

McLean CONNECTION

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Families enjoying the picnic area: many chose to bring their own meals to share as McLean community celebrates July 4th at Langley High School.

PHOTO BY MALWAND GULBAN/THE CONNECTION
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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Fairfax County Fire Chief John Butler helps a child with her toys at the Firefighters and Friends Toy Distribution Day in December of 2018.



Fairfax County Fire Chief John Butler, second from right, working with Liberian firefighters in January of this year.

Fire Chief John Butler To Set Vision

The road from Liberia to Fairfax County, with vision to regain the reins of an organization bruised by claims of bullying and harassment.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Chief John Butler didn't grow up wanting to be a firefighter. Born in Liberia, he was 12 years old when his family was forced to flee the country following a military coup in April of 1980.

"My father was among those identified as someone the new regime wanted to do away with," Butler said in recalling the circumstances that led to his immigration to the U.S. "I'm not sure why since he was not involved in politics or the military — he was a businessman. But life had become tumultuous and my parents decided that was not how they wanted to raise their family."

Less than a month later, the family had resettled in Columbia, Md., where Butler graduated from Oakland Mills High School. He would go on to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps and was home on leave when he accompanied a friend to take the test to become a Howard County firefighter. That decision would change his life, leading to a career in firefighting and ultimately to his being named the first African American fire chief in Fairfax County.

"I wasn't looking for a job," Butler said. "I was loving being a Marine. But while I was waiting for my friend a recruiter convinced me to take the test and when I passed, I thought 'Why not this?' As I look back on this path, the wild ride from that lobby to where I am now is never lost on me."

BUTLER WAS NAMED last summer to

replace Chief Richard Bowers and was formally sworn in Sept. 4, 2018. Prior to that he served 26 years with the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services. He began as a firefighter-paramedic, rising through the ranks to serve in a variety of roles, including as battalion chief, emergency medical services chief and administrative chief before being named Howard County's first African American Fire Chief in 2014.

"Howard County [Fire and Rescue] is a high performing organization, but it was time to take on new challenges," Butler said of his move to the helm of Fairfax County, a department three times the size of Howard County. "I always thought highly of Fairfax Fire and Rescue and am mindful of the more recent challenges. I thought I could bring something to the table — to help them get realigned and continue going in a positive direction."

In addition to his firefighting experience, Butler served in the Marines for 21 years, including two combat tours.

"Joining the Marines is one of the best decisions I ever made," Butler said. "In combat is where I grew a lot of my character. It's where I learned how to lead teams and how to lead others on a shared mission and vision."

Butler's vision for FCFRD is to regain the reins of an organization bruised by claims of bullying and harassment.

"I came here to establish guardrails, set a vision and build a healthy team," Butler



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

John Butler addresses the media after being sworn in as Fairfax County Fire Chief Sept. 4, 2018. Butler is the first African American to hold the position.

said. "We have a talented, diverse department but we can't solve problems using the same thinking that created those problems."

BUTLER HAS CREATED an equity and inclusion council and implemented code of conduct and social media policies. Social media policies in particular have been under scrutiny since the 2016 suicide death of firefighter Nicole Mittendorff following claims of online bullying.

"We need to reestablish and rebuild the relationships that have taken a hit over the years," said Butler, who was a defendant in a termination suit brought by a Howard County battalion chief based on social media postings.

"The case — Buker vs Howard County — went to the Supreme Court," Butler said. "We prevailed and stuck to strong social media policies and a code of conduct that basically says that if it disrupts the work-

place, we can hold you accountable. That's the platform I have for here — I won't tolerate cyberbullying or any behavior that disrupts the workplace."

Butler, 52, holds a Master of Science in management from Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Baltimore. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Leadership in Crisis Program.

IN 2014, Butler was the recipient of Johns Hopkins University's Global Achievement Award for his humanitarian work in Africa. He has made multiple trips to the Republic of Liberia, most recently in January of this year, when he

assisted in training recruits for the Liberian National Fire Service and visited the Sayklon Orphanage. Butler uses his personal vacation time and pays for all expenses out of his pocket.

"Whenever I return from trips such as this, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to have the things we have, the infrastructure and quality of life that we enjoy and most often take for granted," said Butler following his most recent trip.

Butler, who is married with three adult children, hopes to have a positive impact in Fairfax County.

"I am really loving the department, the people I am working with and the direction we are going," Butler said. "Most importantly, I hope that my emphasis on trust, courageous conversations and human engagement is making a difference. But the best way I can impact the organization is by modeling good behavior."

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

Good for the Gander

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



The General Assembly went into Special Session July 9 at the call of Gov. Ralph Northam to address gun violence after a shooter with a silencer on his pistol murdered a dozen persons in a municipal building in Virginia Beach. The outcome of the session in which legislators introduced eight different bills at the request of the Governor is unknown as I write this column. I introduced the bill that I have introduced at other sessions to expand criminal background checks for all firearm transactions or universal background checks.

Virginia has had a criminal background check for gun purchases for 30 years. The system was put in place after a bill that was heavily debated and that seemed certain to be defeated was passed with the support of a senior delegate, Vic Thomas, who was an

avid NRA supporter. He concluded that it was a bill the public clearly wanted and should pass because it did not interfere with the Second Amendment. In what may have been the last time the NRA took such a position, it did not support but it did not oppose the bill's passage. Governor Gerald Baliles signed the bill into law even though he had earlier opposed any gun control legislation.

The resulting instant background check system that was put into place continues operating today. It was the promise of an instant background check without the need to wait for days for approval that was the feature that led to the bill's passage.

There was then that continues today a major flaw in the law as originally passed that supporters had hoped to correct but have not been successful in amending. The law only applies to purchases made with federally licensed gun

dealers. That's about half the gun sales in the state each year, although exact statistics are unknown because of statutory limitations on gathering information about gun sales put in place with NRA advocacy. This flaw in the law created what is referred to as the "gun show loophole." At any of the numerous gun shows that are held throughout the Commonwealth one can purchase a gun from a federally licensed gun dealer with an instant background check; at the next table at the show a person can purchase a gun from an unlicensed dealer with no identification needed and no questions asked.

The astonishing statistic is that in 2018 the Virginia State Police conducted 446,333 firearms transactions involving licensed dealers with 3,457 of the transactions denied because of previous criminal behavior. Had the loophole in the law been closed there may have been as many as a half million more checks with a proportionally high number of persons with criminal records being denied another weapon.

What is good for the goose is

Pet Connection, Send Photos

The Pet Connection, 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.

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— MARY KIMM

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Families lounge and play on the football field.



McLean Community Center staff and volunteers hosted the celebration.

McLean Celebrates at Langley High Independence Day celebration returns to familiar turf.

BY MALWAND GULBAN
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Community Center's Fourth of July celebration was held at Langley High School after a four-year hiatus. Infrastructure development at the High School had forced organizers to temporarily relocate to Cooper Middle School. Led by Executive Director George Sachs and Special Events Manager Catherin Nesbitt, staff and

volunteers seemed enthused to be back at their traditional site of celebration.

The event began at 6:30 p.m. Onsite parking was available, and offsite parking was available with a shuttle service. In conjunction with staff, security workers made sure that no prohibited items were allowed onto the event premises, such as tobacco products, alcohol, personal fireworks, and objects which could damage the turf field. Signs placed around the event, instructing guests to report any suspicious activity, char-

acterized the sense of vigilance and community felt at the celebration.

An array of food trucks offering colorful fare such as Korean BBQ, gourmet hot dogs, artisan ice cream, and lobster roll were on site. Families were invited to have their own picnics as well, and many of them arrived with totes in tow. A section of dining tables was set up adjacent to the trucks for families to enjoy their meals, and the laughter and screams of playing children quickly filled the plaza between diners.

The evening culminated with a dazzling display of fireworks over the football field. The crowd erupted into cheers every time a bang would light up the sky. Having waited so patiently for night to fall, the energy of the crowd was felt in full force as the showcase rolled on.

When asked if she anticipated Langley High School being the permanent home of the Independence Day celebration, Nesbitt stated Langley is where they anticipate being for the foreseeable future.

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Publishes: July 31, 2019 • Ads close: July 25, 2019
Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets.
The Pet Connection will publish on July 31, 2019, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family, along with any advertisements, should be submitted by July 25.
This edition provides a great advertising opportunity to reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention - be sure to take advantage of our different advertising options.
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NEWS

From left, Mayzie LaBird (Karen Toth), explains to Gertrude McFuzz (Leslie Lewis) how to be Amazing, while the Bird Girls (Courtney James, Lindsay McClenathan, and Rosemarie O'Connor) listen, "Seussical."



PHOTOS BY IRISH EYES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOBY/
COURTESY MCLEAN
COMMUNITY PLAYERS

McLean Community Players Presents 'Seussical'

Family summertime musical at the Alden Theatre.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where and When

McLean Community Players present "Seussical" at Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean, VA. Performances: July 12 to July 28, 2019. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$28 for adults; \$23 for tax district residents, seniors, and older students; and \$15 for ages 15 and younger. Tickets are available at www.McLeanPlayers.org, by phone at 866.811.4111, and at the Alden Box Office.

Humor and more await with the musical, "Seussical" arriving at the Alden courtesy of the McLean Community Players. "We wanted to give the community a summer blockbuster that was family oriented," said co-producers Bunny Bonnes and Jerry Gideon.

"Dr. Seuss's 'Seussical' world is fun and adventure mixed with powerful life lessons and role models. The characters will appeal to the 'smallest of small and the largest of large,'" said director Shelly Horn. "The characters come off of the page and dance and sing and tell a story with a great moral about friendship, loyalty and believing in yourself."

The musical "Seussical" brings together dozens of fantastic, imaginary characters created by Dr. Seuss in his many books. "The Cat in the Hat" narrates. The musical is about "Horton the Elephant's" adventures while protecting The Whos. The characters travel everywhere from the Jungle of Nool to Whoville, the Circus McGurkus, and other far off fictional destinations.

"Seussical" Music Director Lori Roddy described the many tunes "as a mix of styles including show tunes, rock ballads, ragtime, pop, Latin and swing. The McLean Community Players live band will play keyboards, bass, drums, trumpet, trombone and a range of reed instruments including flute, piccolo, clarinets, alto, and tenor and baritone sax.

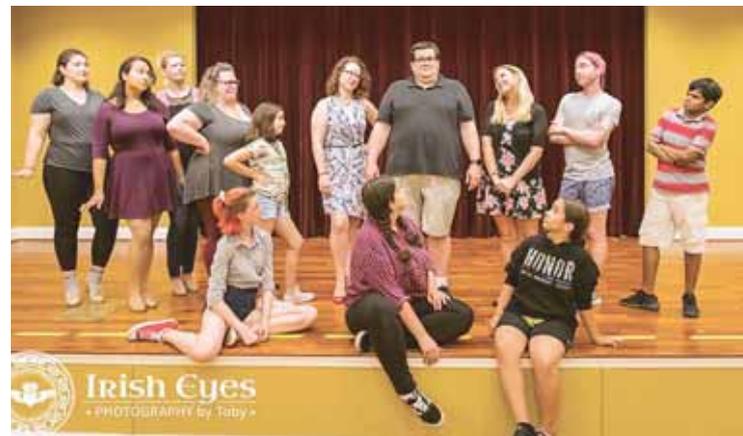
Keith Tittermary plays Horton the Elephant. "Horton says a line that encompasses his whole character: 'I said what I meant and I meant what I said, an elephant's faithful, one-hundred percent.' He will always do what he promises even if it means he makes personal sacrifices along the way."

Leslie Lewis portrays Gertrude McFuzz, a very determined little

bird. "I love her perseverance throughout the show, doing everything she can to help and be noticed by Horton. While Horton continues to be oblivious and focused on other things, you see Gertrude's desperation and love for him. I just love her spirit!"

The Character of Mrs. Umbroso is played by Summer Hunt. "Does she have any lines? No. She has a delicious and interesting backstory? Absolutely. I'm attempting to communicate all that she has seen and done during her tumultuous life in just a few hand motions and ensemble appearances. This woman is minding her own business, hanging out clothes, and the next thing you know she's thrust into a world of madness."

"Seussical" is a show meant to engage young audiences and adults. Just "open your mind," as one of the song lyrics suggests.



From left, the jungle animals in "Seussical" including the Sour Kangaroo, Mayzie LaBird, the Wickersham Brothers and the Bird Girls are all struck by Horton the Elephant's belief in the small planet of Who

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.”

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CALENDAR

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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.

REAL ESTATE

Market 'Flat' in the First Half

First Half 2019 vs. First Half 2018 and 2009: Comparison for McLean and Great Falls.

BY KAREN BRISCOE



Flat is the best description of the real estate market performance for the first half of 2019. Truly I am surprised as there were signs and indicators of more robust activity. The numbers speak for themselves though. There were 576 total transactions in McLean and Great Falls in the first half of 2019. In the same time frame for the previous year, 2018, there were 571.

The segment that showed the most improvement is the price range of \$1 million to \$1.25 million. The move-up buyer in this price range is confident that their lower priced home will sell quickly, maybe even with multiple offers and over list price. This is an indicator that prices under \$1 million may be experiencing price appreciation thus causing buyers to bump up their purchase criteria. What is not accounted for in the data are real estate sales that occur off the "grid." This is most often the case in the lower price points where the house is a tear down for a lot which sells directly to a builder. An indication of this taking place is that the under \$750,000 price point went from 171 to 159 transactions overall in McLean and Great Falls. Important to remember that this potentiality as one reviews the statistics.

There are some that advise homeowners to sell off market. These may be in the form of telemarketers, mailings, and other promotions that emphasize that their company will buy fast and with no commissions. In most cases, a property that is properly marketed by a professional experienced real estate agent will sell for a stronger price. The reason is that competition is a force that is as strong as gravity. Unfortunately, there are those that prey on homeowners who are not savvy or represented, focusing on the money they might save if they sell direct.

The best news is that for two years in a row the market has considerably improved over a decade ago. The bottom of the market year of 2009 represented only 362 sales.

Predictions for the second half of 2019 real estate market indicate more of the same. If interest rates remain steady, home buyers can purchase with confidence. Home sellers who work with experienced professionals can still make a move in 2019 a reality. Homes that show well and are priced correctly sell. This is particularly the case for homes in the lower price points of under \$1.25 million.

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the McLean District Police Station:

LARCENIES:
8300 block of Fox Haven Drive, wallet from vehicle
1900 block of Kennedy Drive, steering wheel from vehicle
7500 block of Leesburg Pike, packages from residence
7500 block of Leesburg Pike, wallet from location
2800 block of Merrilee Drive, generator from business
2900 block of Montauk Court, airbag from vehicle
2900 block of Wickersham Way, airbag from vehicle
STOLEN VEHICLES:
1600 block of International Drive, 2018 Jaguar E
JULY 2
LARCENIES:
1900 block of Gallows Road, purse from vehicle

JULY 1
COMMERCIAL BURGLARY:
1438 Center Street (McLean Hair Center), 6/30/19, 6:38 a.m. Someone broke into the business overnight and stole cash.
COMMERCIAL BURGLARY:
1439 Center Street (Figuroes Salon), 6/30/19, 6:38 a.m. Someone broke into the business overnight and stole cash.
COMMERCIAL BURGLARY:
1434 Center Street (McLean Pizza), 6/30/19, 8:06 a.m. Someone broke into the business overnight and stole cash.
BURGLARY: 8525 Leesburg Pike (Rosenthal Nissan Mazda), 6/29/19, 12 a.m. Someone broke into the business and stole a 2017 Hyundai Accent and a 2016 Nissan Altima.
LARCENIES:
1500 block of Boyd Pointe Way, wallet from vehicle
6300 block of Chesterfield Avenue, wallet from vehicle

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

2019 1 st Half compared to 2018 and 2009						
2019 1 st Half Total Sales: 576						
Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-3 Mil	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.25 Mil	\$750k-\$1 Mil	<\$750k
22101	7	17	70	39	81	24
22102	6	6	20	22	27	121
22066	2	4	39	35	42	14
Total:	15	27	129	96	150	159
Combined Total Upper Brackets: 171			Combined Total Lower Brackets: 405			
2018 1 st Half Total Sales: 571						
Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-3 Mil	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.25 Mil	\$750k-\$1 Mil	<\$750k
22101	10	20	70	43	78	30
22102	6	6	20	18	33	130
22066	0	2	34	20	40	11
Total:	16	28	124	81	151	171
Combined Total Upper Brackets: 168			Combined Total Lower Brackets: 403			
2009 1 st Half Total Sales: 362						
Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-3 Mil	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.25 Mil	\$750k-\$1 Mil	<\$750k
22101	0	7	29	14	34	84
22102	1	4	9	8	10	88
22066	2	4	19	10	20	19
Total:	3	15	57	32	64	191
Combined Total Upper Brackets: 75			Combined Total Lower Brackets: 287			

More Information

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

McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Opens This Friday!
Oh, The Thinks You Can Think!

Seussical™ The Musical

Music by **STEPHEN FLAHERTY**
Lyrics by **LYNN AHRENS**
Book by **STEPHEN FLAHERTY AND LYNN AHRENS**
Co-Conceived by **STEPHEN FLAHERTY, LYNN AHRENS AND ERIC IDLE**
Based on the works of **Dr. Seuss**

July 12-28

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 7:30 P.M.
SUNDAY MATINEES ON JULY 14, 21, AND 28, AT 2:00 P.M.

Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA

Tickets: 866.811.4111
www.McLeanPlayers.org

The McLean Community Players, Inc. is funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County. 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.

CONNECT WITH MCP: [FACEBOOK.COM/MCLEANPLAYERS](https://www.facebook.com/McLeanPlayers)

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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

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

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.

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 audio-tapes. 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 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 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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6295 Columbus Hall, McLean

***AMAZING* 6BR/5.5BA home in sought after McLean location!** This home features eat-in kitchen w/ breakfast bar island, new granite counters and stainless steel appliances; exquisite MBR w/ sitting room & en suite bathroom; gleaming ML hardwood floors; LL rec room; fourth level in-law or au pair suite w/ living space, bedroom, & full bath!



Offered for... \$1,424,900

6060 Sugarstone Court, McLean

***GORGEOUS* 5BR/4.5BA home on quiet cul-de-sac!** This light and bright colonial home features beautiful hardwood floors on the main and upper levels; stunning open floor plan; kitchen w/ sunny breakfast nook; master bedroom w/ luxurious en suite featuring bath with separate soaking tub; amazing screened porch that looks out to the treed backyard!

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