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Great Falls CONNECTION

Yuri Duncan, 7, holds up one of her back-to-school-purchases that Sheriff's Deputy J. M. Smith helped her choose during the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program.



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Shopping Spree for Children in Homeless Shelters

Pride and positive interaction with law enforcement as students get needed gear.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The first day of school is a critical time in the lives of children. An opportunity to shop and choose new back-to-school clothes and shoes excited Yuri Duncan, 7, and Malachi Nealy, 10. On Wednesday, Aug. 21, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office took Yuri, Malachi and thirty-eight other children shopping for back-to-school items, but not before a complimentary pizza lunch by Paisano's Pizza.

These children live right now at the Katherine K. Hanley and Patrick Henry family shelters operated by Shelter House, and the Next Steps family shelter run by Facets.

Now in its 28th year, the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program allowed local shelter children the opportunity to select and purchase clothing they liked, suited to their individual personalities, while interacting in a positive experience with law enforcement. "Together, we truly are changing lives," said Joe Myer Executive Director and CEO of Shelter House.

"I'd like some Jojo shoes because I wear dresses," said Yuri Duncan as she and Sheriff's Deputy J. M. Smith, Field Training Officer, ate their pizza and got to know each other.

FOR MALACHI NEALY, it was all about being cool. "I'm looking for stylish, cool clothes in teal and light blue." Shiah Allen, 8, who sat with Sheriff's Deputy L. R. Favetti said he wanted a hoodie with a 100 on it, and Noah Mathews, 10, knew exactly what clothing and shoes he wanted to get to dominate the game on the school courts. "I'd like themed t-shirts, shorts, and new Nike James LeBron shoes."

"I love the interaction between our kids and our Sheriff's deputies," said Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid. "These children are living in family shelters. Helping them prepare for the start of the school year with new clothes is something we can see and appreciate. Less obvious, but just as important, is the relationship building. We are law enforcement officers ... we are regular people who can tell jokes and stories. We want the children to engage with us today and in the future."

According to Sheriff Kincaid, since the program was not county-funded, the Office relied on contributions from individuals and corporate donations such as Target, Paisano's Pizza and new partner this year, Oracle in Reston.

"Each child is paired up with a Deputy Sheriff or civilian staff member and given \$250 gift cards so they can purchase items such as clothing, accessories, things that they need...on the first day and beyond, so they are able to walk in with a sense of pride and can focus on their studies."



Reservist, K. R. Gulich and Margo Reimers-Ray, Management Analyst II of Fairfax County Sheriff's Office assist a youth during the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program at Target in Burke.



Shiah Allen, 8, gets to know his shopping partner, Fairfax County Sheriff's Deputy L. R. Favetti before they head out to Target in Burke for the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program.

For many of the deputies, the event was a repeat performance. "I love helping out ... This is my third or fourth time," said Deputy Sheriff J.M. Smith as she sat coloring with Yuri Duncan and eating pizza. For Deputy L. R. Favetti, it was his first time volunteering, which momentarily concerned his shopping partner, Shiah Allen, 8. That is until Favetti added: "I have lots of nieces and nephews, so I know how to shop."

Sharon Bulova, Chairman Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Supervisor John W. Cook (R-Braddock District) waited at Target for the children, Kincaid and the deputies to arrive. Before the children came,

Bulova said, "This is one of my favorite events of the year. It's heartwarming to see the interaction between the Sheriff's deputies and these children. It changes the children's opinion of law enforcement."

When the children arrived, Cook spoke to the group. "You just show our deputies what you need, and they will be happy to get it for you. ... School is really important. ... We want you ready to learn and have fun with your fellow classmates."

IN A FILMED INTERVIEW, Kincaid explained while Shop with the Sheriff pro-

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Checkout time is show and tell for Yuri Duncan, 7. She holds up one of her back-to-school-purchases that Sheriff's Deputy J. M. Smith helped her choose during the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program.



Two cool dudes, Sergeant C. M. Loftis, Public Information Officer for Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and Christian Gatling don their shades as they go back to school shopping together at Target in Burke during the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program.

vided the tangible benefit of new clothes and shoes, it also provided intangible benefits. The experience gave the children a sense of control as they selected and excitedly tried on the clothing they picked out. The new clothes also gave the children a sense of pride, which would allow them to focus on their education. It also allowed positive interaction between deputies and the children.

"This is a great program, and I wish we could have it every single day. We love to interact and be the role models for the children," said Kincaid.

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FAIRS & FESTIVALS

September 2019

MONDAY/SEPT. 2

Herndon Labor Day Festival. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Great music, a craft show, food, 12 wineries and micro-brews and culinary demonstrations. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/labor-day-festival for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 7-8

Burke Centre Festival. 9:30 am-5 pm at Burke Centre Conservancy
6060 Burke Centre Parkway Burke. Festival includes an Arts & Craft Fair, festival food vendors, amusement rides, pony rides, musical entertainment provided by local and nationally recognized performers, nature shows, after-hours Wine Garden. Visit www.burkecentreweb.com/sub_category_list.asp?category=19&title=Burke+Centre+Festival for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Dulles Day Plane Pull. At Dulles International Airport, Dulles. The 2019 Dulles Day Family Festival & Plane Pull is a full day of excitement with airplane and auto exhibits, the children's zone and bus pull, varied displays and activities, vendors, food and entertainment. Visit www.planepull.com for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Reston Multicultural Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. The Reston Multicultural Festival celebrates all the entertainment, dress, food, and cultural treasures from all over the world that are all here in Reston. Rain or shine. Free. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events-exhibits/reston-multicultural-festival for more.

October 2019

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 10-12

Fairfax's Fall for the Book Festival. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy literature and hear authors give readings at the Fall for the Book Festival. Visit www.fallforthebook.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

Taste of Annandale. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tom Davis Drive in central Annandale, between Columbia Pike and John Marr Drive. The fifth annual Taste of Annandale will showcase local restaurants during a daylong family-friendly celebration aimed at building community spirit, engaging young people, and promoting local businesses. Other activities include a 5K; multicultural music, dance, and other live entertainment; a chili cook-off; and much more. Visit tasteofannandale.com for more

THURSDAY-MONDAY/OCT. 24-28

Washington West Film Festival. Screening events in Reston, Arlington and other local areas. For tickets and schedule visit wwfilmfest.com.

November 2019

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Reston Holiday Parade at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Reston. Holiday parade with tree lighting, sing along, and more. Visit www.fxva.com/event/reston-holiday-parade-tree-lighting-sing-along-%26-more/22348/ for more.

December 2019

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

Great Falls Celebration of Lights at Village Field. 3:45-6:30 p.m. Celebrate the beginning of the season with a Christmas Tree Lighting. Enjoy hot chocolate and seasonal music. Visit celebrategreatfalls.org/event/celebration-of-lights/ for more info.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The whirl and twirl of rides by Cole Shows Amusement Company attracted crowds during the Fairfax County 71st 4-H Fair and Carnival held at Frying Pan Park in Herndon.

Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Carnival

Enjoy old-fashioned family fun with carnival games, rides and tempting foods. Friday features the free Big Truck Night event from 5-7:30 p.m. "No Horn" hour is from 5-6 p.m. Tractor Pull at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Stop by the 4-H Fair throughout the weekend as exhibitors display their winning entries and get their farm animals ready to show. Try a turn at farm chores, watch stage entertainment and enjoy horse and livestock shows. In August at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Admission to the 4-H Fair and Carnival is free; \$10 per car parking fee on Saturday and Sunday. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair for details.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Living Saviour's Holiday Bazaar at 5500 Ox Road Fairfax Station. Event is 9: a.m-3 p.m. This is a family event with free admission. Shop a variety of vendors including small business and homemade arts and crafts. There will also be a Silent Auction with proceeds benefiting local hypothermia shelters this winter. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/living-saviors-third-annual-holiday-bazaar-tickets-64259195985?aff=ebdssbdestsearch for more.

April 2020

APRIL 18-25

Historic Garden Week. This eight-day statewide event provides visitors with a unique opportunity to see elaborate gardens with more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by the Garden Club of Virginia Members. Visit www.va.gardenweek.org for more.

May 2020

Great Falls Artfest on the Green. On the Great Falls Village Green. Great Falls Studios Spring Art Show and Sale under the big tent and a few little tents, too. This annual event is a show and sale highlighting Great Falls Studios members both at Great Falls Grange & Schoolhouse and in the working studios in Great Falls Village Centre. Visit www.greatfallsart.org/artfest/

Great Falls Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Hidden Creek Country Club. 1711 Club House Road, Reston. Join for a morning or afternoon round of golf and support three Great Falls elementary schools. Opportunities for sponsorships and volunteering are available. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 28-31

Herndon Festival 2020. Thursday, 6-10 p.m.; Friday, 5-11 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Northwest Federal Credit Union, 200 Spring St., Herndon. Four day outdoor festival with three entertainment stages, two fireworks displays, Kid's Alley with children's art area, arts and craft show and more. All ages. Visit www.herndonfestival.net for more.

THURSDAYS/MAY-AUGUST

Take a Break Concert Series. 7-9 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 11404 Washington Plaza W, Reston. On Thursdays, take a break with this outdoor concert series. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/take-a-break for a weekly lineup.

FRIDAYS/MAY-AUGUST

Herndon Friday Night Live! 6:30 p.m. 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Listen to great music on Friday nights during the summer. Visit herndonrocks.com/schedule.php for more.

June 2020

Springfield Days. South Run Park, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Springfield Days is a community-wide celebration that includes a 5K run, "Pet Fest" and car show. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

Cardboard Regatta. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Featured during Springfield Days, witness the cardboard boat creations race along Lake Accotink's shoreline at 2 p.m. \$4 vehicle fee. Call 703-569-0285 or email julie.tahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

Vintage Virginia Wine and Food Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. A fun-filled day with food, musical entertainment and more. Visit www.vintagevirginia.com for more.

Lake Anne Chalk on the Water Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Chalk on the Water is a two-day street-painting festival where participants will create street art. Festival goers can purchase a "plot" of brick space on the plaza and paint to their hearts delight whatever flows from their imagination. Visit www.chalkonthewater.com.

Taste of Reston. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Carnival games and rides with a family fun zone. Visit www.restontaste.com for more.

Love Your Body Yoga Festival. Yoga studios and wellness centers of Northern Virginia will be offering classes, services, and information on ways to care for your body, along with live entertainment and activities for children. Donations to participate in classes benefit

Cornerstones. Presented by Beloved Yoga. www.belovedyoga.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 5-7

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. Friday, 6 p.m.-midnight; Saturday, 10 a.m.-midnight; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-7p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Musical performances, rides, games and food. Call 703-324-3247 or visit www.celebratefairfax.com/.

JUNE-AUGUST

Reston Concerts on the Town. Fridays, 7:30-10 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy live music in the Pavilion Saturday nights. Free. Rain or shine. Presented by Reston Town Center, Boston Properties, and Reston Town Center Association. Alcohol permitted at restaurants only. 11900 Market Street, Reston. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

Great Falls Concerts on the Green. Sundays, 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Green. Come out with your picnic baskets and chairs for an entertaining evening of free, live music! 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org/concerts-on-the-green/.

Arts in the Parks. Wednesdays & Saturdays, 10 a.m. Performance venues include Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, Mason District Park Amphitheater, and Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid-friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/arts-in-the-parks for more.

July 2020

Herndon 4th of July Celebration. Bready Park at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. A family-fun event featuring games, arts and craft activities, bingo, food face painting, balloon artists, and fireworks. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/4th-of-july for more.

Great Falls 4th of July Celebration & Parade. 5K Walk Run, Blood Drive, Little Patriot Parade, and floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade. Fireworks start after dusk. www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade/

Vienna 4th of July Festival and Fireworks Show. Live musical entertainment, arts and crafts for kids, antique and classic car show and fireworks. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

Fairfax's Independence Day Celebration. In the Downtown Fairfax Historic District. Independence day parade, historical tours, games, entertainment and fireworks. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration

Obon Festival. Highlighting Japanese culture at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Visit www.ekoji.org for more.

JULY-AUGUST

Braddock Nights Concert Series. Fridays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield or Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Listen to musical performances in the great outdoors. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/braddock-nights for location and schedule.

August 2020

Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Carnival. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy old-fashioned family fun with carnival games, rides and tempting foods. Friday features the free Big Truck Night event from 5-7:30 p.m. "No Horn" hour is from 5-6 p.m. Tractor Pull at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Stop by the 4-H Fair throughout the weekend as exhibitors display their winning entries and get their farm animals ready to show. Try a turn at farm chores, watch stage entertainment and enjoy horse and livestock shows. Thursday and Friday – free parking and discount tickets for unlimited rides. Admission to the 4-H Fair and Carnival is free; \$10 per car parking fee on Saturday and Sunday. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair for details.

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NEWS

Troop 673 Promotes Two Eagle Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 673, sponsored by the Great Falls United Methodist Men, celebrated the promotion of two new Eagle Scouts, Jackson Sayers and Ryker Bendewald, on Aug. 17.

JACKSON SAYERS, son of Kimberley Haver and James Sayers of Great Falls, joined Troop 673 in 2012 after earning the Arrow of Light as a Cub Scout. Since joining the troop, Jackson has served in numerous leadership positions, including Quartermaster, Patrol Leader (several times), Chaplain Aide, and twice as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. He earned 27 merit badges, the Snorkeling BSA award, and the National Outdoor award (for camping), and he participated in numerous summer camps. Jackson completed the Triple Crown of High Adventures, having participated in three of the adventures: the Philmont High Adventure (hiking in the mountains of New Mexico), Northern Tier (canoeing in the Boundary Waters), and Sea Base (sailing in the Florida Keys).

For his Eagle Project, Jackson worked with Celebrate Great Falls in the construction of wooden benches to be used during their events like the annual Holiday Tree Lighting. Jackson designed the project, purchased the materials, and then led a team of more than 20 Scout volunteers in building ten benches. Jackson also created a construction manual for the assembly of the manger scene and for organizing the storage trailer.

Jackson graduated in June from Langley High School, where he was a member of the Varsity wrestling team, and where he participated in both the top Band ensemble and the Langley marching band. He is now a freshman at the University of Kentucky, studying in the College of Engineering.

RYKER BENDEWALD, son of Vivian Eng Bendewald and Greg Bendewald of McLean, joined Troop 673 in 2017. Since joining the troop, Ryker has served as Den Chief, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Patrol Leader (twice). He earned 26 merit badges as well as the Snorkeling BSA award and the National Outdoor award (for camping). Ryker was accepted into the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society, in 2014.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jackson Sayers and Ryker Bendewald.

For his Eagle Project, Ryker supported the Langley High School track and field team by designing storage and shelving units for the team's shed to help organize all the team's gear. Ryker also found that the shed doors needed repair. Ryker and his team of 20 volunteers cut and prepared all the materials for the installation, and then sealed and installed the shelving units, repaired the doors, and reorganized the team's gear.

Ryker just started his senior year at Langley High School, where he is the Langley Marching Saxons drum major. While at JMU's marching band camp this summer, Ryker was chosen over 170 drum majors to lead the camp through their final performance. Besides being a member of Langley's bands, he is the principal trumpet for the Capitol Symphonic Youth Orchestra, and he is a pole vaulter for Langley's track team. Ryker is also a member of the National Honor Society and German Honor Society.

Doreen Montis Exhibits at Katie's Coffee House

'Rain Moving In,' by Doreen Montis. During the month of September, Montis exhibits oil paintings capturing scenes and subjects inspired by a recent adventure trip to Ireland at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Rd, Great Falls. Meet the artist on Sept. 7, 2:30-4 p.m. Website:

www.doreenmontisfineart.com



BULLETIN

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

DONATIONS NEEDED

School Supply and Backpack Drive. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Parent Resource Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Room 105, Dunn Loring. For the nearly 56,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools living at the poverty line, obtaining school supplies can be difficult. FCPS is partnering with roughly 20 nonprofits and businesses to ensure that students will have the supplies they need this fall for its "Collect for Kids" campaign. A \$25 donation will fill a backpack with FCPS approved supplies for a student. Organize a collection drive of new backpacks in your community and bring to one of the Collect for Kids drop off locations. Visit www.collectforkids.org/get-involved or call 703-204-3941.

THURSDAY/AUG. 29

Beyond #MeToo: Strategies for Preventing & Responding to Harassment. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Fairfax County EDA, 8300 Boone Boulevard, Ste. 450 Tysons. Presented by the Multicultural Chambers Alliance (Asian-American CC, NVBCC, The Virginia Hispanic Chamber). Free. Visit www.vahcc.com or call 703-790-0303 to register.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 1

22 Proven Processes. 1-3 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This hands-on experiential class will explore proven processes that have been found to enhance individual spiritual growth and help individuals who struggle with debt, relationships, and other life challenges. Based on the Law of Attraction principles found in "Ask and It Is Given—Learning to Manifest Your Desires," written by Esther and Hicks. Donation. Call 703-281-1767 or visit 22-proven-processes.eventbrite.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6

Application Deadline: Youth Leadership Scholarship. The Great Falls Rotary is offering grants to high school juniors or seniors for a leadership camp taking place Oct. 4-6 in Prince William Forest Park, Virginia. Free to scholarship winners. Call 703-759-3858 or visit www.rotarygreatfallsva.org/Ryla for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The Vienna branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will hold an informational Open House. AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Membership dues discount for those who join at this event. Refreshments. Free. Visit vienna-va.aauw.net/ for more.

Mindful 365 Meditation. 10 a.m.-noon at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Most people find that meditating in community strengthens their practice. If the idea of being part of a meditation sangha is appealing, whether currently practicing or not, consider joining the 365 Mindful meditation sitting group. \$10. Email becky.bruner@gmail.com or visit sittinggroup-2019.eventbrite.com/ for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

Welcoming Sunday. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Join in the Welcoming Sunday festivities. Meet the new rector and clergy and see what the St. John's community is all about. The celebration begins immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service and includes a picnic lunch, petting zoo, and the opportunity for fellowship after a busy summer. Free, and parking available. Visit www.stjohnsmclean.org

Living Quantum Consciousness. 1-3 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. A look at the intersection of science and spirituality. Join Jackie Woodside to learn techniques to break free from emotional loops and spirals, and get out of chaos. \$20. Email kdickman@gmu.edu for more.

MONDAY/SEPT. 9

GFCA Environment and Parks (EP) Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Great Falls Library, large meeting room. Erica Carter, Fairfax County's Recycling Coordinator, will speak regarding all the local confusion about trash pickup and the reality and changing recycling policies and markets. Visit gfca.org for complete agenda.

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Side-Splitting But Not Very Funny



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The most recent near-having-to-think-about-death experience I wrote about last week ("Barbosoul") was quite a shock to my system.

In spite of all the ups and downs and all-arounds I've experienced over the past 10 and a half not-filled cancer years, I had never gone emotionally to the place I went to last week. Certainly I've thought about death and dying before: heck, I'm a cancer patient having been given a "terminal" diagnosis.

Nevertheless, I had never really put two and two together to equal four. It had always equaled three and a half, if you know what I mean? (Maybe you don't. Sometimes I'm not sure what I mean.) But last week's column was different. I went there.

It's not as if I haven't experienced pain before. I have. Most notably in the area of my lungs (the mediastinum) where my non-small-cell-lung-cancer-stage-IV tumors take up primary residence. Sometimes, the pain I felt was that of the tumors growing. Other times, the pain was that of scar tissue which had grown over tumors.

Any of which I would never know until my oncologist discussed with Team Lourie the radiologist's report from the preceding CT scan. Moreover, these assessments were never given with any kind of arithmetical-type certainty. Still, if it could have been worse, I was happy and if it could have been better, I was hopeful. Never too high and never too low.

As you regular readers know, I roll with the punches, wherever they land.

For the past week, those punches (pain) were in the identical (so far as I knew) place where my non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV symptoms first manifested in late December 2008. As such, I was rolling like I had never rolled before – and without any kind of mat to soften the fall.

Aside from experiencing headaches/pain in my head (which I haven't), which might indicate progression (in 30 percent of lung cancer patients the cancer moves to the brain), a recurrence in the same area as 10 and a half years ago likewise scares out the daylight living inside of me.

And, just like when a little knowledge in the wrong hands can be a dangerous thing, so too does zero knowledge in the right hands (mine) become a dangerous thing. Why else would I be experiencing pain in my left side by my rib cage if it wasn't the cancer, only worse? But that wasn't the case.

As those of you who read to the end of last week's column know, I have survived to fight another day, or I should say, fight another two months because that's when my next CT scan is scheduled. At present, that's my cycle: bi-weekly immunotherapy followed by bi-monthly scans of my neck down to my lower abdomen, followed by an office visit with my oncologist to discuss the findings and plan for the immediate future.

Might that be palliative care? Apparently, if the inference/suggestion made by my oncologist in our last face-to-face meeting had any basis in fact? I suppose that's the problem with inferences/suggestions made in the medical "whirlwind."

I'm sure there are facts and figures and years of research supporting recommendations upon which one's treatments/protocols are based. Moreover, they're unlikely "made up of whole cloth," to quote the late Washington Redskins' owner Jack Kent Cooke commenting on some football rumor I can't remember.

Nevertheless, it's not exactly a straight line from the oncologist's mouth to the patient's estate planner. It's more like a roller coaster – without the safety bar (I wish it were more like the merry-go-round, but it's not). Often times, it's more like whack-a-mole.

Now that the pain and discomfort has subsided, I feel like I've dodged a bullet. It reminds me of my elementary school gym classes when we played a game called "Bombardment" where dodge balls were thrown across the gym from one half of the class at the other. As random as it was, it was only a matter of time until you couldn't dodge any more, and then you were out.

I realize that was only a game and this is life, but cancer has a way of intertwining fact and fiction with the past, present and future whether you like it or not.

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

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2019-2020



Maggie Wray with her son Jake, 3, who won the Little Liberty contest in this year's Fourth of July celebration in Great Falls.

Great Falls
CONNECTION

PHOTO BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION

NEWCOMERS

Where to Give Locally

List of Nonprofits in Fairfax County

❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org.
Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry,

Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Alacia Earley at 571-323-9568 or alacia.earley@cornerstonesva.org.

❖ **SHARE** of McLean operates a food pantry; provides assistance to families to avoid eviction, keep utilities on and meet other needs in a crisis. Share of McLean will also provide holiday assistance to more than 250 needy families this year. ShareWishes@gmail.com for more information. Visit www.shareofmclean.org

❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 herndonrestonfish.org
Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short term crises by since 1969. FISH provides Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help by responding to emergency requests for rent, transportation, utilities, medical prescriptions and other needs. FISH operates The Bargain Loft, a thrift store, which needs donations of good quality saleable items, accepting and selling art, furniture, jewelry, household linens, dishes, pots and

pens, books, women's designer clothing (clean and on hangers), puzzles, games, collectibles, small electronics and much more. If you have store questions, call 703-437-0600. Herndon-Reston FISH also provides Holiday Food & Gift Baskets during the November and December season.

❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more. Every year the goal is to provide each family with a week's worth of non-perishable food in November and again in December. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. In November,

clients also receive a voucher for coats and warm clothing. In December, children 16 and under receive gifts. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.

❖ **Committee for Helping Others** (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Last year 450 children

SEE GIVING, PAGE 7



The **HEART** Of The Great Falls Community & Proud Location Of The Following Events:

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Photos by Walt Lawrence

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- Great Falls Creamery..... 703-272-7609
- Great Falls Cycle Studio..... 703-585-5631
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- Spectrum Property Management..... 703-307-2965
- The Saddlery..... 703-759-3500
- Village Centre Mgmt Office..... 703-759-2485
- Village Retreat/Massage Therapy..... 703-638-4852
- Wells Fargo Bank..... 703-757-1040
- Wild Ginger Restaurant..... 703-759-5040



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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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NEWCOMERS AND COMMUNITY GUIDE

My Last Welcome Letter For Connection Newcomers

BY SHARON BULOVA,
CHAIRMAN
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



When I was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1987 the Braddock District was called Annandale. Fairfax County's population (now 1.15 million) was approximately 746,600. There was no VRE (Virginia Railway Express Commuter Rail System) nor was there a Springfield Franconia Metro Station or a Fairfax County Parkway. When I took office as a freshman Supervisor in January 1988, Fairfax County was, for the most part, a rapidly growing suburban bedroom community. Tysons was still just a shopping mall.

I will be retiring at the end of December, after serving 31 years on the Fairfax County

Board of Supervisors — 11 years as Chairman and 20 years before that as the Braddock District Supervisor. What I have come to understand over these many years is that the one thing you can be certain of is that things will change. Indeed, a lot has changed over that span of time.

During the past decade while I have had the honor to serve you as Chairman, Fairfax County has:

- ❖ Navigated the financial crises caused by the Great Recession with the County's coveted triple A bond rating by all three rating agencies still intact;

- ❖ Welcomed Metro's Silver Line to Tysons and Reston, with a station at Dulles Airport to open next year;

- ❖ Ushered in new land use plans for Tysons and other aging commercial and industrial areas of the County in need of revitalization;

- ❖ Reengineered our police policies to include more transparency and de-escalation tactics with a focus on the sanctity of life;

- ❖ Created Diversion First, a program for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities, experiencing an encounter with law enforcement to receive treatment instead of incarceration;

- ❖ Updated the County's Environmental Vision to include a new focus on Energy Efficiency and Climate;

- ❖ Strengthened collaboration between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board in the areas of budget development, land use planning and joint environmental initiatives;

- ❖ Reduced homelessness by nearly 50% employing a Housing First strategy to put a roof over homeless individuals' heads and connecting them to resources needed to help them get back on their feet;

- ❖ Lastly, and most importantly, our Board,

in partnership with the School Board, established One Fairfax, a social and racial equity compact, to ensure that ALL residents of Fairfax County have access to equitable opportunities for success.

I have been deeply honored to serve the residents of Fairfax County for these many years. I will really miss this job! Jurisdictions throughout the country look to Fairfax County as a leader and innovator, and I am proud, working with my colleagues on the Board and our excellent County staff, to have led our county to where it is today. Fairfax County is an awesome place, with a culture of engagement, acceptance of different cultures and backgrounds and a willingness to work together to resolve conflicts.

Fairfax County is poised for many exciting opportunities ahead. I am confident the next Board of Supervisors, in partnership with members of the community, will continue the positive momentum we are known for.

Rich Heritage and Strong Sense of Community

Supervisor welcomes newcomers to Dranesville District.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN W. FOUST
DRANESVILLE DISTRICT

The Dranesville District includes McLean, Great Falls, Herndon and some areas of Vienna and Falls Church and has about 125,000 residents. It runs from the Arlington County border to the Loudoun County border along the beautiful Potomac River. Herndon is a quintessential small American town with a rich heritage and strong sense of community. It also has a vibrant transit area developing around a new Metro station that will open soon.

McLean is an active community with some of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the Metropolitan region. Only a few miles from Tysons and the Dulles Corridor, Great Falls is a semi-rural community where residents actively participate in preserving its history and protecting its environment.

Dranesville includes some of the best County and National parks in the region including Riverbend Park, Great Falls Park, and Scotts Run Nature Preserve. The District is also home to numerous excellent public schools including the high achieving and highly regarded Langley, McLean, and Herndon High Schools. Throughout the District, there are excellent libraries and active arts communities. All three communities have outdoor summer concert series and old-fashioned farmers' markets. The introduction of Metro's Silver Line has provided an alternative to the automobile for Dranesville residents. Expansion of the Silver Line to Dulles Airport and into Loudoun, scheduled to open in 2020, will make traveling that much easier. The excellent



Dranesville District is home to numerous excellent public schools including Langley, McLean, and Herndon High Schools: Students toss their caps into the air to celebrate McLean High School's 2019 commencement ceremony.

schools, parks and libraries, lovely neighborhoods, active youth sports and arts programs, and its active, interesting, and friendly residents make Dranesville an excellent place to live, raise a family, and do business.

Fairfax County, and especially Tysons and the Dulles Corridor, continue to grow and

provide excellent business and employment opportunities for Dranesville residents. Our challenge in the coming years is to ensure that the growth is balanced with expanded public facilities and public services so that future generations will be able to enjoy living in Dranesville as much as the past and current residents have enjoyed making their

homes here.

Welcome to the Dranesville District. It has been my honor to represent Dranesville residents on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for the past 12 years. I look for-

SEE DRANESVILLE CHALLENGE.
PAGE 8

Must-see Places in Dranesville District

We are fortunate to have many wonderful parks, historical features, and community events in the Dranesville District. The following are some of my favorites.

Clemyjontri Park: Since opening in 2006, more than 200,000 visitors have enjoyed this unique playground where children of all abilities can play side-by-side. Equipment allows children who have physical, sensory, or developmental disabilities to have a parallel playground experience of fun and exploration. The park also includes a carousel, picnic pavilion, and new trackless train. The parking lot has recently been expanded so more visitors can enjoy the park.
6317 Georgetown Pike, McLean

Riverbend Park: This park offers more than 400 acres of forests, meadows, and ponds. Trails include a 2.5-mile portion of the Potomac Heritage Trail that links national and regional parkland. Kayaking, canoeing, and fishing are all available on the Potomac River. Another reason to visit Riverbend Park is to take advantage of the recently completed Outdoor Education Classroom/Picnic Shelter that opened this spring.
8700 Potomac Hills, Great Falls

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site: Colvin Run Mill offers visitors a chance to step back in time. There are tours of the restored mill, which was built around 1811. A general store offers stone ground cornmeal, wheat flour, grits, “penny candy,” snacks, and drinks. Trails are available for quiet walks. Live music, craft demonstrations, ice cream making, and seasonal activities are offered from February through December.
10017 Colvin Run, Great Falls

Turner Farm: Originally the site of a dairy farm, the 52-acre park offers a unique mix of educational and recreational facilities. Observatory Park offers the public a chance to see the night sky from one of Fairfax County’s darkest spots through permanently mounted telescopes. The Analemma Society partners with the Park Authority to provide astronomy programs at the observatory. Equestrians can enjoy a cross country course and a large multi-purpose arena with stadium jumps and dressage markers. Small children can enjoy a tot lot. Under the Park Authority’s Resident Curator Program, the historic Turner Farmhouse has been restored and is now occupied by the Turner Farmhouse Foundation, under the direction of Sarah Kirk.
925 Springvale Road, Great Falls

Runnymede Park: The Town of Herndon owns and maintains this 58-acre park. It is the site for many community nature-related events such as the annual



Aerial view of Clemyjontri Park with parking addition.



Turner Farm Park



Friday Night Live! is about families, music, fun and food.

NatureFest, the Spring Native Plant Sale, and the Fall Native Plant Sale. Situated near the Sugarland Run Stream, the park attracts more than 100 species of bird, deer, fox, and other wildlife. Guided walks are offered to highlight the wildlife on the trails. Two park shelters are available for rent.
196 Herndon Parkway, Herndon

MPAartfest: Every October, the McLean Project for the Arts converts McLean Central Park into a free, one-day festival of the arts. Thousands of area residents attend. Vendor tents display the works of numerous juried artists, which are complemented by the exhibitions of children’s and seniors’ artwork, an Open Studio demonstration, and performances by local musicians.
McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean

McLean Day: Sponsored by the McLean Community Center, McLean Day is held on the third Saturday in May. The festival features live entertainment, carnival rides, exhibitions, and delicious foods for visitors of all ages. The event also includes booths where artisans, local businesses, civic organizations, nonprofit groups, and local officials showcase their wares.
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean

Herndon Festival: Held in late May, the Herndon Festival offers something for the whole family. The festival features two entertainment stages, 10K and 5K races, carnival rides, hands-on arts and activities, food vendors, fireworks, and more. Enjoy four days of fun-filled activities and entertainment.
200 Spring Street, Herndon

Great Falls Freedom Memorial: The Great Falls Freedom Memorial was created in 2004 to honor all who have served our country. The Freedom Memorial hosts annual ceremonies, on Memorial Day, September 11, and Veterans’ Day, as well as a 5K race on July 4. It is a special place to pay respects to and remember those who have served and sacrificed for our country.
9830 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls (Behind the Great Falls Library)

Herndon Friday Night Live!: Friday nights during the summer, Friday Night Live! concerts are held on the Herndon Town Green. Concerts are free and feature popular local and regional acts. Most featured bands play rock and roll covers from classic to modern rock, but country and original music are also included for good measure.
Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon

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—SUPERVISOR JOHN FOUST

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NEWCOMERS

About the Connection

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Connection's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we include details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local and regional fairs and festivals, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an email. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

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Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

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— MARY KIMM

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NEWCOMERS

Where to Give Locally

FROM PAGE 2

had a special Christmas through the annual Christmas Store. 703-281-7614, www.cho-va.com

- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service.** Just \$50 provides a complete holiday meal to a family of four. Donate at give.nvfs.org/holidaydonation or via check payable to "NVFS" with "Operation Turkey" on the memo line, or send grocery store gift cards. Northern Virginia Family Service, attn: Holiday Initiatives, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124.
- ❖ **Second Story** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. Requests for food and clothing are up more than 50 percent. second-story.org.
- ❖ **Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna** providing services, personal enrichment, volunteer opportunities for adults 50 and over. Currently serving 3,000+ mature adults in the region. 703-281-0538, www.scov.org
- ❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. www.touchingheart.com, 703-901-7355.
- ❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly. For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.
- ❖ **HomeAid** builds and renovates facilities that house the homeless, and partners with many local organizations to do so. 3684 Centerview Drive, Suite 110B, Chantilly, VA 20151. www.homeaidnova.org/

- ❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030
- ❖ **Britepaths**, Guiding families to a brighter future. For 35 years, Britepaths, formerly Our Daily Bread, has been developing sustainable solutions to stabilize low-income working families, build resilience through financial literacy and mentoring, and provide seasonal supports. "Give Instead Gala" is Sept. 26. 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030; 703-273-8829 Email info@britepaths.org
- ❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) helps local people who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 fairfaxfish.org/
- ❖ **Lamb Center**, www.thelambcenter.org, day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178.
- ❖ **Food for Others** provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. 2938 Prosperity Ave. info@foodforothers.org Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. www.foodforothers.org
- ❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others** (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000

SEE GIVING, PAGE 9

Great Falls Senior Center Sponsors

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- John Nugent and Sons
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- Great Falls Area Ministries
- Great Falls Rotary Club
- Seneca Hill Animal Hospital Resort & Spa
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Dranesville Challenge: Balanced Growth

FROM PAGE 3

ward to continuing to serve you in the future.

Major Projects Underway

There are many projects, studies, and programs underway throughout the Dranesville District. Below, I have highlighted a few that are nearing completion or that will be getting started next year.

❖ Balls Hill/Georgetown Pike Intersection

Work is well underway on a project to improve the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Balls Hill Road in McLean, one of the most congested areas in the Dranesville District. Following requests from community members, and advocacy from local and state elected officials, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) began work this summer on a project that will add a much-needed left-turn lane to northbound Balls Hill Road at its intersection with Georgetown Pike. Adding the left-turn lane will allow residents traveling north across Georgetown Pike to do so in their own through lane.

Although not expected to resolve all congestion at this intersection, the project will give residents to the north and east of the intersection a way to their homes without mixing with the Beltway-bound traffic turning left at the intersection.

This project includes pavement widening and minor signal, striping, drainage, and signage changes. Work on this project will be completed before school begins this fall.

❖ Georgetown Pike Trail and Dolley Madison Sidewalk

Several important sidewalk and trail connections are underway or have been completed in the last year.

In Great Falls, two projects will add asphalt trail along Georgetown Pike, between Falls Chase Court and Seneca Road. With the completion of these segments later this year, pedestrians and bicyclists will be able to walk/ride safely along Georgetown Pike from the Village Centre to Route 7.

Proximity to the Metro is an important benefit of living in McLean. However, it is not always easy or safe to walk to a station. Fairfax County is helping to address this challenge with a project to construct a sidewalk along Rt. 123/Dolley Madison Blvd. from the Great Falls Street/Lewinsville Road intersection to the McLean Metro station. The project is expected to be completed in spring 2020.

❖ Jones Branch Connector

The Jones Branch Connector is being completed by VDOT in cooperation with Fairfax County. It will provide an important new link from Route 123, over the Capital Beltway (I-495), to Jones Branch Drive in



PHOTO COURTESY OF VDOT

Aerial view of progress on the Jones Branch Connector as of July 2019.



Fairfax County Park Authority representatives, and community members celebrated the opening of the Outdoor Education Classroom/Picnic Shelter at Riverbend Park.

Tysons. The new connection will improve local traffic and access for drivers, in addition to offering a great option for area bicyclists and pedestrians. By providing an alternate route across the Beltway and linking the Tysons East and Central areas, the Connector is expected to relieve traffic along Route 123, at the I-495 interchange, and at other congested intersections. One travel lane in each direction opened last December. The project is expected to be fully completed in fall 2019. It will include two travel lanes and on-street bike lanes in each direction, 8- to 12-foot-wide lighted sidewalks, landscaping and other streetscape amenities, and a wide, raised median to accommodate future transit options, such as a circulator-bus route.

❖ Hutchison Elementary Crosswalk

and Pedestrian Refuge

Following conversations with community members, Hutchison Elementary school staff, and neighbors, and advocacy from Supervisor's office, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation will relocate and improve the crosswalk on Parcher Avenue near Hutchison Elementary School's entrance. The crosswalk will be moved to the other side of the driveway where visibility is better and a pedestrian refuge median will be added. The project will be completed this fall.

❖ Revitalization of McLean Community Business Center (CBC)

Downtown McLean has seen some revitalization in recent years (the undergrounding of utilities, landscape and streetscape improvements, construction of



Supervisor Foust with Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel, Town Council Member Bill McKenna, Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board Member Melissa Jonas, and former Town Council Member Grace Wolf Cunningham at Friday Night Live! in June 2018.

a few development projects). However, the last significant review of the Comprehensive Plan recommendations for the area occurred over 20 years ago. In 2018, the County initiated a study of the CBC to look at revitalization opportunities, gather community input, and review recommendations for future land uses, development intensities, transportation, public facilities, and urban design within the Community Business Center.

As part of this process, the County and its consultant hosted several community workshops and open houses during the second half of 2018 to better define the vision for a revitalized downtown area based in economic realities and community priorities. Last December, a final vision plan was presented to the community.

Since then, Supervisor Foust formed a task force comprising McLean area residents and civic group representatives. It has been working with County staff to translate community input into recommendations for changes to the Comprehensive Plan. The task force has been meeting monthly to discuss a variety of topics, including transportation, environment, and public facilities. Recommendations will be based on the community's vision and will consider the submitted suggestions for land use changes. All Task Force meetings are open to the public.

These recommendations will be presented to the community at a meeting later this year or in early 2020. Conversations with residents and stakeholders will continue as the planning effort proceeds. Within the next year, the recommendations will be fully vetted by the community and then go to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

NEWCOMERS

Give Locally

FROM PAGE 7

- people last year. www.echo-inc.org.
- ❖ **Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC)** will provide Thanksgiving and Holiday assistance to more than 450 families this year. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for more than 1,000 children and teens will help low-income families. More information at lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/. Volunteers are needed for these events as well. Register online at lortonaction.org or call 703/339-5161, ext. 140.
- ❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact alnorthervna@gmail.com or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org
- ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)** ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org
- ❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/

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Putting Down Roots in Great Falls

By BRANDON ROYAL

“Vroom, vroom!” go the cars at Katie’s Coffeehouse. I take my son, Luke, there early one morning to look at matching red vintage Lamborghinis, our mouths agape with matching awe. After an iced coffee for me and a chocolate milk for him, we head home; later that afternoon, we take our own vehicles, albeit of the quieter, mountain terrain sort, and bike softly into the woods a little past our own backyard. There are trails extending for miles, taking us to the Potomac River, River Bend Park, and even into the city if we so wished it. My son’s destination: the hot dog and ice cream shop at Great Falls Park, and off we go into the wilderness, where in a greater metropolitan area of over three million, the only creatures we encounter are deer and squirrels, and all the only noise we hear are the choir of summer cicadas cheering—er, chirping—us along.

One of the best things about living in Great Falls is its close proximity to nature. With large yards and gardens, homes can both dominate or disappear into the natural scenery. However, just drive through the two-lane country roads that meander around the neighborhood, and you are guaranteed to pass several horse farms, a



PHOTO BY WALT LAWRENCE

Sunday Evening Concert on the Green: The Great Falls Citizens Association plays a large role in maintaining the rural, country-like feel of the community.

few deer, and possibly even a Michelin rated French auberge, Chez Francois.

Families choose to live in Great Falls because it offers a quiet and safe oasis from

the hustle and bustle of busy professional lives in Tysons, Washington and beyond.

Yes, residents and commuters have to battle the traffic on the Pike every day, but know-

ing that what awaits them at home is the serenity of the forest life, a street where kids have the freedom to play outside all day, and being at least twenty minutes away from any big box store makes it all worthwhile.

The center of town in Great Falls is called the Village, for goodness sakes! And in spite of all the eager developers and recent construction, Great Falls strives to maintain that village ideal. The long-time residents here strive to keep the memory of Great Falls alive, when it was just a small farming outpost (albeit with a Nike missile base). Just pop into Colvin Run Mill, the old Turner Farm, or the Grange, and you’ll see what I’m talking about. Of course, like all of greater Washington, the Great Falls village has grown and evolved, but with events like the Art Walk, Movies on the Green, and celebrations during Halloween, Easter, and Christmas, it has become a gathering spot for a new generation.

The Great Falls Citizens Association plays a large role in maintaining the rural, country-like feel of the community. Its committees and board meet monthly to discuss issues such as schools, zoning and land use, traffic calming, and, of course, keeping the

SEE ROOTS, PAGE 11

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NEWCOMERS

Putting Down Roots

FROM PAGE 10

parks that make Great Falls so special healthy and flourishing. Its current efforts include seeking responsible development, restoring stream integrity, reducing traffic on the Pike, and giving residents a stronger voice with the county's school board.

More than anything, Great Falls represents the merging of the old and the new of the Washington area, both its tension and its harmony. Some people have lived here for more than fifty years, while newcomers are moving in this summer. "The greatest attestation of Great Falls' magnetism to me, however, are the people who grew up here years ago and have moved back with their own spouses and families. In the ever transient world of Washington, the roots of Great Falls grow deep and run strong.

The writer is Co-chair, Great Falls Citizens Association Communications Committee

MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL

Labor Day Weekend

Saturday, Aug. 31, 11:00 am-11:00 pm

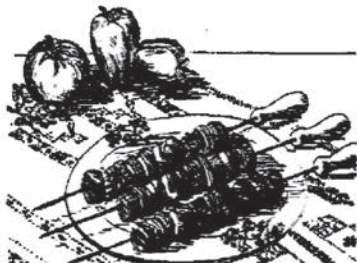
Sunday, Sept. 1, 12:00 noon-6:00 pm

Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church
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NEWCOMERS AND COMMUNITY GUIDE

Dates and Deadlines for Election Day

- ❖ On or About Sept. 20: Absentee Voting begins at the Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax
- ❖ Oct. 15: Voter Registration Deadline. In-person: 5 p.m., online: 11:59 p.m.
- ❖ Oct. 29: Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail, 5 p.m.
- ❖ Nov. 2 Final day to vote absentee in-person, 5 p.m.
- ❖ Nov. 5: Deadline to return your ballot to the Office of Elections, 7 p.m.
- ❖ Nov. 5: Election Day, Polling Places open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fairfax County Office of Elections,
Hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323
Fairfax, VA 22035
703-222-0776 TTY 711
voting@fairfaxcounty.gov
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/

When you register to vote in Virginia, you DO NOT register to vote by party. Virginia is an Open Primary state which means that any registered voter in Virginia can vote in either a Democratic or Republican primary. When both parties are holding a primary election, you will be asked which primary you want to vote in when you check in to vote with your photo ID. Note, you may only vote in one primary.

Voter ID Requirements:

Per Virginia law effective July 1, 2014, all residents must provide valid photo identification when they vote in-person. Please consult the VA Department of Elections for the most up to date information regarding acceptable forms of voter photo ID.

Many types of photo ID are acceptable for voting in Virginia. You only need to show ONE acceptable photo ID to vote. Photo IDs can be used to vote up to one year after the ID has expired. Acceptable forms of valid identification: Virginia driver's license, Virginia DMV-issued photo ID, United States passport, Employer-issued photo ID, Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia, Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID, Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID, Virginia Voter Photo ID card

If you get to your polling place without acceptable photo ID, you can vote a provisional ballot. You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count.

OFFICES ON THE BALLOT, Fairfax County

- ❖ Member Virginia Senate, vote for one in your district
- ❖ Member House of Delegates, vote for one in your district
- ❖ Commonwealth's Attorney, vote for one
- ❖ Sheriff, vote for one
- ❖ Chairman Board of Supervisors, vote for one
- ❖ Member School Board at Large
- ❖ Member Board of Supervisors. vote for one in your district



Nov. 2 Final day to vote absentee in-person, 5 p.m.

- ❖ Member School Board. vote for one in your district
- ❖ Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District
- ❖ School Bonds Referenda

Voter Registration and Voter Photo ID Opportunities

The Office of Elections is open during normal business hours to provide residents the opportunity to register to vote or obtain a free voter photo ID if needed. The Office of Elections also provides residents opportunities to attend offsite events throughout the year.

Upcoming Voter Photo ID Events

- ❖ Sept. 7 and Oct. 5, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
- ❖ Aug. 27, 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., Burke Lake Gardens, Thursday, 9608 Old Keene Mill Rd., Burke, VA 22015
- ❖ Sept. 10, 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., Leewood Healthcare Center, Tuesday, 7120 Braddock Rd., Annandale, VA 22003
- ❖ Sept. 11, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Arleigh Burke Pavilion, Wednesday, 1739 Kirby Rd., McLean, VA 22101
- ❖ Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., Chesterbrook Residences, Monday, 2030 Westmoreland St., Falls Church, VA 22043
- ❖ Sept. 20, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., The Virginian, Friday, 9229 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA 22031
- ❖ Sept. 23, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, Monday, 3440 South Jefferson St., Falls Church, VA 22041
- ❖ Sept. 24, 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Sunrise at Reston Town Center, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., 1778 Fountain Dr., Reston, VA 20190
- ❖ Sept. 24, 2:30 p.m. until 5 p.m., Hunters Woods at Trails Edge, Tuesday, 2222 Colt Necks Rd., Reston, VA 20191
- ❖ Sept. 25, 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., Tall Oaks Assisted Living, Wednesday, 12052 North Shore Dr., Reston, VA 20192
- ❖ Sept. 26, 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., The Crossings at Chantilly, Thursday, 2980 Centreville Rd., Herndon, VA 20171
- ❖ Sept. 28, Noon until 4 p.m., Reston Multicultural Festival - Lake Anne Plaza, Saturday, 2310 Colt Necks Rd., Reston, VA 20191
- ❖ Oct. 1, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., The Woodlands Retirement Community, Tuesday, 4320 Forest Hill Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030
- ❖ Oct. 5, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., 2019 First Baptist Church of Merrifield Harvest Festival, Saturday, 8122 Ransell Rd., Falls Church, VA 22042
- ❖ Oct. 5, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
- ❖ Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m. until Noon, Heatherwood/Burke Health Care, Monday, 9642 Burke Lake Rd., Burke, VA 22015

—SEE MORE ON ELECTIONS. PAGE 13

Candidates, Fairfax County

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Jeffrey C. McKay (D)
Joseph F. Galdo (R)

Commonwealth's Attorney

Steve T. Descano (D)
Jonathan L. Fahey (I)

Sheriff

Stacey Ann Kincaid (D)
Christopher F. De Carlo (I)

Board of Supervisors, District Representatives

Braddock District
James R. Walkinshaw (D)
S. Jason Remer (R)
Carey Chet Campbell (I)

Dranesville District

John W. Foust (D) incumbent
Ed. R. Martin (R)

Hunter Mill District

Walter L. Acorn (D) unopposed

Lee District

Rodney L. Lusk (D) unopposed

Mason District

Penelope A. "Penny" Gross (D) incumbent
Gary N. Aiken (R)

Mount Vernon District

Daniel G. "Dan" Storck (D) incumbent, unopposed

Providence District

Dalia A. Palchik (D)

Springfield District

Linda D. Sperling (D)
Patrick S. "Pat" Herryty (R) incumbent

Sully District

Kathy L. Smith (D), incumbent
Srilekha R. Palle (R)

School Board

School Board At-Large (vote for three)

Abrar E. Omeish
Cheryl A. Buford
Priscilla M. DeStefano
Rachna Sizemore Heizer
Vinson Palathingal
Ilryong Moon, incumbent
Karen A. Keys-Gamarra, incumbent

Braddock District, School Board

Zia Tompkins
Megan O. McLaughlin, incumbent

Dranesville District, School Board

Anastasia S. Karloutsos
Ardavan Mobasheri
Elaine V. Tholen

Hunter Mill District, School Board

Laura Ramirez Drain
Melanie K. Meren

Lee District, School Board

Tamara J. Derenak Kaufax, incumbent

Mason District, School Board

Ricardy J. Anderson
Tom L. Pafford

Mount Vernon District, School Board

Pamela C. Ononiwu
Steven D. Mosley
Karen L. Corbett Sanders, incumbent

Providence District, School Board

Andrea L. "Andi" Bayer
Jung Byun
Karl V. Frisch

Springfield District, School Board

Laura Jane H. Cohen
R. Kyle McDaniel
Elizabeth L. Schultz, incumbent

Sully District, School Board

Stella G. Pekarsky
Tom A. Wilson, incumbent

Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District

Vote for Three
C. Jane Dudik
Chris E. Koerner
Christopher A. Bowen
Edward F. McGovern
Jonah E. "Jet" Thomas
Monica A. Billger
Gerald Owen "Jerry" Peters Jr., incumbent

School Bond Ballot Question

This is the text of the public school bond question that will be on the Nov. 5, 2019, general election ballot: Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue capital improvement bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$360,000,000 for the purposes of providing funds, in addition to funds from school bonds previously authorized, to finance, including reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the costs of school improvements, including acquiring, building, expanding and renovating properties, including new sites, new buildings or additions, renovations and improvements to existing buildings, and furnishing and equipment, for the Fairfax County public school system?

NEWCOMERS AND COMMUNITY GUIDE

Candidates, General Assembly, Nov. 5, 2019

To check what is on your ballot and the status of your voter registration, visit elections.virginia.gov/registration/view-your-info

House of Delegates

- District 34
Kathleen J. Murphy (D), incumbent,
Gary G. Pan (R)
- District 35
Mark L. Keam (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 36
Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum, incumbent, unopposed
- District 37
David L. Bulova (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 38
L. Kaye Kory (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 39
Nick O. Bell (R)
Vivian E. Watts (D), incumbent
- District 40
Dan I. Helmer (D)
Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), incumbent
- District 41
Eileen Filler-Corn (D), incumbent
John M. Wolfe (I)
Rachel D. Mace (L)
- District 42
Kathy K. L. Tran (D), incumbent
Steve P. Adragna (R)
- District 43
Mark D. Sickles (D), incumbent
Richard T. Hayden (R)
- District 44
Paul E. Krizek (D), incumbent,
Richard T. Hayden (R)
- District 45
Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 46
Charniele L. Herring (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 47
Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 48
Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 49
Alfonso H. Lopez (D), incumbent
Terry W. Modglin (I)
- District 53
Marcus B. Simon (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 67
Karrie K. Delaney (D), incumbent, unopposed



Nov. 5: Election Day, Polling Places open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. ARCHIVE PHOTO

- District 86
Ibraheem S. Samirah (D), incumbent, unopposed
- ### Virginia State Senate
- District 30
Adam P. Ebbin (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 31
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 32
Janet D. Howell (D), incumbent
Arthur G. Purves (R)
- District 33
Jennifer B. Boysko (D), incumbent
Suzanne D. Fox (R)
- District 34
J. C. "Chap" Petersen (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 35
Richard L. "Dick" Saslaw (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 36
Scott A. Surovell (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 37
Dave W. Marsden (D), incumbent, unopposed
- District 39
George L. Barker (D), incumbent
S. W. "Dutch" Hillenburg (R)

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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FAIRS & FESTIVALS

September 2019

MONDAY/SEPT. 2

Herndon Labor Day Festival. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Great music, a craft show, food, 12 wineries and micro-brews and culinary demonstrations. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/labor-day-festival for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 7-8

Burke Centre Festival. 9:30 am-5 pm at Burke Centre Conservancy
6060 Burke Centre Parkway Burke. Festival includes an Arts & Craft Fair, festival food vendors, amusement rides, pony rides, musical entertainment provided by local and nationally recognized performers, nature shows, after-hours Wine Garden. Visit www.burkecentreweb.com/sub_category_list.asp?category=19&title=Burke+Centre+Festival for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Dulles Day Plane Pull. At Dulles International Airport, Dulles. The 2019 Dulles Day Family Festival & Plane Pull is a full day of excitement with airplane and auto exhibits, the children's zone and bus pull, varied displays and activities, vendors, food and entertainment. Visit www.planepull.com for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Reston Multicultural Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. The Reston Multicultural Festival celebrates all the entertainment, dress, food, and cultural treasures from all over the world that are all here in Reston. Rain or shine. Free. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events-exhibits/reston-multicultural-festival for more.

October 2019

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 10-12

Fairfax's Fall for the Book Festival. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy literature and hear authors give readings at the Fall for the Book Festival. Visit www.fallforthebook.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

Taste of Annandale. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tom Davis Drive in central Annandale, between Columbia Pike and John Marr Drive. The fifth annual Taste of Annandale will showcase local restaurants during a daylong family-friendly celebration aimed at building community spirit, engaging young people, and promoting local businesses. Other activities include a 5K; multicultural music, dance, and other live entertainment; a chili cook-off; and much more. Visit tasteofannandale.com for more

THURSDAY-MONDAY/OCT. 24-28

Washington West Film Festival. Screening events in Reston, Arlington and other local areas. For tickets and schedule visit wwfilmfest.com.

November 2019

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Reston Holiday Parade at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Reston. Holiday parade with tree lighting, sing along, and more. Visit www.fxva.com/event/reston-holiday-parade-tree-lighting-sing-along-%26-more/22348/ for more.

December 2019

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

Great Falls Celebration of Lights at Village Field. 3:45-6:30 p.m. Celebrate the beginning of the season with a Christmas Tree Lighting. Enjoy hot chocolate and seasonal music. Visit celebrategreatfalls.org/event/celebration-of-lights/ for more info.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The whirl and twirl of rides by Cole Shows Amusement Company attracted crowds during the Fairfax County 71st 4-H Fair and Carnival held at Frying Pan Park in Herndon.

Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Carnival

Enjoy old-fashioned family fun with carnival games, rides and tempting foods. Friday features the free Big Truck Night event from 5-7:30 p.m. "No Horn" hour is from 5-6 p.m. Tractor Pull at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Stop by the 4-H Fair throughout the weekend as exhibitors display their winning entries and get their farm animals ready to show. Try a turn at farm chores, watch stage entertainment and enjoy horse and livestock shows. In August at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Admission to the 4-H Fair and Carnival is free; \$10 per car parking fee on Saturday and Sunday. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair for details.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Living Saviour's Holiday Bazaar at 5500 Ox Road Fairfax Station. Event is 9: a.m-3 p.m. This is a family event with free admission. Shop a variety of vendors including small business and homemade arts and crafts. There will also be a Silent Auction with proceeds benefiting local hypothermia shelters this winter. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/living-saviors-third-annual-holiday-bazaar-tickets-64259195985?aff=ebdssbdestsearch for more.

April 2020

APRIL 18-25

Historic Garden Week. This eight-day statewide event provides visitors with a unique opportunity to see elaborate gardens with more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by the Garden Club of Virginia Members. Visit www.va.gardenweek.org for more.

May 2020

Great Falls Artfest on the Green. On the Great Falls Village Green. Great Falls Studios Spring Art Show and Sale under the big tent and a few little tents, too. This annual event is a show and sale highlighting Great Falls Studios members both at Great Falls Grange & Schoolhouse and in the working studios in Great Falls Village Centre. Visit www.greatfallsart.org/artfest/

Great Falls Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Hidden Creek Country Club. 1711 Club House Road, Reston. Join for a morning or afternoon round of golf and support three Great Falls elementary schools. Opportunities for sponsorships and volunteering are available. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 28-31

Herndon Festival 2020. Thursday, 6-10 p.m.; Friday, 5-11 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Northwest Federal Credit Union, 200 Spring St., Herndon. Four day outdoor festival with three entertainment stages, two fireworks displays, Kid's Alley with children's art area, arts and craft show and more. All ages. Visit www.herndonfestival.net for more.

THURSDAYS/MAY-AUGUST

Take a Break Concert Series. 7-9 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 11404 Washington Plaza W, Reston. On Thursdays, take a break with this outdoor concert series. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/take-a-break for a weekly lineup.

FRIDAYS/MAY-AUGUST

Herndon Friday Night Live! 6:30 p.m. 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Listen to great music on Friday nights during the summer. Visit herndonrocks.com/schedule.php for more.

June 2020

Springfield Days. South Run Park, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Springfield Days is a community-wide celebration that includes a 5K run, "Pet Fest" and car show. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

Cardboard Regatta. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Featured during Springfield Days, witness the cardboard boat creations race along Lake Accotink's shoreline at 2 p.m. \$4 vehicle fee. Call 703-569-0285 or email julie.tahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

Vintage Virginia Wine and Food Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. A fun-filled day with food, musical entertainment and more. Visit www.vintagevirginia.com for more.

Lake Anne Chalk on the Water Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Chalk on the Water is a two-day street-painting festival where participants will create street art. Festival goers can purchase a "plot" of brick space on the plaza and paint to their hearts delight whatever flows from their imagination. Visit www.chalkonthewater.com.

Taste of Reston. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Carnival games and rides with a family fun zone. Visit www.restontaste.com for more.

Love Your Body Yoga Festival. Yoga studios and wellness centers of Northern Virginia will be offering classes, services, and information on ways to care for your body, along with live entertainment and activities for children. Donations to participate in classes benefit

Cornerstones. Presented by Beloved Yoga. www.belovedyoga.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 5-7

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. Friday, 6 p.m.-midnight; Saturday, 10 a.m.-midnight; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-7p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Musical performances, rides, games and food. Call 703-324-3247 or visit www.celebratefairfax.com/.

JUNE-AUGUST

Reston Concerts on the Town. Fridays, 7:30-10 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy live music in the Pavilion Saturday nights. Free. Rain or shine. Presented by Reston Town Center, Boston Properties, and Reston Town Center Association. Alcohol permitted at restaurants only. 11900 Market Street, Reston. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

Great Falls Concerts on the Green. Sundays, 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Green. Come out with your picnic baskets and chairs for an entertaining evening of free, live music! 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org/concerts-on-the-green/.

Arts in the Parks. Wednesdays & Saturdays, 10 a.m. Performance venues include Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, Mason District Park Amphitheater, and Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid-friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/arts-in-the-parks for more.

July 2020

Herndon 4th of July Celebration. Bready Park at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. A family-fun event featuring games, arts and craft activities, bingo, food face painting, balloon artists, and fireworks. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/4th-of-july for more.

Great Falls 4th of July Celebration & Parade. 5K Walk Run, Blood Drive, Little Patriot Parade, and floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade. Fireworks start after dusk. www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade/

Vienna 4th of July Festival and Fireworks Show. Live musical entertainment, arts and crafts for kids, antique and classic car show and fireworks. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

Fairfax's Independence Day Celebration. In the Downtown Fairfax Historic District. Independence day parade, historical tours, games, entertainment and fireworks. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration

Obon Festival. Highlighting Japanese culture at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Visit www.ekoji.org for more.

JULY-AUGUST

Braddock Nights Concert Series. Fridays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield or Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Listen to musical performances in the great outdoors. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/braddock-nights for location and schedule.

August 2020

Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Carnival. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy old-fashioned family fun with carnival games, rides and tempting foods. Friday features the free Big Truck Night event from 5-7:30 p.m. "No Horn" hour is from 5-6 p.m. Tractor Pull at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Stop by the 4-H Fair throughout the weekend as exhibitors display their winning entries and get their farm animals ready to show. Try a turn at farm chores, watch stage entertainment and enjoy horse and livestock shows. Thursday and Friday - free parking and discount tickets for unlimited rides. Admission to the 4-H Fair and Carnival is free; \$10 per car parking fee on Saturday and Sunday. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair for details.

NEWCOMERS

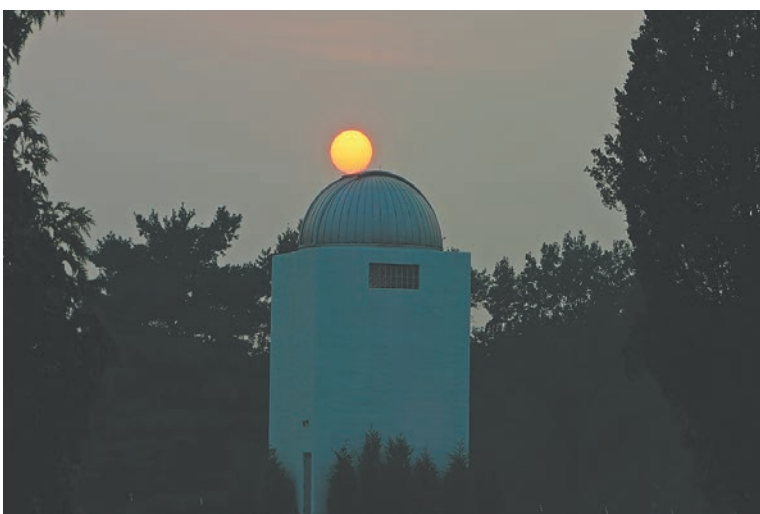
Postcards from Great Falls



Bald Eagle at Riverbend



Great Falls Grange at Night.



Setting Sun at Observatory Park.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Village Centre Bandstand at Night

PHOTOS BY
WALT LAWRENCE



JOIN THE FIGHT FOR ALZHEIMER'S FIRST SURVIVOR.

At the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®, people carry flowers representing their connection to Alzheimer's — a disease that currently has no cure. But what if one day there was a flower for Alzheimer's first survivor? What if there were millions of them? Help make that beautiful day happen by joining us for the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease. Register today at alz.org/walk.

Walk to End Alzheimer's
Sept. 29 • Reston Town Center
Oct. 12 • National Mall

Additional Walks available.
Find one near you at alz.org/walk
or call **703.359.4440**.

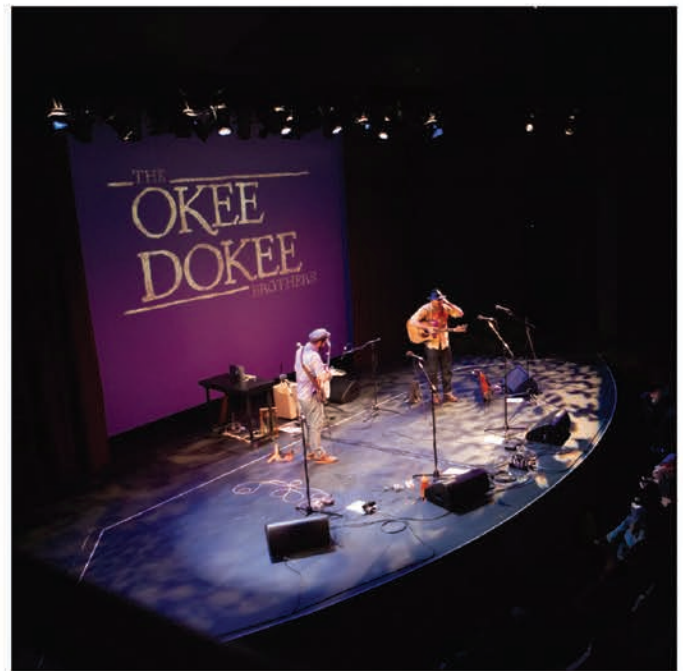


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