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Raising Money To Help Fight Fire

Trafficking in
Our Backyard

NEWS, PAGE 3

Vienna Police Highlights

NEWS, PAGE 5

NEWS, PAGE 10

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Trafficking in Our Backyard

Citizens Advisory Group learns more about human trafficking.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Human trafficking does take place in Fairfax County. As Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity wrote in an op-ed for The Connection during January's Human Trafficking Awareness Month, "with cases involving all 26 high schools in Fairfax County, we cannot fall into the mind-set that it could never happen to us, never to our kid."

There are statistics. Fairfax County Police Department reports on calls to investigate trafficking both for sex and for labor. The National Human Trafficking Hotline tallies 179 victims identified in Virginia in 2017, with 96 traffickers and 87 trafficking businesses identified in the Commonwealth during that same year, but even the experts are sceptical of those numbers.

"Trafficking is such an under-reported crime that even 'official' website data has to be questioned," attorney Alexandra Lydon with Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV) warned the audience at the McLean District Station Citizens Advisory Committee March meeting.

Lydon joined her colleague Alina Launchbaugh, an Equal Justice Works Crime Victims Fellow with LSNV, and attorney Lourdes Venes for a presentation to the committee on the subject. Venes, a native of Peru and a McLean resident, is a member of the Advisory Committee and volunteers for the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force.

TOGETHER, the three women brought a wealth of current information, resources, and compassion to the panel.

"We are grateful to have you all here," said Patrick Smaldore, the Advisory Committee's chair. "We know that trafficking often goes unnoticed because people don't know what to look for or how to respond, so we are pleased to have this opportunity to learn more and do more."

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, human trafficking is on track to surpass drug trafficking to move from its second place on the criminal tier to the top spot.

Organizations like McLean-based "Just Ask," the National Human Trafficking Center, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and Polaris Project say the problem is growing, as traffickers refine their methods.

Virginia as a whole has seen more trafficking evidence than ever. In Northern Virginia, "we are a prime location," said Lydon. Situated within a major metropolitan region with millions of potential victims, millions



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left: Attorneys Lourdes Venes, Alina Launchbaugh, and Alexandra Lydon formed the panel to discuss Human Trafficking at the McLean District Station Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on March 21.

of residents in which to hide or find clients, and as many, or more, visitors from around the globe, NoVa is part of the 95 corridor that allows easy access from north to south, with plenty of room for traffickers to work their trade and move away quickly when they suspect they are attracting law enforcement attention.

In today's often anti-immigrant climate, non-citizens, regardless of their legal status, are also more vulnerable than ever to both sex trafficking and forced labor, so their population has experienced increased victimization into what Lydon describes as "modern day slavery."

This enslavement can be as sudden as an abduction, either locally or from abroad. But it is often the result of gradual manipulation and gentle persuasion, sometimes with gifts or flattery or just the attention that a youngster may be seeking.

The slavery can occur in the physical sense, with victims literally being held captive, but is often an enslavement based on psychological or physical abuse, or even blackmail.

Lydon described a situation in which a victim was invited to a party by an online "boyfriend." At the party, the victim was drugged and raped and the assault was filmed. The trafficker used the threat of blackmail, threatening to release the film widely on social media, if the victim does not comply by "agreeing" to further sexual exploitation.

Frequently, younger victims don't know what's happening or how deeply they have been caught in the trafficker's web until the trafficker will coerce compliance with

threats to the victim or their loved ones, or with verbal or physical abuse, if the victim has not fully "bonded" to their trafficker.

"And that does happen," noted both Lydon and Launchbaugh, where the victim becomes emotionally dependent on the trafficker and is unwilling to testify or even speak out against them when the situation is brought to light.

The speakers also brought up another long-term and devastating side effect suffered by survivors of human trafficking, in addition to the actual abuse.

MANY VICTIMS are forced to commit crimes, like shoplifting or burglary, and those who are made to solicit sex publically can often be arrested for prostitution.

Most states, including Virginia, do not have a means by which trafficking survivors can expunge their criminal records, so they carry that extra burden when trying to re-establish themselves.

The protocols surrounding Lydon's and Launchbaugh's work prevent them from lobbying or advocating for legal change, but they are able to inform their audiences that a survivor's inability to clear criminal records often means exclusion from schools, jobs, financial assistance and more.

The experts and those involved in aiding the victims all agree;

breaking this trafficking cycle starts with information – getting the word out about the existence of the problem in our own backyard, and what to look for in potential victims and those already enslaved.

Some things to look for or that should

arouse suspicion both for potential sex or labor trafficking recruitment attempts:

- ❖ Someone who attempts to control, exhibits unusual jealousy, or encourages resentment of parents, friends, and family. Uses threats or violence to ensure compliance.

- ❖ Promises things that seem too good to be true, like easy work for high wages or work that doesn't require "papers."

- ❖ Someone who won't make terms of employment clear or tell you what your rights are.

- ❖ Someone who seeks to isolate you from family and friends or actively denies such contact.

- ❖ Keeps you from your money. Won't let you have your cell phone when you are alone.

- ❖ Constantly checks on you.

- ❖ Asks that you "do them a favor" – to engage in activities that make you uncomfortable or are illegal

"Trafficking is such an under-reported crime that even 'official' website data has to be questioned."

— Attorney Alexandra Lydon, Legal Services of Northern Virginia

Some indicators that someone may be a victim of trafficking:

- ❖ Shows signs of physical abuse or malnourishment.

- ❖ Unable to speak freely – may be accompanied by a controlling person.

- ❖ Reluctant to explain injuries.

- ❖ Their story seems scripted, something doesn't add up.

- ❖ Doesn't have money or identification and can't explain why not.

- ❖ Unaware of their current location, possibly even the date and the time.

If there is any way to safely ask the suspected victim about their status or their need for assistance, do so, but the experts warn that traffickers are dangerous and have a lot to lose. If you suspect trafficking, the best recourse might be to contact your local police or the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text 233733 (BEFREE) for advice and to report your suspicions.

"Doing nothing is not the answer," say Venes, Lydon and Launchbaugh. Get even more informed on the issue, inform others, and consider volunteering with an organization that works to prevent human trafficking and assist its victims once they have been freed from their enslavement.

OPINION

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.

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.)

EDITORIAL

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 mem-

bers 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

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



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 Assem-

bly 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.

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 Gover-

nor 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.

Meredith Haines
Vienna

Vienna & Oakton
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VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

FROM PAGE 5

Welfare League to follow up on the quarantine.

Shoplifting — The Dollar Tree, 215 Maple Avenue, West, March 16, 2:03 p.m. An employee reported two women in the store. One of the women was concealing merchandise and left the store without paying for the items. The employee did not wish to pursue charges for shoplifting. However, the two women were trespassed from the store. They were advised they may be charged with trespass if they return.

Arrest - Destruction of Property — 180 Maple Avenue, West, March 16, 4:05 p.m. A citizen reported two men placing sticker posters to light posts in the shopping center. An officer observed one of the men placing a poster on a Town of Vienna utility box in the area of Nutley Street and Maple Avenue. The posters appeared to be affiliated with a political activist organization. Ofc. Wallace issued a summons to a 21-year-old man from Longleaf Lane in Herndon, charging Destruction of Property. The man was released on his signature.

Suspicious Event — 200 Block Cedar Lane, SE, March 16, 5 p.m. Officers responded to a report of an assault. They located the man who suffered minor injuries but refused treatment from rescue personnel. The man stated he was assaulted by his friend, but he refused to pursue charges or identify the friend.

Vehicle Tampering — 1000 Block Moorefield Hill Grove, SW, between March 16 at 9 p.m. and March 17 at 9:30 a.m. A resident reported that an unknown person entered their unlocked vehicle and stole miscellaneous coins from the console.

Vehicle Tampering — 800 Block Hunter Court, SW, between March 16 at 11 p.m. and March 17 at 9 a.m. A resident reported that someone entered her unlocked vehicle and rummaged through it. Nothing appears to have been taken.

Assist Fire & Rescue — Rain Lilly, 527 Maple Avenue, East, March 17, 3:10 a.m. Ofc. Farr heard an audible alarm coming from the building. Fire & Rescue personnel responded and found the alarm was coming from Rain Lilly where towels in the dryer had caught on fire. The fire was extinguished and the building secured.

Suspicious Event — Cherry's Nail Salon, 140 Maple Avenue, West, March 17, 1 p.m. A customer reported a conversation she overheard between two other women in the salon. The conversation left her concerned for the welfare of one of the women. The women left the salon before the police were notified. Ofc. Sterling located the two women later in the day. After speaking with both women, the officer determined they did not need any

police assistance.

Fraud — 800 Block Plum Street, SW, March 18, 7:25 p.m.

A resident received an email from someone claiming to be a CIA employee. The email advised the resident he would be arrested if he did not provide payment to them through Bitcoin.

Found Property — 100 Block Cherry Street, SE, March 18, 7 p.m. A citizen turned in a skateboard that had been left unattended in the area for a day.

Threats — 100 Block Patrick Street, SE, March 18, 10:09 p.m. A resident reported that he is receiving text messages from an unknown person who is threatening to harm him and his family.

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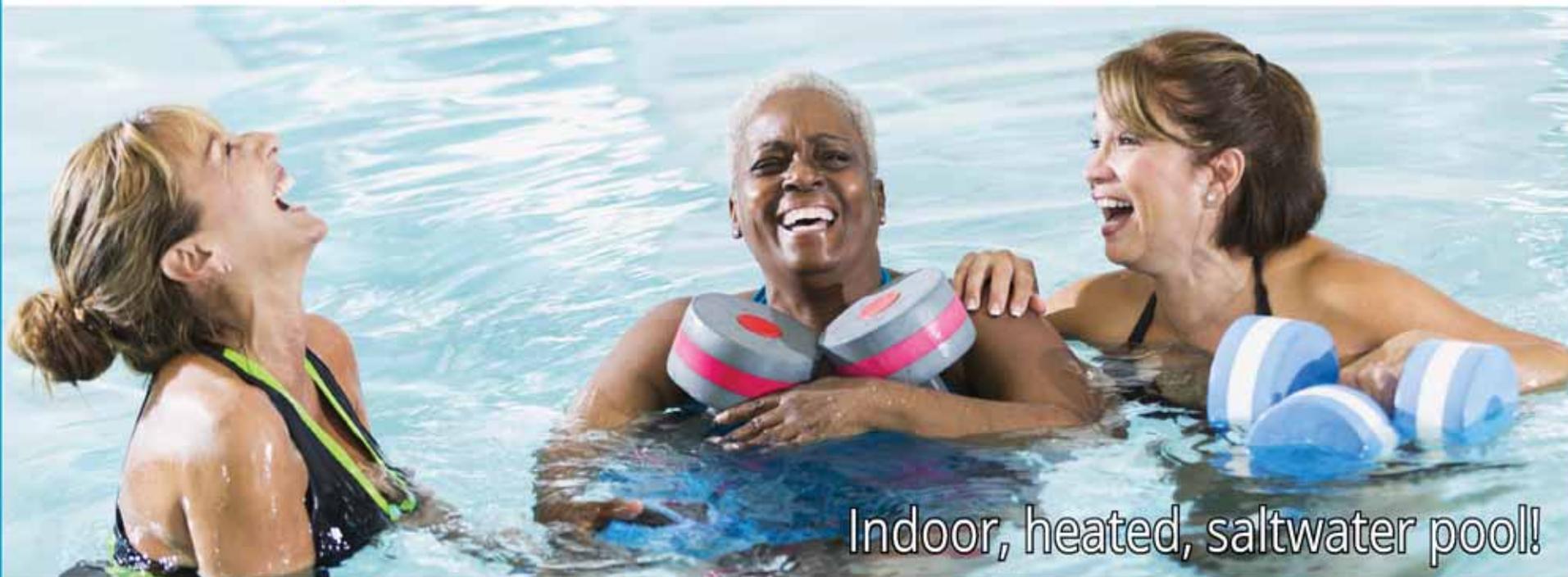
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VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna Police Department from March 15 – March 21, 2019.

INCIDENTS

Animal Case – Quarantine — 400 Block Kramer Drive, SE

March 6, 1:20 p.m. A dog became frightened while walking with its new dog walker and bit the new dog walker on the hand. The dog was placed on a 10-day quarantine.

Assault — 800 Block Ware Street, SW, between March 13 at 7:32 p.m. and March 19 at 7:32 p.m. An employee for a group home reported that one of their residents had been assaulted in the home by another employee, causing minor injury. This case is being investigated.

Suspicious Event — The Freeman House and Museum

131 Church Street, NE, between March 15 at 12:01 a.m. and March 16 at 11:59 p.m. An employee reported that an unknown person took a bucket into a closet in the store and defecated in it.

Animal Case — Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road, SW, March 15, 8:10 a.m. Officers responded with the Animal Control Officer for the report of an injured deer. The animal appeared to have been struck by a vehicle. Due to the severity of the deer's injuries the animal was euthanized by one of the officers.

Animal Case - Quarantine — Vienna Animal Hospital, 531 Maple Avenue, West, March 15, 10:45 a.m. A technician was bitten while performing a medical procedure on a cat. Fairfax County Animal Control will follow up with the 10-day quarantine as the cat

resides in their jurisdiction.

Arrest – Narcotics Violation — Lawyers Road and Upham Place, NW, March 15, 4:10 p.m. MPO Lose stopped a vehicle displaying expired license plates. Upon his interaction with the driver, MPO Lose detected an odor of marijuana. The driver was found to have a measurable amount of marijuana. MPO Lose issued a summons to the driver, a 20-year-old man from Wasser Terrace in Herndon, charging Possession of Marijuana.

Found Property — Wendy's, 411 Maple Avenue, East,

March 15, 5:30 p.m. An employee found a cell phone that was left in the restaurant.

Arrest – Drunk In Public — 300 Block Branch Road, SE

March 15, 10:15 p.m. Officers responded to the report of an intoxicated man attempting to get into his vehicle and drive. Upon the officers' interaction with the man, they observed signs of impairment. Ofc. Farr arrested the 45-year-old man from 21st Road, North, in Arlington. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with Drunk In Public.

Open Door — Al Nakheel Café, 340 Maple Avenue, West,

March 16, 5:06 a.m. Officers responding to an alarm found the rear door of the café was open. The business was searched, and nothing appeared to have been disturbed.

Animal Case – Quarantine — 500 Block Woodland Court, NW, March 16, 12 p.m. A juvenile was bitten by a relative's dog. The dog resides in the City of Alexandria. This case has been forwarded to the Alexandria Animal

SEE POLICE, PAGE 6

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SPORTS

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Jahleel Jackson;
back row: Christian Lopez,
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Marcus LeClair,
Burke Carroll,
Ethan Walker.
Missing from photo: coach Dean Marsden,
coach Ryan Flaherty,
coach Mark Robinson.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Vienna Magic Wins County Championship

The Vienna Magic, Vienna's Division I eighth grade basketball team, won the 2019 Fairfax County Youth Basketball Championship. The team was led by coach Dean Marsden, in his 22nd year as a coach for Vienna. This was Marsden's fourth County Championship. The Magic had a 15-1 record with an average margin of victory by 21.7

points. Vienna beat Annandale in the semi-finals to face SYA. In a hard-fought County Championship game, the Magic beat a tough SYA team 64-49. Bryson Moore was named Most Outstanding Player of the Championship game. Vienna had three first team all-league selections in Jahleel Jackson, Burke Carroll and Bryson Moore.

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However, for any day during that 12 month period that the daily account balance is less than the \$25,000 minimum, the Special Rate will not apply, and the interest rate will revert to the standard interest rate applicable to your Platinum Savings account. As of 02/15/2019, the standard interest rate and APY for a Platinum Savings account in AR, CT, DC, FL, GA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, SC, TX and VA with an account balance of \$0.01 and above is 0.05% (0.05% APY). Each tier shown reflects the current minimum daily collected balance required to obtain the applicable APY. Interest is compounded daily and paid monthly. The amount of interest earned is based on the daily collected balances in the account. Upon the expiration of the 12 month promotional period, standard interest rates apply. Minimum to open a Platinum Savings account is \$25. A monthly service fee of \$12 applies in any month the account falls below a \$3,500 minimum daily balance. Fees may reduce earnings. Interest rates are variable and subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo may limit the amount you deposit to a Platinum Savings account to an aggregate of \$1 million. Offer not available to Private Banking or Wealth customers. 2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective for accounts opened between 03/25/2019 to 05/31/2019. The 11-month New Dollar CD special requires a minimum of \$25,000 brought to Wells Fargo from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., or its affiliates to earn the advertised APY. Public Funds and Wholesale accounts are not eligible for this offer. APY assumes interest remains on deposit until maturity. Interest is compounded daily. Payment of interest on CDs is based on term: For terms less than 12 months (365 days), interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or at maturity (the end of the term). For terms of 12 months or more, interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. 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For bonus interest rates on time accounts, this change will occur upon renewal. If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the remaining unlinked Wells Fargo Portfolio Checking or Wells Fargo Prime Checking account will be converted to another checking product or closed.
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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at 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 Mogee'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.

Camp Grow Registration Open.

Camp Grow at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, in Vienna, invites children to explore nature through hands-on activities, gardening, discovery walks, crafts, music, storytelling, and animal programs. Camp Grow is designed to engage, challenge, educate and encourage a sense of community. Camp Grow values and encourages inclusion of all campers in every activity. Visit www.novaparks.com/things-to-do/camps/ for more.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27

Holy Happy Hour Recital Series.

6:15 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Featuring Seán Heely, a U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, the 30-minute musical offering will be followed by wine, hors d'oeuvres and fellowship. Free and open to the public; a good will offering to support the music department will be taken. Visit www.Lewinsville.org or call 703-356-7200.

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 Amouri, 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 Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, 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.

Craft Beer and Wine Festival Fundraiser.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. at L'Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Chef Jacques Haeringer, of L'Auberge Chez Francois and Jacques' Brasserie, hosts a fun and delectable craft beer and wine festival fundraiser to support a group of firefighters, police officers, and first responders representing the



Camp Open House

Learn about Traveling Players Ensemble's summer theatre camp for grades 3-12. Get a tour and meet the staff. The whole family is welcome. Sunday, April 7, 1-4 at The Madeira School's Chapel Auditorium, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Rain or shine. Free. Call 703-987-1712 or visit www.travelingplayers.org.

PHOTO BY
ZENA CARMEL-JESSUP

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.

Sophocles' "Antigone."

2 p.m. at The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Sophocles's drama from 441 B.C. holds startling relevance today, examining divinity, obedience, and law—and how love overcomes them all. Cost is \$40/\$30 MCC tax district residents. Visit www.aldentheatre.org for more.

Black History Concert.

3 p.m. at Historic Pleasant Grove Church, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. The Washington Revels Jubilee Voices ensemble will perform at Historic Pleasant Grove Church's free annual Black History Celebration. The Jubilee Voices will present traditional African-American song, poetry, and dance tailored to the unique story of Pleasant Grove. Free. Visit www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org for more.

Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors"

7:30 p.m. at The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Two long-separated twins, their two tricky servants (also twins), a jealous wife, and her lovelorn sister romp through this fast-paced comedy. Cost is \$40/\$30 MCC tax district residents. Visit www.aldentheatre.org.

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's 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.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

Langley/Cooper 5K. 8 a.m. at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Join the "Bands on the Run" 5k run/walk, benefitting Langley High School and Cooper Middle School Band programs. \$30 through March 15; 3/15; \$35 through Race Day. Visit www.langleyband.org/bands-on-the-run to register or sponsor. Sponsorships are tax-deductible.

Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale."

2 p.m. at The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Shakespeare's magnificent late play is a roller-coaster ride from romance to tragedy to comedy and, finally, to a place of transcendent beauty that few other works of art have ever gone. Cost is \$40/\$30 MCC tax district residents. Visit www.aldentheatre.org.

VOCE Chamber Singers.

4 p.m. at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. VOCE

Chamber Singers presents Rachmaninoff: All-Night Vigil (Vespers). Rachmaninoff's 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 pavilion.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 3

Explore the Universe. 7:30-8:25 p.m. at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. "The Universe" is a big topic to explore. Learn about stars and galaxies, dark matter and dark energy, and some weird physics that helped shape 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 Lynnhaven 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.; join at the door. Free admission. Email FriendsOfOaktonLibrary@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 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 dessert bar available and a chance to talk with the stars of the show.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 5-7

50th Anniversary Treasury of Art. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society showcases hundreds of original artworks from around the nation

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EMAIL: ELECTIONS@MCLEANCENTER.ORG

VISIT: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/MCLEAN-CENTER-ELECTION](https://tinyurl.com/mclean-center-election)



SOPHOCLES' "ANTIGONE" MARCH 30 2 P.M.

Live music starts 30 minutes before curtain.



SHAKESPEARE'S "THE COMEDY OF ERRORS" MARCH 30 7:30 P.M.

Live music starts 30 minutes before curtain.



SHAKESPEARE'S "THE WINTER'S TALE" MARCH 31 2 P.M.

Live music starts 30 minutes before curtain.



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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 viennaartsociety.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 21 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, 1400 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/colleen-mcgroder-kidney-transplant-fund. 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 B'nai 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 B'nai Shalom, Congregation Ner Shalom, and Temple Rodef 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-wrj-mid-atlantic-district-area-day-tickets-57807894970.

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 Ratcliffe, pianist. The concert will be conducted by Dr. Igor Sarmientos. 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 positiveagingfair.com. For county services for older adults and caregivers, go to 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.

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

Share Your Ideas on Our Programs



Public Hearing on FY2021 Programs
Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.
Open to the public

It's ASC Weekend @ The Alden!



American Shakespeare Center on Tour



"Antigone"
Saturday, March 30, 2 p.m.

"The Comedy of Errors"
Saturday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.

"The Winter's Tale"
Sunday, March 31, 2 p.m.

Live music starts a half-hour before the curtain.
Tickets: \$40 per show/\$30 MCC district residents

The Old Firehouse Teacher Work Day Trip



Shazam Day
Friday, April 5, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$55/\$45 MCC district residents

Find Something Wonderful



Spring Garage Sale & Kids' Corner
Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Parking Garage at 1420 Beverly Rd.
Free admission

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The Old Firehouse Spring Break Trips
Monday, April 15-Friday, April 19
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
Prices vary based on activity.

McLean Traveler Day Trip



2019 Historic Garden Week: Lynchburg
Tuesday, April 30, 7 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
\$157/\$152 MCC district residents



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org

Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org

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Announcements

NEWS

PHOTOS BY LISA FAY/THE CONNECTION



The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department held its biannual Spring Bazaar and Craft Show on Saturday, March 23. They also hold one in the Fall.

Raising Money to Help Fight Fire

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department holds 59th Craft Bazaar.

By LISA FAY
THE CONNECTION

At every Vienna event, the core theme is community. Carol Blevins, the Vice President of the Vienna Fire Department's Auxiliary team, has been with the auxiliary for the last 28 years. "The auxiliary supports raising money for new fire safety equipment," said Blevins. "We have the best fire trucks. We have the best ambulances because we [the auxiliary] buy them. It's because of functions like this that make that possible."

This year is the 59th year the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department is holding the Craft Bazaar and the Blevins family has been a part of it for years.

"I've been doing this for 23 years," said Paige Williamson, daughter of Mrs. Blevins. "We do this to give back to the community. We live here, and if your house is burning down I want to make sure there is good equipment that's going to come to your house and save you," Williamson said. "All of the equipment downstairs is volunteer paid for, the county does not pay for any of that. The building here, we pay the electric bill all from fundraising money. So for example when we have our Taste of Vienna, craft shows, pancake breakfasts, bingo, all of that is to



Susan Fay of Vienna pictured with Carol Blevins, Vice President of the Vienna Fire Department's Auxiliary.

raise money."

Vendors selling a variety of items from Tupperware, clothing, fragrances, cosmetics, and jewelry filled the room. A table had raffle items and each donation came with a free bag of cookies.

"I love the people," said Robin Sailer, an independent stylist for Mary Kay makeup and resident of Vienna. "and I love how it helps the fire department."

People mingled about, conversing with the vendors and each other. The brightly colored clothes of LulaRoe stood out with Amber and Nick Johnson, independent fashion retailers for LulaRoe. "I love the family and atmosphere here," said Johnson. The Johnsons have been coming to the Craft Bazaar for four years. "We love the hosts," said Nick. "The fire department does a great job. We live in Woodbridge, but we love Vienna. Everybody is so welcoming."



Robin Sailer, a Mary Kay sales representative, sits with her husband Frank at her booth full of beauty products.



Sandi Belson, an independent Scentsy consultant, stands among her collection of home and personal fragrances.

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SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR HERE
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BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27

Lenten Brownbag Lunch & Book Discussion.

12:30-2 p.m. in the Library at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Bring a bag lunch and join a study of Rowan Williams' book Resurrection following the 12:10 p.m. Lenten Midweek Eucharist on Wednesdays. Join for worship in the Chapel beforehand or just come for the book discussion. Visit www.holycomforter.com for more.

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting.

7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax. The Park Authority Board is a 12-member board appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to set policy and establish strategic policy and direction for the Park Authority. Open to the public. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm or call 703-324-8662.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

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. Free with membership; non members, \$10. RSVP at www.vahcc.com/hispanic-connect-nova.

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 MCCP Foundation to hear the latest on the state of healthcare for children locally, across Virginia, and at the Federal level. Meet with legislators, health professionals, business leaders, and community advocates to discuss current news and updates from experts in the field. \$25-\$35. Visit mccpfoundation.org/event/legislative-update-breakfast-march-29-2019/ to register.

Brain Health as You Age. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Lee Senior Center, 5722 Lee Highway, Arlington. Learn more about age-related changes in memory and learning and practices to keep the brain sharp. Learn what to expect, what's "normal" and when it's time to seek a doctor's input. Register online at www.insightmcc.org, or contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 703-204-4664 or lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org.

Teen Depression: What Parents Need to Know. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. This workshop presented by Dr. Kathryn DeLonga, PsyD, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Director of the Mood Brain and Development Unit Psychological Treatment Program at the National Institute for Mental Health, will highlight the prevalence 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 SIS 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. Dozens of exhibits 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, 4212 Technology Court, Chantilly. Temple Rodef Shalom at Temple Beth Torah. Judaica including mah jong items, jewelry, books, assorted gift items, as well as Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Chanukah, Passover and Shabbat items. Contact Faith Abzug at Faith.Abzug@gmail.com or call 319-329-9802.

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Weight For It ... Wait ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't like interacting with artificial intelligence. Nor do I like interacting with artificially-intelligent emailers.

And I especially don't like when there's an attempt by these "a.i.s" to modify my behavior by suggesting a pre-programmed, presumptive 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 likewise recently paid for.

To that end, which does not justify their means, today I received an email that goes above and beyond the "a.i.s" purview. And how this particular email came my way is "curious," as Spock from the original "Star Trek" might say.

On March 1, moments before my last infusion, I stepped on a scale which registered my "overweight," which along with taking my blood pressure, pulse and oxygen levels are part of the usual and customary vitals I provide each and every time I go for treatment. Other than my "overweight," my vitals are completely normal.

Treatment start-date to date, 10-plus years now, my "overweight" has never been a problem (truth be told, I'm hardly obese, just pleasingly plump), just a factor in determining how much medicine is dripped by my IV.

The oncologist and medical staff has seemed more concerned with a patient losing weight - which I rarely have. Although during the early days of six-plus hours of heavy-duty chemotherapy, I did lose weight and it was a concern and can portend a serious complication.

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, not a nurse and not personalized by any medical professional, but rather sent from some artificially-intelligent thing offering me information on varying diets and their respective benefits. At first I laughed at its location - in my inbox, and then I began to question its legitimacy and then I got mad at its presumptive intent.

Was this a coincidence? Was this merely a continuing outreach to the HMO's patients like its colon-rectal screening program, sent to patients of a certain age, seems to be? Or was it something more insidious like "Hal" 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 electronic missive emailed with the cold, insensitive precision of Pentium chips?

Putting aside the obvious fact that I do need to lose weight, even though as my brother Richard says so often when he sees me: "The weight looks good on you," I am not doing so because a computer told me to.

In fact, I may not do so at all just to spite that computer, and by association, the system that exists/was put in place (presumably by some human) that believes that communicating with its members electronically is the wave of the future rather than the bane of my present. I cannot, I will not be a pawn in this game of clones where the same messages get sent to millions of semi unsuspecting patients by uncertified non-professionals as a matter of some coarse level of routine.

If you want me to change my behavior, or at least consider changing my behavior, you have to try a little harder than by sending pre-programmed message to patients who meet/exceed a certain threshold.

And how did my personal information actually get known anyway? Is there a system in place that automatically reviews patient's private histories by cross-referencing who had appointments and what the new details were? Was the scale and blood pressure machine in on it? If so, is my medical care becoming more automated and less individualized?

I realize I'm just a number but I didn't think they'd take it literally.

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

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. Youth voters 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. Youth voters 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 Lewinsville Park, 1659 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 15! Call the Center at 703-744-9348 or send a request by email to "elections@mcleancenter.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 10 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*

YOUTH CANDIDATES *Two positions open*



Maria Foderaro-Guertin

mariaformccboard@gmail.com

I'm 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. I am a foreign language and history teacher with broad experience in management with companies and nonprofits. My career spans many organizations where I continued to advance my core values and culture of volunteerism and hard work. The newly renovated center can become a hub of activity for all ages. With your vote, I will continue to work with our board to expand offerings for our vibrant community.



Suzanne Le Menestrel

suzanne4mclean@gmail.com

I have lived in McLean with my family for eight years. I am honored to be running for the Governing Board. A lifelong theatre fan, I avidly support The Alden Theatre and the MCC's many arts programs. I am deeply committed to serving my community and the broader Washington, D.C. region. I am on the board of directors for the Prince George's Child Resource Center, volunteered as a Girl Scout leader, mentor teen Girl Scouts working on their Gold Awards and contribute my expertise in child and youth development programs, policies and research to national advisory groups.



Sun Park

sunpark94@gmail.com

I am running to amplify the voices of young professionals. Having grown up in McLean and been on the board in the past, I understand both our community and this Center's purpose. I want to shape the strategic direction of the MCC to reflect the changes in McLean. My priorities are to increase programming targeted at the growing young professional demographic, encourage more diverse cultural events sponsored by the Center and ensure that the funds allocated to the Center maximize the benefit of all. I'm committed to fostering a strong community and am excited for this opportunity to give back.



Carla Post

carla4community@gmail.com

Our family moved to McLean in 2008 and immediately felt welcomed by the wonderful community. Throughout the years, we have benefited from so many MCC programs that I want to give back by joining the board. As a Director of Conference Services, I have 25 years' experience planning and directing events, managing technology and budgets and leading teams supporting conference and facilities spaces. I'm also the Sustainability Project Manager for a major corporation and hope to work with MCC staff to promote sustainable practices and incorporate environmental education into the curriculum. Thank you for this opportunity to serve our community.



Barbara Protacio

electbarb@gmail.com

I'm Barbara Protacio, and as a teacher, coach and mother of two, I have served country, community and family. When I graduated from Yale, I wanted to give back to the country that embraced me when I was adopted as a baby from Guatemala. I began my life of service as a Navy captain, a PTA president at two schools, and I am currently teaching first grade in Vienna. Now, I wish to serve my neighbors on the McLean Community Center Governing Board to provide programs and activities that create an inviting McLean community that embraces people of all backgrounds.



Alizé Ashraf

alize.ashraf@gmail.com

I moved to McLean four years ago in eighth grade. Since then, McLean has had so much to offer me, from recreational soccer to Dranesville district meetings at MCC. Along the way, I've made some great friends at Langley High School and have become a part of the community through the school orchestra, Saxon Stage, clubs and honor societies. I've learned to handle responsibility and manage my time by helping Abrar Ormeish with her 2019 school board campaign. I'm excited about getting more youth involved with the MCC. McLean has given me so much and I want to give back.



Anna Krause-Steinrauf

annakrause222@gmail.com

I have loved growing up in McLean. I am a Junior at Langley High School and value being a part of my school's and McLean's community. I am running as a candidate because I am passionate about making the McLean Community Center a place for everyone, especially youth. Through programs at the McLean Community Center, I have learned valuable skills and made friends. I would like to advocate for intergenerational programs to bring people together since many do not have extended family in the area. I have experience in planning and participating in meetings through Langley's Service Learning Club.



Megan Markwart

lmarkwart@gmail.com

A lifelong McLean resident and Junior at Langley, I've attended MCC programs since I was born, tagging along with my siblings to Music Together class. Redeemer Lutheran and my family taught me the importance of giving back and sports taught me the value of teamwork. Having played field hockey, soccer and track at Langley, elected Class of 2020 SGA representative annually and serving on the MCC Board this past year has prepared me to actively participate on next year's Board. I support programming of interest to young adults such as the MCC-Alden-TEDxTysons event. Thank you for your vote.



Sabrina Benmira

sabrinake703@gmail.com

McLean has been my home for as long as I can remember. I am committed to this community and the people that live here. My international background has allowed me to appreciate the diversity of McLean and connect with my peers. At McLean High School, I have fallen in love with field hockey and devoted my time to raising money for the American Cancer Society through Relay for Life. If elected as a board member, I will provide crucial insight into the lives of the youth and strive to make changes that are in the best interest of everyone.



Xavier Jimenez

xavierjimenez523@gmail.com

Hi! I'm Xavier, a Junior from McLean. I'm running for the Board because I care about my town and the people in it. It's my belief that making life more enjoyable, for even one person, makes the community stronger as a whole. When I was younger, I used to volunteer to usher the plays put on at the Alden Theatre. I've volunteered for the State Senate race in Virginia's 35th district and interned on a local Fairfax election for Chairman of the Board. Due to my passion for the wellbeing of citizens, I believe I'd make a great Board member.



Lindsea Strelser

lcstrelser@gmail.com

My name is Lindsea Strelser and I'm a junior at McLean High School. I'm the right fit for our MCC Governing Board because I will always keep the interest of McLean's residents in mind when making decisions regarding what programs are available for you! As an ambassador for the Fairfax Office for Women, I have hands-on experience with planning fun, rewarding events and getting the most out of a budget! As a teenager myself, I'm invested in making the MCC as exciting and welcoming to the youth as possible. Please vote for me as your new Youth Governing Board member.

LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL BOUNDARY AREA
McLEAN HIGH SCHOOL BOUNDARY AREA

Meet the Candidates!



1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Va. 22101

703-790-0123/TTY: 711

www.mcleancenter.org