resident Foundation’s Innovation and Enhancement Fund. Following the performance there will be a coffee and an audience available and a chance to talk with the stars of the show.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 5-7

50th Anniversary Treasure of Art. Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at the Vienna Arts Society, 218 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society showcases hundreds of original artworks from across nation.
Entertainment

selected by juror Leigh Culver. Saturday night, April 6, features music by the Difficult Run String Band. The Awards Reception, Saturday, April 7 from 7-9 p.m., is an opportunity to meet the artists while enjoying light refreshments and music by the Fascination Strings. Free and open to the public. Visit viennartsociety.org for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5-27
Spring Cleaning Local Waterways. 9-11:30 a.m. unless noted. The Fairfax County Park Authority and The Nature Conservancy are looking for 1,000 volunteers to lend a hand at 23 parks to clean up local waterways. Watershed Clean-up events bring the community together to clear the earth’s arteries by removing tires, bottles, cans and other debris that has been carelessly dumped in our streams, rivers and lakes. This is a great community service project for individuals, families, service groups and students. Sign up to volunteer at bit.ly/2PkL5Tu.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6
Explore Lake Fairfax Park with a Naturalist. 10-11:30 a.m. at Lake Fairfax Park, 400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Learn about the flora and fauna that give Lake Fairfax Park its character. Designed for participants 3-adult. $8 per person. Dress for the weather. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax.

Scrapbook for a Cause. At the Vienna Volunteer Fire Dept, 400 Center St. S., Vienna. All proceeds benefit Colleen McGroder’s Kidney transplant fund. Registration fee includes cropping space, lunch on Saturday, coffee, tea, lemonade and a raffle ticket. Dinner will be available for purchase for $8. Registration is $40, $45 at the door. Learn more at www.gofundme.com/collenn-mcgroder-kidney-transplantfund. Email mary.kubisch@gmail.com or call 703-314-5438.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7
A Turning Point in Women’s History. 1-3 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El Shalom, 7612 Old Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Come hear Pat Wirth, of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, give an in-depth look at a critical time in the history of women in our country. Organized by the Sisterhoods of Temple Emanu-El Shalom, Congregation Ner Shalom, and Temple Rodolfo Shalom, this event is open to all. Free. Suggested contribution of $10 at the door. Get tickets at www.eventbrite.com/e/a-turning-point-in-womens-history-wjmid-atlantic-district-area-day-tickets-57867909796.

Fairfax Choral Society with Amadeus Orchestra. 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Features “The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace” by composer Karl Jenkins. The work fuses several religious and musical traditions into a one-of-a-kind composition of surpassing beauty. A pre-concert lecture by Music Director A. Scott Wood will begin at 3:15. A reception will follow the concert, at which attendees may meet and chat with the performers and fellow music lovers. Tickets are $40 and may be purchased at the door or at www.amadeusconcerts.com. Students 17 and under and active military are admitted free of charge.

McLean Symphony Performance. 7 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The McLean Symphony presents its spring concert, “Appealing! Surprising!” featuring Luke Rardin, pianist. The concert will be conducted by Dr. Igor Samarin. This is the third concert of the Symphony’s 47th season, “Symphonic Adventures.” Visit www.mclean-symphony.org or call 703-831-7165.

MONDAY/APRIL 8
Northern Virginia Positive Aging and Wellness Fair. 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. In collaboration with Fairfax County and community partners, the Northern Virginia Positive Aging and Wellness Fair will offer tools, workshops, exhibits and information to educate and inspire adults to achieve a fulfilling and healthy lifestyle as they age. Pat Collins, an award-winning NBC News4 reporter, will be the keynote speaker. Free and open to the public. To register and for more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 9
Movie Series: New Disney Classics. 12:30 p.m. at The Alden Community Hall, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden is kicking off a new film series with “new Disney Classics” – those that were loved during the 1990s. Free admission. Visit mcleancenter.org/performing-arts.
The registry is an opt-in list of names, addresses and needs that the county uses to deliver targeted emergency alerts and updates in the event of an emergency.

“With information like this, if permitted, we can train communities to make connections,” Cook said. “We can help connect neighbors like these with each other and help create a plan to assist.” Sometimes, the call to duty can be as simple as just checking in on the neighbor during an emergency to be sure they are informed and not in any immediate need or danger.

There is a lot of information in the CERG, but “it can be consumable in pieces as most relevant to you,” said Mooney, and as Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross noted, there is a “cliff notes” version of the guide available for review at each district supervisor’s office.

Volunteer corps, under the direction of Mooney and the OEM staff, are “trained to train” others on emergency preparation and planning and are available for outreach to homeowners’ associations, civic groups or faith-based communities, businesses and others.

After the press conference, Mooney invited the media to join in the tornado drill at the OEM’s Alternate Emergency Operation Center, located inside the government center.

Staff demonstrated a typical day, monitoring events and potential emergencies from the secondary command post, then followed protocol when the tornado “warning” notice was heard, advising all to shelter-in-place. Into the most interior room with less equipment and items that could become deadly projectiles when directed by tornado-force wind marched the OEM staff – and straight under desks for added protection.

“Everyone should have a plan. Everyone should practice,” was Mooney’s final recommendation — even those who plan and prepare for and respond to emergencies every single day.

The Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Guide can be downloaded from the county’s website and will be available for review in public libraries and governmental district offices.
FRIDAY/MARCH 29
State of Children’s Health Legislative Update Breakfast. 8:30-10 a.m. at Northern Virginia Community College - Medical Education Campus, Springfield. Join the MCPC Foundation to hear the latest on the state of healthcare for children locally, across Virginia, and at the Federal level with legislators, health professionals, business leaders, and community advocates. $25-$35. Visit mcpcfoundation.org/events/legislative-update-breakfast-2019/ to register.

Saturday/March 30

Northern Virginia Housing Expo. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St., Arlington. Dozens of exhibitors and workshops will provide all the information needed to rent an apartment or purchase a first home at the 2019 Northern Virginia Housing Expo, a regional housing fair. Free. Visit www.novahousingexpo.org for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31
Passover/Judaica Gift Pop-Up Shop. 10 a.m.-11 a.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church. Items include handmade逾越节 symbols and symbols of Judaism, as well as various faith support and Jewish-related gifts. Contact Jamie Adams at Jamie@templerodefshalom.org or call 703-835-1360.

Teen Depression: What Parents Need to Know. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2344 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Parents, grandparents, and caregivers are invited to this free workshop presented by Dr. Kathryn DeLanga, PsyD, a licensed clinical psychologist and director of the Mood, Brain, and Development Unit. This workshop will provide an overview of major depressive disorder and how to identify depression in teenagers. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

Language Immersion Lottery Registration. Immersion lottery registration will close on March 29 for kindergarten. A SS parent account is required to register. More information about immersion programs and information meetings can be found at www.fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30
Northern Virginia Housing Expo. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St., Arlington. Dozens of exhibitors and workshops will provide all the information needed to rent an apartment or purchase a first home at the 2019 Northern Virginia Housing Expo, a regional housing fair. Free. Visit www.novahousingexpo.org for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31
Passover/Judaica Gift Pop-Up Shop. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Torah, 6122 Technology Court, Chantilly. Temple Rodef Shalom will sponsor a Passover/Judaica Gift Pop-Up Shop at Temple Beth Torah. There will be a variety of Judaica including mah jong items, jewelry, books, assorted Judaic items, as well as Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Chumash, Passover, and Shabbat items. Contact Faith Abaga at Faith.Abaga@gmail.com or call 319-329-9802.

Democratic County-Wide Straw Poll. 4-6 p.m. at Mount vernon Elementary, 14140 Parke Long Ct., Suites A-C, Chantilly. Show support for a favorite candidate in every contested Democratic nomination. 4:30 candidate speeches; 5:15 ballot turn in deadline; 5:55 results announcement. Visit fairfaxdemocrats.org to register.

MONDAY/APRIL 1
Scholarship Application Deadline. The Bull Run Civil War Roundtable in Centreville, Va., a 501c3 organization, offers a $2,000 scholarship to a female or private high school senior who resides in Fairfax, City of Fairfax, Manassas, Manassas Park, or Prince William County. Applicants should plan to attend college in the fall of 2019. Information and application instructions can be found at bullruncwrt.org.

Paving and Restriping Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at Infield Elementary School, 6450 Columbia Pike, Falls Church. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation will host community meetings in every district of the county this spring with the Virginia Department of Transportation to discuss proposed 2019 paving and restriping projects. State and county agencies coordinate restriping efforts to address safety issues for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians through the creation of bike lanes, parking lanes, crosswalks and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2019-paving-and- striping.

BY KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don’t like interacting with artificial intelligence. Nor do I like interacting with artificial-intelligence emulators.

Not, especially not when there’s an attempt by these “a.i.” to modify my behavior by suggesting a pre-programmed, prearranged course of action—or inaction—on my part, based on some survey I may have completed or some list that I’ve recently been added to—without my consent, or most likely due to a purchase or service I’ve already engaged in.

To that end, which does not justify their measures, today I received an email that goes above and beyond the call of duty. And how the stuff in the email came my way is “curious,” as Spock from the original “Star Trek” might say.

Two days before my last infusion, I stepped on a scale which registered my “overweight,” which along with taking my blood pressure, pulse and weight were used to determine my body mass index (BMI), which set me up for a depression screening. I was not overweight. I am a human being, and I was a concerned caregiver with a serious complica-

Fortunately for me, whatever weight I did lose did not portend anything other than I wasn’t eating. Eventually, that lost weight—and more—was definitely found.

A few days later, I received an email from my health care provider, not my doctor and not from my own medical record, but rather from someone at a health care provider wondering if I was doing okay. I updated the email to say that it was a concern and I was speaking with a mental health professional.

Was this a coincidence? Was this merely a continua-

tion outreach to the HMO’s patients like its colon-rectal screening program, sending patients a certain age, seems to be? Or was it something more insidious like “Has” nearly became in the movie “2001: A Space Odyssey?”

The nerve. The bypassing of protocols. The attempt to circumvent the human element. Is this what medicine has become?

Not calls or personalized messages from your doctor/medical staff but instead an electronicmissive, much like the cold, insensitive provision of Pentium chips?

Putting aside the obvious fact that it is too burdensome to do when you are doing a doctor to talk to you, and by association, the system that exists was put in place presumably by some human that believes that computers are the wave of the future—human beings are the wave of the future. It feels like the only thing that has made itself into hospital waiting rooms and exam rooms is the wave of the future. It feels like the only thing that has made itself into the medical field is the wave of the future. It feels like the only thing that has made itself into the medical field is the wave of the future.

And how did my personal information actually get into this database? Is there a program that automatically reviews patient’s private histories by cross-referencing who had appointments and what the new details were to fit the scale on the pressure machine in on it? If so, is this medical care becoming more automated and less individualized?

I realize it’s a number but I don’t think they’d take it literally.  

Kenny Laursen is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
If you’re buying or selling a home, think of this as a defining moment.

Great Falls $1,299,000
Great Falls $1,399,000
Great Falls $1,450,000

Great Falls $1,599,000
Great Falls $1,599,000
Great Falls $1,465,000

Great Falls $2,899,000
Herndon $850,000
Great Falls $1,950,000

Great Falls $1,750,000

Dianne Van Volkenburg and her team of real estate agents and marketing specialists are unsurpassed in providing first-class service to buyers and sellers. In fact, Dianne and her team have one of the highest rates of repeat clients in all of Northern Virginia as former clients, families, and friends trust them for their real estate needs.

For more information on these and our other available listings visit greatfallsgreathomes.com

Dianne JAN & DAN
LONG & FOSTER | CHRISTIE’S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066
703-757-9190 • GreatFallsGreatHomes.com
703-757-3222