

Great Falls CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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The Fein Family were named the Star Spangled Family in the Great Falls July 4th Celebration of Hometown.

Hometown Celebrated in Great Falls

Taking High-school
Science to New Heights

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'Plan B' for Saving
Marmota Farm

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The Celebrate Great Falls float makes its way around the Village Green.



Oliver and Augustine Henry during the Little Patriots Parade. Their wagon was named Best Decorated.

Hometown Celebrated in Great Falls

Great Falls celebrated the Fourth of July with a day full of events for the whole family. The day began with a 5K Fun Run put on by the Great Falls Trailblazers. The Great Falls Friends & Neighbors club sponsored the next event, the Little Patriots Parade, and awarded prizes for the children sporting the best patriotic outfits and decorated wagons. The Main Parade around the Great Falls Village Centre featured floats, antique cars, and community organizations that was followed by festivities, food and fun on the Village Centre Green. The day ended with a fireworks display at Turner Farm Park.

PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/
THE CONNECTION



Ryan McKinney with sons Bryce, 4, and Finn, 3, are ready to cheer on their mom and aunt in the 5K Fun Run.



Wiehan Peyper from Great Falls is once again the winner of the 5K Fun Run with a time of 20:20. Peyper has won the event four out of the past five years.



Laura Perry from Great Falls pushes her son Henry, 2, towards the finish line of the 5K Fun Run.



Maggie Wray with her son Jake, 3, who won the Little Liberty contest.



The Little Miss Betsy Ross winner was 10-month-old Autumn Rust.



The parade featured members of Great Falls girls lacrosse.

Special Session on Gun Violence

Eight proposed bills would make the commonwealth safer.

Members of the Virginia General Assembly were scheduled on July 9 to convene in a special session intended to address gun violence. After the May 31 mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Gov. Ralph Northam called for a special session of the General Assembly to address gun violence. Last week, he announced a package of eight bills for consideration during the special session.

❖ Legislation requiring background checks on all firearms sales and transactions. The bill mandates that any person selling, renting, trading, or transferring a firearm must first obtain the results of a background check before completing the transaction.

❖ Legislation banning dangerous weapons: assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, bump stocks and silencers.

❖ Legislation to reinstate Virginia's successful law allowing only one handgun purchase within a 30-day period.

❖ Legislation requiring that lost and stolen firearms be reported to law enforcement within 24 hours.

❖ Legislation creating an Extreme Risk Pro-

TECTIVE Order (Red Flag law), allowing law enforcement and the courts to temporarily separate a person from firearms if the person exhibits dangerous behavior that presents an immediate threat to self or others. This would prevent suicides.

❖ Legislation prohibiting all individuals subject to final protective orders from possessing firearms. The bill expands Virginia law which currently prohibits individuals subject to final protective orders of family abuse from possessing firearms, keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.

❖ Legislation enhancing the punishment for allowing access to loaded, unsecured firearm by a child from a Class 3 Misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony. The bill also raises the age of the child from 14 to 18.

❖ Legislation allowing localities to enact any firearms ordinances that are stricter than state law. This includes regulating firearms in municipal buildings, libraries and at permitted events.

These are in fact common sense proposals, and each one should get consideration and a vote. There's a good chance that won't be the outcome because Republicans narrowly control both the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate.

But the special session will focus legislators and voters on the importance of these issues, and that focus will serve the effort well, whether or not any of the bills pass into law this month.

EDITORIAL

Pet Issue Photos

The Pet Issue, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of July, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Thursday, July 25.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description of what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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— MARY KIMM

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'Plan B' for Saving Marmota Farm

An open memo to the Great Falls community.

BY JOHN G. COLBY, AIAE

Many of you already know me as the developer of such local communities as Deerfield Pond, Arnon Lake, Walker Woods Lake, Riverbend Farm, Riverscape, McLean Falls and many others. Four such communities were situated on property assembled in the 1950s and 60s by my client and friend, John W. Hanes, Jr. Marmota Farm, also once owned by John and his children, comprises 22.8 acres at the corner of Georgetown Pike and Innsbruck Avenue.

This bucolic former dairy farm is flanked by the Great Falls Grange Park and the Lift Me Up therapeutic riding center, appearing just as it did when I first came to, and fell in love with, Great Falls more than 50 years ago. Few such large, undeveloped Great Falls properties remain; none is more prominent.

I recently placed Marmota Farm under contract. I am now in the

early stages of due diligence, seeking a partner, investor or subsequent owner(s) who share my desire to abandon a 2005 County-approved subdivision plan yielding eleven relatively small lots.

The 2005 "Plan A" imposes extremely negative impacts along the site's prominent Georgetown Pike frontage and neighborhood. Indeed, the approved site plan has been a continuing source of local concern, fostering a 14-year long "Save Marmota Farm" initiative. (For background Google that phrase.) With its current \$11 million tax assessment, the Park Authority has rebuffed pleas to acquire Marmota Farm and annex it to its western neighbor, The Grange Park.

About ten years ago I retired from my Great Falls-based career as architect, land planner and developer. I have come out of retirement in the hope of thwarting the unpopular 2005 site plan. In its place, I have conceived a "gentle," by-right subdivision ("Plan B"), initially creating four and eventually just eight parcels. Two 5-

acre+ lots would back to Philip Digges Dr. The two other parcels, each of more than six acres, would front on Georgetown Pike and be suitable for re-division into three 2-acre+ lots. I hope to sell any of the four large parcels, or combinations of them. My approach eliminates all the 2005 required infra-structure except for a desirable public trail along Georgetown Pike. No one appears to have thought of my alternative low-yield concept with its lots averaging 59 percent larger. My "Plan B" preserves most of the site's tree cover and natural terrain by eliminating more than three acres of new public roads, a homeowner-maintained "dry pond" and 240 foot long dam on Georgetown Pike. I have met with my engineers and County staff to validate the feasibility of my approach, and met with a few reputable local builders and investors sympathetic to my vision.

As an alternative to near-term residential development, another option exists for an owner, or owners, to place Marmota Farm into a

County Agricultural and Forrestral (A&F) District. This involves holding the property intact for at least 8 years, during which an annual property tax liability of more than \$130,000 would be mostly forgiven. (This, for instance, is how the nearby 57-acre Great Falls Horse Center is held.) Many of us Great Falls seniors will recall that the nearby Cornwell Farm community was so saved from extensive development when, back in the 70s, an ad-hoc group of neighbors was able to induce its resale (thus, "Ad Hoc Road.")

My first objective is to rescue Marmota Farm from pending intrusive development. Although having already invested in the time and expense of my contract and due diligence, if my initiative proves unsuccessful I will regretfully have to exercise a right to withdraw from it. At that point it will be up to my successor to determine whether to pursue the old "Plan A," my legacy "Plan B," or go in yet another direction.

For site plans, pricing and terms, kindly contact me at the following address: John G. Colby, AIAE Email: marmotaplanb@gmail.com



Senior Center to Host Talk on Stages of Retirement

Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) has announced a guest speaker Stan Corey, who will talk about the stages of retirement and how to avoid serious pitfalls. Corey breaks "retirement" into five major stages. These largely chronological stages are when we transition from working, to go-go years, to no-go years and to end of life. Corey will place emphasis on the common pitfalls as he has witnessed at each of these stages. Everyone goes through these stages; it is just the amount of time in each that is different.

Corey has been a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) and Certified Private Wealth Advisor (CPWA). He is retired but remains a sought-after expert who regularly provides financial commentary at national conferences, in print and online publications, and on TV. He has published two books: a novel, *The Divorce Dance*, and a non-fiction, *When Work Becomes Optional*.

Corey has also been an avid sailor, and navigating the seas has been his lifelong

passion, competing in numerous sailing club and international regattas as skipper, helmsman, and tactician on a variety of boats from fifteen to sixty feet. He won the Naval District of Washington sailing championship in 1974 and became an ocean racing coach for the Naval Academy after his honorable discharge in 1976.

The July 16 event will be held at the Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes lunch to be provided by the United Methodist Church Women, a donation of \$10 per lunch will be appreciated. Contact Polly Fitzgerald at Pollyfitz1@verizon.net or call 703-759-4345 to make your reservation. Visit gfseniors.org for additional information and membership.

The event sponsor, once again is John Nugent & Sons Northern Virginia's heating, air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical service experts since 1975. Give Back Donation for July is Non Sweetened Cereal and Peanut Butter is always needed.

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What Do You Think?

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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Home LifeStyle

Plastic bins such as those in this closet can help maximize space in a dorm room, advises Susan Unger of ClutterSOS.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN UNGER.

Dorm Room Decor

Adding style and creating space in tight quarters

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
 THE CONNECTION

When she moved out of her family home and into a dorm room at Marymount University, one of the obstacles that Grace McKinley faced was creating a sense of style and order in her new downsized dwelling.

"[My] biggest challenge was making a small space feel like a functional home," said McKinley, an interior design major who now works as an intern at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc.

For students who are getting ready to head off to college next month, part of their preparation includes shopping for supplies to hold items ranging from jeans and t-shirts to laptops and books. Like McKinley, many will take on the task of finding pieces that will serve the dual role of adding both aesthetic appeal and efficient organization to a diminutive and austere room.

"First of all, since dorm rooms are really small, try to only take what you know you will actually need," said Susan Unger of ClutterSOS. "If you can only take your clothes, choose items needed for the current season and then change them out when you return home for a visit."

Even for those who choose to take only a limited amount of clothing, finding the best use of space requires creativity and precision. "Use bed risers to make room for under-the-bed storage bins where you can house items such as extra food and clothing you don't wear on a regular basis," said Unger.

Students who, like McKinley, miss the comforts of home, can use nostalgic reminders to smooth out the transition. "I made sure to put up photos of friends and family on the wall to add a sentimental touch," she said. "And I coordinated my favorite colors in my bedding and organization items." McKinley said those items included stackable, plastic storage trays that held her jewelry and school supplies.

In fact, tools for keeping order are essential when trying to maximize the limitations of size-challenged rooms. "Always think of using available vertical space such as the back of doors," said Unger. "You can actually use an over-the-door shoe bag for other things like toiletries or food instead of shoes."

Even dorm-sized appliances can be multi-functional, says Unger. "If you have a refrigerator with metal sides you can use magnetized bins for office



When decorating a small space, interior designer Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling Inc. says that bold colors can add vibrancy.

or kitchen supplies like condiments or eating utensils," she said. "A shower caddy is also a good idea so that you can keep all your bathing supplies in one place."

When it comes to breathing life into sterile, cramped quarters, a touch of vibrancy can have a big impact, says Allie Mann, designer and senior interiors specialist at Case. "When decorating a small space, don't be afraid of color," she said. "The best small spaces are those that are the most colorful. So many times folks are afraid of too much color. Be bold and have fun."

Accessories that Mann recommends include colorful peel-and-stick wallpaper. "Take any lamp and give it life and character with pom poms from a craft store," she said.

While she encourages color creative, her advice comes with a caveat. "Be careful not to mix too much pattern," she said. "Too much pattern in a small space could be a bit dizzying."

Now working as Mann's design intern at Case, McKinley says that, as she progressed in her major, she began putting her newly acquired skills to use in her dorm room. "In my interior design classes, we learned that balancing elements of design like color, shape, space, and texture creates the best spaces," she said. "Adding interest with a unique throw pillow, patterned rug, or a fun lamp can make a simple dorm stand out from the rest."

PHOTO COURTESY OF HIGHER ORBITS



Caroline Wenks, Great Falls; Abi Youngker, Phoenix, Ariz.; Leia Spaniak, Deerfield, Ill.; and Jamison Fuller, from Holly Springs, N.C., arrived in Sydney, Australia, this weekend. Hours after getting off planes, the American student science team goes to the Featherdale Wildlife Park.

Taking High-school Science to New Heights

Higher Orbits launches students research and goals to space.

BY CHRISTINA TYLER WENKS

Five students are traveling to Australia to represent the United States at the International Science School at the University of Sydney. One of those students is from Great Falls.

Scientists from all over the world converge in Sydney every other year to provide learning, lecture and laboratory challenges. Ninety of the 140 students are from Australia, but others are from countries around the globe.

In honor of the Apollo mission's 50th anniversary, this year's theme is space, but many sciences will be represented such as forensics and microbiology. One of the presenters is Michelle Lucas, who trained NASA astronauts for more than a decade and worked with International Space Station Flight Control Operations Planning. Lucas founded the Leesburg-headquartered Higher Orbits, the nonprofit requested to find the five American participants.

"The fact that Higher Orbits is all over the United States allowed us to bring students from different regions and with varied experiences," Lucas said.

FOUNDED IN 2015, Higher Orbits is a nonprofit that uses spaceflight to encourage science, math, engineering, technology, teamwork, leadership, and communication. During the organization's Go For Launch! events around the country, students assess real-world problems and generate research projects that could be benefited or amplified by microgravity.

"Growing up in Ohio during the early days of our space program, I heard a lot about what Ohio astronauts John Glenn and Neil

Armstrong were doing in space. That inspired me to become an astronaut. Participating in Higher Orbits events gives me the opportunity to pass that inspiration on to the next generation," said astronaut Mike Foreman, who flew on two shuttle missions, spent more than 26 days in space, and performed five spacewalks. Now Foreman works with Higher Orbits teams competing to launch projects into space.

For the chance to study in Australia, students submitted essays evaluated by space-industry leaders and letters of recommendation from the community, educators and Go For Launch! teammates to be considered for the intense study opportunity.

Each of the five Americans selected to study science in Sydney were part of teams whose Go For Launch! projects won regional competitions. A few have projects that have flown to the International Space Station.

"This is not a fluffy two weeks," said Lucas about the Professor Harry Messel International Science School. "There will be a lot of data and hands-on for these students who are thirsty to get more."

"I went to Higher Orbits for the first time in 2017, my freshman in high school, and since then I've been to rocket launches and Space Camp," said Abi Youngker from the Phoenix, Ariz., area. "All of this came from a Higher Orbits three-day weekend, but the fact that I am going to Australia blows my mind."

"There is a lot of forced learning in the classroom and we are limited by what we are allowed to do. There is not a lot of room for creativity," said Zach Pickerel from Fort Collins, Colo. "Without Higher Orbits, I would never have learned about microbi

SEE GREAT FALLS STUDENTS. PAGE 9



Many Thanks!

The Great Falls Fourth of July Fireworks at Turner Farm Park 2019

This wonderful patriotic event was made possible by local support, donations and volunteers. This annual event is financed solely by citizen and business donations. Without you, this isn't possible. Thank you!

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www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org/fireworks

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Drop-in Mah Jongg. Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Players should have a basic understanding of the rules and should bring their current American MJ League card. For McLean District residents. Email emvarner@verizon.net for more.

Oak Marr Farmers' Market. 8 a.m.-noon at Oak Marr RECenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Every Wednesday through Nov. 13, rain or shine. Call 703-281-6501 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/oak-marr for more.

McLean Farmers Market. Fridays, through Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Sixteen local farmers and producers. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean.

Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org for more.

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

THURSDAY/JULY 11

Nottoway Nights: David Bach Consort. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug. 22. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

FRIDAY/JULY 12

ESL Playdate Cafe. 1-2 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Meet other caregivers of young children. Adults practice English while children enjoy play time in the same room. Birth-5 years with adult. Free. Call 703-242-4020 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5260042.

Summer on the Green: Fat Chance (rock). 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. The Summer on the Green concert series returns to Vienna's Town Green Friday nights through Aug. 23. Please see the text below or the attached release for details. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 12-14

Seussical The Musical. Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The McLean Community Players return to the Alden Theatre with the musical "Seussical," which opens July 12, 2019, and runs weekends through July 28. "Seussical" brings together many beloved Dr. Seuss characters. \$15-\$28. Email info@McLeanPlayers.org or visit www.McLeanPlayers.org for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 13

Book Collection. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at SunTrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. The McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will be collecting used books, CDs, DVDs, software, children's books, records, and recent textbooks. No encyclopedias, VHS or audiotapes. Books for children are especially needed. Books must be bagged or boxed and the bags and boxes must be left with the books. The book sale will be held Sept. 13-15 at the McLean Community Center. Proceeds benefit scholarships for women. Contact aauwbookfair@gmail.com or 703-527-4206 with questions.

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an



Seussical™

Seussical The Musical

The McLean Community Players return to the Alden Theatre with the musical "Seussical," which opens July 12, 2019, and runs weekends through July 28. "Seussical" brings together many beloved Dr. Seuss characters. Running weekends: July 12-14, July 19-21 and July 26-28; Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$15-\$28. Email info@McLeanPlayers.org or visit www.McLeanPlayers.org for more.

open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

Open Mic Night. 7-10 p.m. at Caffe Amouri, 107 Church St. NE, Vienna. Every Friday, a featured host is the main performer and also the emcee who introduces other performers who show up to play music, recite poetry, or do a comedy routine. Free admission. Call 703-938-1623 or visit caffeamouri.com/events-calendar.

SUNDAY/JULY 14

Blood Drive. 7:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church will host its next Blood Drive in partnership with Inova. Those wishing to donate do not need to be a member of Lewinsville. Bring a photo I.D. when you come to donate. Call 703-356-7200 or email Lewinsville-Church@lewinville.org with questions. Read eligibility requirements and sign up at www.lewinville.org/events/blood-drive/.

A Walk in the Park. 10-11:30 a.m. at Wolf Trap National Park, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Join the Green Spring Master Gardeners and Friends of Wolf Trap for a walk and learn through the Rain, Woodland and Pollinator Gardens or take a guided hike along the trails, pond and wetlands at the Park. Learn how Wolf Trap National Park has created an oasis for native plants and wildlife (and humans) in a highly urbanized region. All ages are welcome. Leashed dogs are welcome for the trail walk but are not allowed in the gardens. Free. Registration required at friendsofwolftrap.org/event/july_2019_guided_walk/.

Summer Concerts: Frontiers - Journey tribute band. 5 p.m. in the gazebo of McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. The Alden at the McLean Community Center is again sponsoring free summer concerts in the gazebo of McLean Central Park featuring a mix of musical genres. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Concerts on the Green: Jr. Cline and the Recliners. 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Bring picnic baskets, chairs and blankets for an evening of live music. Free. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 16

Kids on the Green: Bill Wellington (kids songs and storytelling). 10 a.m. on the Vienna Town Green. The Kids on the Green series is a weekly collection of interactive animal shows, magicians, puppet performances, and more, running through Aug. 20. Free. Visit viennava.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 17

Stories, Songs & Sprinklers. 1 p.m. on the Freeman Store lawn. Partnering with Historic Vienna, Inc., the Town of Vienna invites young children and families to an afternoon of storybook reading, short songs, and fun with water sprinklers. Free. Visit viennava.gov for more.

Blvd., McLean. The Alden at the McLean Community Center is again sponsoring free summer concerts in the gazebo of McLean Central Park featuring a mix of musical genres. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Concerts on the Green: the Unfinished. 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Bring picnic baskets, chairs and blankets for an evening of live music. Free. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

Summer on the Green: Vienna Community Band. 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

TUESDAY/JULY 23

Kids on the Green: Michael Cantori (magician). 10 a.m. on the Vienna Town Green. The Kids on the Green series is a weekly collection of interactive animal shows, magicians, puppet performances, and more, running through Aug. 20. Free. Visit viennava.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 24

Stories, Songs & Sprinklers. 1 p.m. on the Freeman Store lawn. Partnering with Historic Vienna, Inc., the Town of Vienna invites young children and families to an afternoon of storybook reading, short songs, and fun with water sprinklers. Free. Visit viennava.gov for more.

Family Movie Night: The Incredibles 2. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lewinsville's fourth Family Movie Night of the summer will feature The Incredibles 2 (PG). A dinner of pizza will be served. Bring a lawn chair and friends. The community is welcome, visitors do not need to be a member of Lewinsville. Visit www.lewinville.org/events/family-movie-night-4/.

THURSDAY/JULY 25

Nottoway Nights: Randy Thompson Band. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug. 22. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

FRIDAY/JULY 26

Summer on the Green: U.S. Army Band: Swamp Romp (Louisiana jazz and folk). 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. Friday nights through Aug. 23. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 26-28

Seussical The Musical. Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The McLean Community Players return to the Alden Theatre with the musical "Seussical," which opens July 12, 2019, and runs weekends through July 28. \$15-\$28. Email info@McLeanPlayers.org or visit www.McLeanPlayers.org for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Open Mic Night. 7-10 p.m. at Caffe Amouri, 107 Church St. NE, Vienna. Every Friday, a featured host is the main performer and also the emcee who introduces other performers who show up to play music, recite poetry, or do a comedy routine. Free admission. Call 703-938-1623 or visit caffeamouri.com/events-calendar.

SUNDAY/JULY 28

Summer Concerts: Slippery When Wet: The Ultimate Bon Jovi Tribute. 5 p.m. in the gazebo of McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. The Alden at the McLean Community Center is again sponsoring free summer concerts in the gazebo of McLean Central Park featuring a mix of musical genres. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Concerts on the Green: Dr. Guy Van Syckle. 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Bring picnic baskets, chairs and blankets for an evening of live music. Free. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

Great Falls Student Explores Science in Australia

FROM PAGE 7

ology at the level I wanted.”
 Pickerel is a Higher Orbits veteran whose third Go For Launch! experiment is being considered for development and launch to the ISS. The junior from Fort Collins High School looks forward to speakers who will speak about fields he’s not yet studied, such as micro-robotics.

Jamison Fuller of Holly Springs, N.C., has a project aboard the International Space Station created during a Durham Higher Orbits Go For Launch! event. His Team Orion developed a project that involves fungi that absorb radiation.

“Fungi metabolize radiation and lower radiation on the ISS, lowering risk of cancers and radiation-related conditions among astronauts,” said the high-school junior who wants to be an aerospace engineer. “Results will come back in a few months. With the data, we’ll see if the experiment is successful.”

CAROLINE WENKS from Great Falls says a future in space is a must. “Other people see it as exploration, which I fully support, but it’s imperative that we as a people also consider life elsewhere.”

Wenks and the other American science ambassadors plan to write and blog about learning experiences with a global solutions-based mindset.

“I do not believe we can completely fix some problems on this planet, such as human-caused climate change, but we must make greater effort to make these problems less extreme,” said the Langley High School junior.

Leia Spaniak, from Deerfield, Ill., participated in two Go For Launch! events. In fall, her all-girl team created a project that measures an antioxidant produced by algae is expected to launch to the ISS from Virginia’s Wallops Flight Facility.

“There is no large natural source, which is expensive,” Spaniak said. “But if in microgravity it works efficiently, we can make the antioxidant naturally, which would be helpful.”

Spaniak and the others say Higher Orbits helped them identify friends, education and professional goals.

“I’ve been trying to get kids at school to do it so they can find something or a group that you connect with,” she said.

“Higher Orbits inspired me to pursue STEM,” said Youngker, who wants to study aerospace engineering in college. “These people give me hope that I’m going to be okay in the future. I respect myself more as a thinker.”

“This is not just a STEM experience, but a cultural experience. They will spark new thought, but they will learn more about themselves,” said Lucas.

On Aug. 7 and 8 at the Arlington’s Lockheed Martin Global Vision Center, Higher Orbits conducts a Go For Launch! sponsored by the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics. That event is one of six in the Apollo Series from which an experiment will be selected and launched into microgravity during a future ISS resupply mission. Scholarships are available to those who apply, too.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HIGHER ORBITS

Caroline Wenks of Great Falls, and Leia Spaniak of Deerfield, Ill., feed red kangaroos in Sydney, Australia, before attending the Harry Messel International Science School at the University of Sydney.

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The McLean Community Players, Inc. is funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County. **ARTSFAIRFAX**
 Audio description by the Metropolitan Washington Ear is available on July 21.
 Seussical is presented through special arrangement with MusicTheatre International (MTI), 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019.

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NEWS

Development Authority Names New Leader

Victor Hoskins named president and CEO of Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) has named Victor Hoskins as its new president and chief executive officer. Hoskins is currently Director of Economic Development for Arlington County, Va., where he helped lead the successful regional effort to bring Amazon's HQ2 to Northern Virginia. He previously served as Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development for the District of Columbia where he was instrumental in the development of major sites in the District including City Center, the Wharf and Union Market.

work closely with my colleagues and friends in the region. I also plan to increase our use of research and digital communications to expand the county's dynamic workforce, attract startups and grow existing businesses."

The FCEDA recently announced a new talent attraction and retention program to build on opportunities created by Amazon's HQ2 in Northern Virginia. The program, which will receive \$1 million in its first year and \$800,000 in succeeding years, will study what organizations are doing to expand the talent pipeline and will use that knowledge to create a communications effort that will include digital advertising, social media, video/multimedia and outreach to journalists.



Victor Hoskins

Stephen Moret, president and CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, said Hoskins will bring innovation and cooperation to his new role. "Victor will bring a uniquely compelling mix of experience, savvy and collaborative spirit to the FCEDA," Moret said. "He has a deep understanding of all the elements of economic development and how they interact.

THE FCEDA helps businesses start, expand and relocate in Fairfax County by promoting the county as one of the world's best business locations. Fairfax County already is home to 10 Fortune 500 companies, more than 100 companies on the Inc. 5000 list and 8,800 tech companies. It also has one of the nation's most educated workforces with top-ranked schools and nearly 150,000 technology workers, or one in four jobs in the county. Hoskins will assume his new role Aug. 5.

"Victor has been an economic-development dynamo in our region for years. We are thrilled he is bringing his experience and expertise to Fairfax County," said Catherine Lange, Chair of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority Board. "After an extensive search, Fairfax County found the right leader in our own backyard. Victor will be a tremendous asset as we launch new initiatives to strengthen and broaden our workforce and grow our commercial enterprises. With his energy and wide-ranging contacts, Victor will step up our efforts to attract and retain top talent and increase business investment in Fairfax County."

FCEDA did not include Hoskins salary as its new leader with its initial release. Hoskins was paid a reported \$221,900 for his role in Arlington.

Hoskins said he is eager to start his new job. "I couldn't be more excited to join the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority as its new leader," Hoskins said. "Fairfax County is well known for its pro-growth environment and its ability to attract, train and retain talented workers. With the backing of FCEDA's excellent staff, I hope to do more of that with increased outreach in the U.S. and abroad, especially among young people. As always, I hope to

Both innovative and practical, Victor energetically cultivates local, regional and state partnerships that enable collective success, just as he did in helping attract HQ2 to Virginia."

"Fairfax County is proud to have one of the best workforces and business environments in the U.S.," said Sharon Bulova, Chair of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors. "Under Victor's leadership, we will make sure Fairfax County is a place where talent and innovation want to be. We enthusiastically welcome Victor to the Fairfax team."

DURING HIS CAREER, Hoskins' work has resulted in the creation of nearly 375,000 jobs. He has led teams that negotiated more than 700 major business deals resulting in billions of dollars in private investment. Amazon's move to Northern Virginia alone will bring more than 25,000 high tech jobs to the region and will generate at least \$3.2 billion for Virginia.

Hoskins will succeed Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., who retired in late 2018 after being with the FCEDA for 35 years and its president and CEO since 1987. Hoskins' selection follows a national search conducted by Korn Ferry.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Used Book Collection to Be Held July 13

The McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Used Book Collection will be held on Saturday, July 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the SunTrust Bank, 515 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. It will be collecting used books, CDs, DVDs, software, children's books, records, and recent textbooks. No encyclopedias, VHS or audiotapes. Books for children are especially needed.

Books must be bagged or boxed and the bags and boxes must be left with the books. If you have any questions, contact aauwbookfair@gmail.com, or 703-527-4206.

The Book Sale will be held on Sept. 13-15 at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The book sale proceeds benefit scholarships for women.

BULLETIN

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

CAMPS

Camp Invention. Monday-Friday, July 22-26, at Wolftrap Elementary School, 1903 Beulah Road. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., \$265. Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to find their inner inventor. Various STEM-based activities and at the end of the program, each camper will bring home a robot. Visit invent.org/camp.

Summer Choir Camp. Monday-Friday, Aug. 12-16 and Sunday, Aug. 18 at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road NE. \$125 fee includes lunches, recreational activities, music education and camp t-shirt. All children in rising 2nd-7th grade are welcome. No prior music experience or training required; solid reading skills are highly recommended. Scholarships are available. Download registration forms at www.holycomforter.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 11

Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

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

SATURDAY/JULY 13

Car Seat Safety Check. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the McLean district police station, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Fairfax County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely. In preparation for inspection, install the seat using the instructions that came with the car seat. Trained officers will review the car seat instructions and car owner's manual to be certain that they are being followed as they should.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 17

Fairfax Commission on Aging Meets. 1-3 p.m. at McLean Governmental Center, Rooms A & B, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-area-commission-on-aging. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

THURSDAY/JULY 18

Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

Memory Cafe. 2-4 p.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Connect with others living with loved ones with dementia. Helping those with dementia and their caregivers find fun, resources and "family." Email Carol Blackwell at lovriver@aol.com or call at 571-236-6933.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 24

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's 12 appointed members establish strategic policy and direction for the Park Authority. Open to the public. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm or call 703-324-8662.

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My Bi-Weekly Honeymoon



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Granted, I'm not getting on a plane and flying to wherever isn't here but, when you're "labing," every other Wednesday, driving 45 minutes to and from and while "to:" sitting in/being infused at the Infusion Center every other week, the week off between the "others" is almost like getting away, just not on Southwest Airlines.

And when attempting to plan a "honeymoon" of this sort, juggling availability of accommodations, transportation and affordability around one's infusions - all the while aware of the possibility of a reschedule due to one's problematic lab results, is much easier contemplated than actually accomplished.

One preventative step I am now pre-paying for, as an acceptance/concession to the realities of my age/cancer treatment, is trip-cancellation insurance. As no doubt you can appreciate, when one's life is at stake, and whose life-sustaining treatment can change at the drop of a CT scan, it is extraordinarily prudent to anticipate the worst and work some financial flexibility into your wallet.

Unfortunately, when your oncologist says infuse or not to infuse, there is no question. That being said and most definitely true, my oncologist has regularly been concerned with my quality of life.

And by "quality of life," I mean he has been willing to not infuse me whenever I've said I needed to go out of town/attend to family matters/vacation, etc., and/or increase the interval between changes in treatment to accommodate these kinds of obligations/opportunities. He has always been sensitive to the weeks of my life he feels he/the treatment has taken - and which can never be replaced.

And though I've never actually taken advantage of his offer, having felt it was better, if I was physically able, to keep the pedal to the anti-cancer metal, I have worked it into my equation. An equation that has worked for me (kept me alive 10-plus years post diagnosis), but might not have worked for others. There is no recipe for success here. It is to each patient's own.

Moreover, there is no right or wrong because - as us cancer patient-survivors know - cancer treatment is not arithmetic.

As this stage IV, non small-cell lung cancer "diagnossee," given "13 months to two years to live" can attest: the numbers, lab results, chemo/immunotherapy, and scan results don't always add up on paper.

I have no doubt, in arrears, that my oncologist meant every word he told Team Lourie back in late February 2009, and anticipated losing yet another patient to this scourge. Now whether he was consulting a manual, a handbook or an artificially-intelligent data base, I don't know.

But he was clear.

I remember my brother Richard asking him specifically about my prognosis and if I could possibly outlive it. His reply to me: "Could you be the one? Absolutely." The relevant word we all remember: "the one." And that's the burden Team Lourie (and so many others I don't know) has carried ever since. But no worries, really. As my late father used to say: "K.B., you've got broad shoulders."

Still, those broad shoulders need a break and a brake once in a while. And every two weeks, under my present treatment schedule, I receive one.

Because, for all I know, aside from the positive attitude I inherited from my father and the non-Western alternatives I utilize to supplement this standard protocol, these off-weeks might be what's keeping me alive.

And when I realize that my next CT scan - and all the associated anxiety that attaches to it, is less than a month away, I need all the "honeymoon" weeks I can get.

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

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