



# 'The Royale' Mesmerizes At 1st Stage

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# NEWS

CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC  
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**From left:** Fairfax County Public School Board member At-Large Rachna Sizemore Heizer talks with attendees at the Justice & Legislative Fair held at the First Baptist Church of Vienna.

PHOTOS BY  
MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION



## Focus on Social Justice

The First Baptist Church of Vienna hosts its fourth annual Justice and Legislative Sunday.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The First Baptist Church of Vienna hosted its 4th annual Justice and Legislative Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020. The congregation opened its doors and invited legislators and members of grassroots organizations to join them for worship services. Afterward, everyone convened in the church's fellowship hall for the "Justice & Legislative Fair," one of the church's signature social justice events. The forum provided the opportunity for the congregation and guests to engage in one-on-one dialogues.

Before the 10 a.m. service started, Frank Bowers of Chantilly and Jim Biggs of Manassas helped set up the fellowship hall and considered what they wanted to ask the legislators. Bower said he planned to ask, "What are you going to do differently in 2020, than the other year of service, 2016, when you dropped the ball, and America got a king to rule over them."

Biggs considered his question. "My beef is I want to know what they are going to do to curb the incarceration rate for minorities. The district attorneys are more interested in closing cases rather than giving individuals fair trials," he said.

Upstairs in the sanctuary, two deacons waited for the legislators to arrive. They, too, considered what they would ask. Deacon Thomas E Twyman, Sr. said, "Health care is the number one issue. And affordable housing."

"I'd like the political atmosphere to turn back as it was when we had Obama, when people tried to work together to solve problems. Now it seems the new president brings out the worst in some. We need to keep our democracy. That means everybody gives in some for the greater good," said Anthony Weaver of Oak Hill.

Shortly before the service began, the legislative guests arrived. They represented all levels of government. Among them, U.S. Senator Mike Warner (D), who provided remarks during the service.

**SEN. WARNER** recounted the words Dr. Martin

Luther King, Jr. frequently said to remind listeners of the long road ahead of them when committed to progressive politics. "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," Sen. Warner said. He told the congregation to take these words to heart when they thought about some things in the news. The senator noted that it had been fifty-two years since Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered." So many things that Dr. King spoke about, we still need. There is still way too much of a racial wealth gap. There is still too much of a criminal justice system where my daughter is treated differently than your sons and daughters when they interact with the police," he said.

Sen. Warner added that Dr. King said he hoped there would be a day in America when his children and grandchildren would be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin. "And, if there is ever a time when in our nation, we need to be judging our leaders by the content of their character, it is now. The church teaches us to respect each other, to be truthful, to treat people, even if we disagree, with respect. I hope and pray that sometimes the individual who currently lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue might take those words to heart as well. These are challenging times in our nation. I want to thank our Lieutenant Governor and legislators. Even though we may be struggling in Washington, we are moving many things forward in Richmond," said Sen. Warner.

Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, Justin Fairfax (D), Delegate Mark Keam (D-35), Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney Stephen Descano (D), Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill), Fairfax County School Board At-Large member Rachna Sizemore Heizer and many more attended Justice and Legislative Sunday with Sen. Warner. They listened to the senator and Pastor Dr. Vernon C. Walton, who said in his sermon that in a country that had so much, it was possible for so many to have so little.

"It's hard to believe in a nation where so much food is wasted daily, it would be possible particularly children to go to bed hungry at night and have

## Legislators Reflect on Social Justice Initiatives

— MERCIA HOBSON

**Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill), right:**

Working on some economic development initiatives, not just to get economic development in places where we're getting a lot of economic development, but on an equity basis, to start bringing it to places in Fairfax County that have not seen it. So let's start bringing emerging technology companies, doing some of those more innovative, creative things in places where we haven't had economic development as we should in Fairfax County.



**Virginia Senator Jennifer Boysko (D-33):**

I've worked tirelessly for the past five years on expanding who can have a driver's license in Virginia as well as in-state tuition for our dreamers. I was a sponsor of the paid family medical leave bill that will allow people to deal with their crisis without losing their jobs. Tomorrow I will be presenting the Collective Bargaining for public employees, which will give all of them a seat at the table... I'm going to be working to make sure our judges look like the people in Virginia.



**Stephen Descano, Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney:**

The question always comes back; how can we build a more just world... My mandate, as the leader of our criminal justice system is to do justice... That's why minute one of my administration I directed my prosecutors to no longer prosecute simple possession of marijuana, because we know that is way to disproportionately get young African American men and women through the front door of the criminal justice system. And that's not justice.



**Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville):**

There will be an additional 5,000 units to serve people earning 30 to 60 percent of the area median income, AMI. It's a 15-year plan. We are hoping to do more, but that is the base minimum promise to accomplish. To do that, we are adding \$25 million more to the budget this year for affordable housing... I've read dozens of Economic Development Plans from across the country, and ours is the only one that I've ever read that has as one of its major goals to include Gaining Economic and Social Equity. In terms of social justice, I'm out there walking the picket lines and attending the rallies and speaking at the rallies for our bus transit workers. They deserve a better deal than they've been getting.



SEE SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES, PAGE 10



PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY 1<sup>ST</sup> STAGE

**From left — Jaysen Wright and Chris Genebach in 'The Royale' by Marco Ramirez, Directed by Paige Hernandez at 1<sup>ST</sup> Stage in Tysons.**

## ENTERTAINMENT

# 'The Royale' Mesmerizes at 1<sup>ST</sup> Stage

### Where and When

1<sup>ST</sup> stage presents "The Royale" at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Performances to Feb 23, 2020. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$42 (adults), \$39 (seniors) and \$15 (students and military). Call 703-854-1856 or visit [www.1stStageTysons.org](http://www.1stStageTysons.org). Note: Regional Premiere coproduction with Olney Theatre Center. Mature language.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**A**dding to its luster, 1<sup>ST</sup> Stage has produced a stunningly forceful drama, "The Royale." It is a heart-tugging production with a social justice theme; the journey of a trail-blazing black man who takes on society's hostility to do something unheard of in the segregated early 20<sup>th</sup> century America; fighting a white man for the heavy-weight boxing championship.

With a penetrating script by Marco Ramirez, stylishly directed and choreographed by Paige Hernandez, "The Royale" provides a fictionalized portrayal of real life black boxer, Jack Johnson (1878-1946) with an emotionally burning, persuasive performance by Jaysen Wright.

Surrounding Jay "The Sport" Jackson are his white promoter Max (played by Chris Genebach, as a hustler walking on a razor's edge) grudgingly taking on the powerful; Wynton often as a narrator as "The Sport's" full-of-wisdom, older mentor-trainer who as a black man has a horrific backstory (James J. Johnson who delivers a superlative verbally rich scene about his survival as a young black man fighting blind-folded for loose change).

The small ensemble also includes a compelling Clayton Pelham, Jr. as Fish, an impatient novice black boxer who

becomes "The Sport's" sparring partner.

In the central character of Nina, "The Sport's" sister, Lolita Marie delivers sharp, intense questions with her deep worries about what winning a boxing championship can mean. Marie delivers potent dialogue that comes across as verbal body blows. The verbal assaults readily connecting to her brother as she demands a response to what likely will happen if he beats the white champion. Who will bear the expected destructive consequences of his winning?

Debra Kim Sivigny has a keen eye with her striking wooden boxing ring scenic design and period costumes. Kenny Neal's aural soundscape is full of sounds of boxing including body strikes. Projections by Kelly Colburn add visual layers along with the shadowy lighting by Sarah Tundermann.

Cliff Williams III's fight choreography is critical to "The Royale's" strength. The boxing is in abstraction with a percussive rhythm. No physical strikes are landed. Yet, powerful forces are heard as the boxers face the audience, reacting to one another jabs.

"The Royale" is concentrated fury. It will stick to an audience. It is a vigorous moving production that does not shy away from raw themes and real demons. Take in 1<sup>ST</sup> Stages "The Royale;" see for yourself.

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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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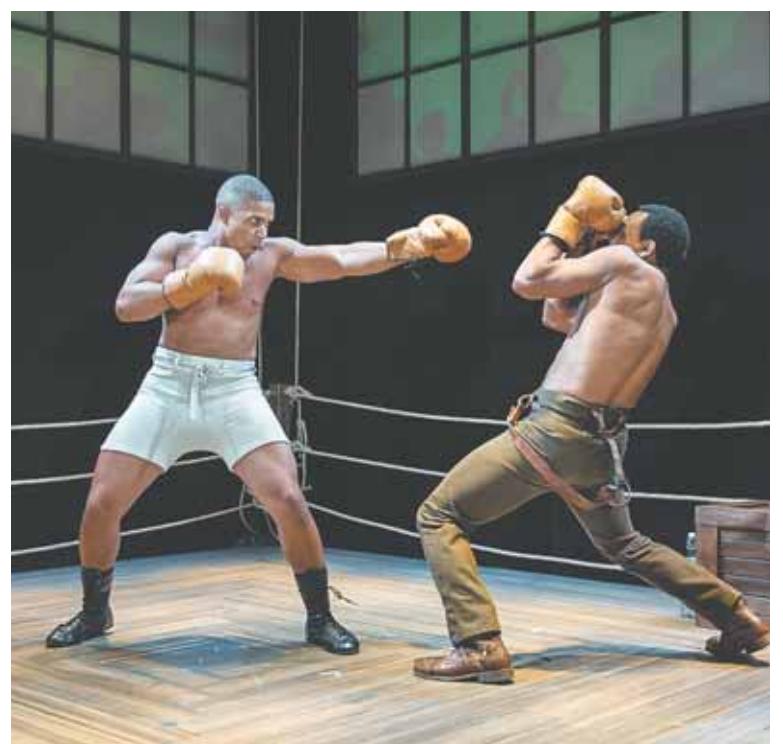


PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY 1<sup>ST</sup> STAGE

**From left: Jaysen Wright and Clayton Pelham, Jr. in 'The Royale' by Marco Ramirez, Directed by Paige Hernandez at 1<sup>ST</sup> Stage in Tysons.**

# OPINION

## Dazzling Pace of Change in Richmond

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



**D**azzling is the only word I could think of to describe the amazing work that is going on in the Virginia General Assembly this legislative session. The annual meeting of the legislature is just approaching half-time of its annual session, but already significant policy changes are being debated and adopted. There is little new to the policies that are being adopted; many are in place in other states already. But in Richmond they seem revolutionary!

I have already written about the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in the early days of the session. The movement to ratify the ERA began in the early 1970s but was not successful in Virginia until nearly 50 years later! Since two ratification deadlines have already passed, the fate of the amendment with Virginia being the needed 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify is uncertain. Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring is among the leaders seeking a judicial decision to validate the amendment's rati-

### COMMENTARY

fication. Although the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote was ratified in 1920 and added to the Constitution, Virginia did not add its support to ratification until 1952!

While legislation must be passed by both houses of the legislature and signed by the governor to become law, here is a run-down on what has been approved so far by at least one house. By the time the legislature adjourns in early March this legislation is expected to be approved by both houses and sent to the governor. Numerous bills have been passed to ban discrimination against persons because of their sex; bills to protect LGBTQ+ persons would not have made it out of committee last year. Bills to ban discrimination in housing, public accommodations, employment and credit applications have passed as has a bill to ban conversion therapy.

Likewise, bills to protect public safety from the misuse of guns that would never have made it out of committee previously have passed in both houses of the Assembly. My bill to require

universal background checks has passed as well as bills granting localities the right to ban guns in public spaces, increasing the penalties for leaving guns unsecured around children, and requiring people to report lost or stolen guns within 24 hours. A "red flag" law that allows authorities to remove guns from individuals who have shown themselves to be a danger to themselves and to others has passed.

This week action is expected on bills that will open up the state to more solar and wind power and that will establish standards for the increased use of renewables in generating electricity. Plastic bags may be eliminated or taxed to reduce plastic pollution. I am sponsoring the Governor's bill to advance the clean-up of the Chesapeake Bay that is getting some push-back from the farming community that would be affected by regulations to clean up stream runoff. Numerous bills have already passed to make it easier to register to vote and to vote on election day, including no-excuse absentee voting.

There is more to come. Tune in next week or follow the sessions on live-streaming at <https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream.php> for more dazzling action!

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Not a 'Siege'

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Delegate Ken Plum's OpEd in the Jan. 22-28 issue of the Connection, titled "Siege of the Capital."

After reading this letter, all I can say is "Wow!" Delegate Plum certainly has very poor opinion of Virginia gun owners. Stating that a peaceful and lawful demonstration by a large number of Second Amendment supporters is a "Siege" is incredible. Clearly Delegate Plum knows nothing about the people he appears to fear. He should get out of his liberal bubble and learn about the people who feel strongly about having their constitutional rights oppressed. They are non-violent and are law abiding.

Delegate Plum should read Virginia's constitution. He states "A well regulated militia made up of state and local police will protect the Capitol building and its occupant legislators from those who would deny freedom to others through their misuse of firearms."

Article 1, Section 13 of Virginia's constitution states:

"That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the

military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power."

Note that our constitution specifically states that the "militia" is made up of the body of the people, meaning you and me. It is not made up of police officers. It sounds to me like Delegate Plum really wants to establish a standing army to protect him and his ilk from the people.

Our constitution cautions that such a thing is "dangerous to liberty".

**Michael Kirchner**  
Clifton

#### Don't Abolish The Death Penalty

To the Editor:

It's become quite clear that the movement to abolish the death penalty has reached Virginia. Death penalty opponents have suggested replacing it with life without parole (LWOP). They advocate for it as a more humane alternative to execution. That it's "punishment enough." Except you shouldn't believe that death penalty opponents will keep LWOP.

Recent legislation in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Vermont is seeking to end LWOP, using the exact same arguments that have been used against the death penalty. "Few civilized countries have

LWOP, it's too harsh," et cetera. The movement to abolish the death penalty has become a moving of goalposts, as opponents (who have suggested LWOP) as an alternative, are using the very same arguments they used against the death penalty, to advocate for the removal of the very same alternative punishment that they suggested in the first place! Vox News and The Sentencing Project are now promoting the abolition of LWOP so you shouldn't think it's me fearmongering. The death penalty should stay in Virginia, not just because some crimes are just too heinous to be punished by life without parole, but because it also prevents the abolition of life without parole. If the death penalty is abolished on a Monday, the movement to abolish life without parole will begin the following day. And before you know it, murderers will be back on the streets.

**Daniel Garcia**  
McLean

#### Becoming a More Equal and Inclusive Community

To the Editor:

I am an American, but my origins lie in a country where you cannot exercise your rights as a human being, let alone as a

woman. Women are forced into marriage at a young age, girls need permission from their fathers or brothers to leave their homes, and embracing your sexuality is unfathomable — and illegal at times.

It is for this reason that I write to you.

As a local newspaper serving the people of Northern Virginia, I ask that you write an article on the Jan. 15 ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in Virginia. It is crucial that we shed light on this recent event in Virginia that, while long overdue, must be celebrated.

On Jan. 15, 2020, Virginia voted on a resolution to ratify the ERA, making it the 38th state to pass this resolution. For decades feminists have been fighting to add a simple yet monumental phrase to the U.S. Constitution: "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Shedding light on this century-long issue will give our daughters, mothers, and sisters not only the recognition they deserve, but it will pave the way for other states and even nations to recognize and embrace equal rights as well. If we—as residents of the state of Virginia—are one step closer to becoming a more equal and inclusive community, then we must hold a responsibility to report on these views and enlighten others along the way.

**Rudan Balay**  
Springfield

### McLean CONNECTION

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## CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### ONGOING

**The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia**, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, visit the web site [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org).

**Beginners Mah Jongg Class.** Tuesdays thru Feb. 18. 12:30-2:30 p.m. At Great Falls Library, 9830 VA-193, Great Falls. Learn to play the fun, fast-paced game of Mah Jongg. Registration is now open for an Adult Beginners Mah Jongg class. The class will run for six weeks on Tuesday afternoons from 12:30-2:30 p.m. beginning January 14 through February 18. Attendees should plan to attend all six sessions. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov).

**The Royal.** Now thru Feb. 23. At 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. "The Royale" by Marco Ramirez, Directed by Paige Hernandez. Jay "The Sport" Jackson dreams of being the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world, but in the racially segregated world of boxing in 1905, the odds are stacked against him. When a crooked boxing promoter hatches a plan for "the fight of the century," "The Sport" might land a place in the ring with the reigning white heavyweight champion. Show times are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$42 general admission, \$39 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Purchase online at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 703-854-1856.

### WEDNESDAYS/FEB. 5, 12, 19

**Preschool Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have fun with your child and build early literacy foundations for reading success. Age 3-5 with adult.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 6

**Teen Advisory Board (TAB).** 6 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Gain leadership experience and discuss what the library can do for you. Grades 7-12.

**Meme Fest.** 6:30 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Game focused on identifying and determining appropriate use of memes. Teens.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 7, 14, 21

**Karate for Kids.** 5 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Join the Karate to gain powerful tools for self-defense, inner-strength and a strong, healthy body. Ages 4 and up.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 7

**Waterfowl Hike.** 9-11 a.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Some water birds stick around all winter and others merely pass through our region. Go on a Winter Waterfowl Hike at Riverbend Park and see what birds you can find. Bird lovers age 14 to adult are invited to hike with a naturalist to search for winter waterfowl along the Upper Potomac River. Participants should bring binoculars and spotting scopes. Cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).

**Bilingual Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Bilingual Storytime in English and Hindi. Enjoy stories, songs and activities. Birth-5 with adult.

**Catholic Charities Ball.** 7 p.m. At the Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. The event is the largest annual fundraiser for Catholic Charities, providing a significant portion of the resources needed to support 21 programs serving those in need throughout the 21 counties and seven cities of the Diocese. This year's theme is "With Love and Charity." Tickets for both events can be purchased at [www.ccdanet.org](http://www.ccdanet.org).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 8

**Make Pinecone Birdfeeders.** 10-11 a.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Help feed your feathered friends this winter with the "Make Your Own Pinecone Birdfeeders!" program at Riverbend Park. Find



## Lilt in Concert

**Lilt is Tina Eck on wooden flute and whistle and Keith Carr on 10 string bouzouki, mandolin, tenor banjo and vocals.**

### SUNDAY/FEB. 9

**Celtic Music Featuring Lilt.** 5 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. At The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. The Old Brogue Irish Pub and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 31st season of family friendly, Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. Featuring internationally recognized Celtic musicians, the concerts are performed in a listening room by the fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance; \$20 general admission/\$15 children under 12. Season ticket: \$108. Visit [www.oldbrogue.com](http://www.oldbrogue.com) or call the Old Brogue at 703-759-3309.



## Fiery Flamenco

**The Alden is presenting New York City-based dance company Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana for a single performance on Saturday, Feb. 8 in McLean.**

### SATURDAY/FEB. 8

**Fiery Flamenco Dance.** 7 p.m. At The Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden is presenting New York City-based dance company Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana for a single performance. The acclaimed company, hailed as "America's premier Spanish dance company," promotes the art form by producing quality dance works that foster cultural connections. Tickets are \$40 for the general public, \$35 for seniors and \$30 for residents of Dranesville Small District 1A. Visit: [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org) or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

out what birds stick around through the winter and make and take home a pinecone bird feeder to help them get through the cold. Learn about the common birds that may visit your feeder. Cost is \$10 per person. Sessions are designed for participants age 4 to adult. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).

**Star Trek to Astronomy Festival.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. At Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. There will be guided stargazing and opportunities to get a close-up look at the stars through a telescope at the roll-top observatory. Join in games and warm yourself by the campfire as you listen to ancient stories about the constellations. Hot chocolate and snacks will be available for purchase. This event is designed for stargazers age 3 to adult. Cost is \$10 per person. The festival will be canceled if it is raining or snowing. Call 703-324-8618 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm).

### SUNDAY/FEB. 9

**New Dominion Women's Club Fundraiser.** 3-5 p.m. At Chain Bridge Cellars, 1351 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. This is a great opportunity to stock up on wines and bubbly

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[www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

prior to Valentine's Day and the start of spring. Host Doug House will donate 15 percent of purchases from that day to the NDWC. Can't make it to the event? Stop in anytime that day, mention "NWDC" and Doug will apply the donation. Tickets \$20. Visit the website: [ndwc.org/wine-and-cheese-party.html](http://ndwc.org/wine-and-cheese-party.html)

## SUNDAY/FEB. 9 AND 23, MARCH 1

**Maple Syrup Boil-Down.** Noon to 2 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. How does maple syrup get from the tree to your breakfast table? See the old-fashioned process from beginning to end at the "Maple Syrup Boil-Down at Colvin Run Mill." When the sap starts to rise, the maple trees are tapped at Colvin Run and the drip, drip, drip begins. Now, it's sugaring time! Bundle up, watch and learn as sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an outdoor, open fire. Sample the delicious maple syrup served over cornbread that's made from Colvin Run Mill's own cornmeal. Cost is \$8 per person. No reservations are required. Call 703-759-2771 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill>.

## MONDAY/FEB. 10

**AARP Luncheon Event.** 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Mylo's Grille, 6238 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Join AARP at Mylo's Grill to enjoy lunch together with other AARP and McLeanCVA members and their guests. Enjoy a 15% discount on the entire check. There will be no seminar, and no products will be promoted or sold—just casual fun and socializing with other members like you in McLean. Learn how AARP and McLeanCVA are making a difference in Northern Virginia. Visit the website: <https://aarp.event.com/McLeanLunchFeb2020>

**English on the Go.** Registration 6:30-8 p.m. At James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Do you need to learn English but can't find the time? The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia has the right course for you. Cell-Ed English on the Go combines a limited number of classes with an easy-to-follow home learning program. Learn on your phone by texting, no Wi-Fi is required. The class is offered at \$85 per semester. Go to [lcnv.org/learn](http://lcnv.org/learn) or call 703-237-0866.

## MONDAYS/FEB. 10, 24

**Baby Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have fun with baby while building early literacy foundations for reading success. Birth -18 months with adults.

## TUESDAYS/FEB. 11, 18

**Toddler Tales.** 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have fun with your child and build early literacy foundations for reading success. Age 18 months-3 years with adults.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 11

**McLean Historical Society.** 7:30-10 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The program will feature three McLeanites (Dr. Allen Horne, Anna Blue Porter, and Palmer Robeson) who will discuss "Growing up in Rural McLean." The program is free and open to all. Contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 15

**Wilderness Fun.** Noon to 1 p.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills



© 2014 Michael G Stewart

## KAPO Concert

**KAPO: Karen Ashbrook and Paul Oorts will perform at the Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls.**

## SUNDAY/FEB. 16

**KAPO Concert.** 5 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring KAPO: the music of Karen Ashbrook and Paul Oorts. The Old Brogue Irish Pub of Great Falls, and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 31st season of family friendly, Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. Featuring internationally recognized Celtic musicians, the concerts are performed in a listening room by the fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance at [oldbrogue.com](http://oldbrogue.com): \$20 general admission/\$15 children under 12.

Street, Great Falls. At Riverbend Park, learn the science and art of building a fire and test your skill with primitive fire bows and modern fire-making techniques. Reward yourself with fire-roasted s'mores. "To Build a Fire" is designed for participants age 4 to adult. The cost is \$8 per person, and children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Later in the day at Riverbend Park, prepare a winter meal with your family around the campfire using colonial and indigenous cooking techniques. Food and drink are provided. The "Klondike Campfire Cookout" is designed for family members age 5 to adult. It runs from 3 to 4:30 p.m., and the cost is \$15 per person. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).

**Singer-songwriter Rorie.** 8 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. She will debut her full-length album 'Valley in the Mirror' released on Jan. 31.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 16

**Cooperstown String Quartet.** 4 p.m. At Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Uniting faculty from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and East Carolina University, this quartet has played on several continents and at the most prestigious venues in the world. Their illuminating and penetrating understanding of Beethoven bring you from his early tribute to Haydn (op. 18 no. 1) to his fully-formed, almost radical later style (op. 130). Students 17 and under and active military are admitted free of charge. A pre-concert lecture by Music Director A.

Scott Wood will begin at 3:15 pm, 45 minutes prior to the start of the concert. A reception will follow the concert, at which attendees may

meet and chat with the performers and fellow music lovers. Tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at the door, online at [www.amadeusconcerts.com](http://www.amadeusconcerts.com) or via telephone at 703-759-5334.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 18

**History Comes Alive.** 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. At River Bend, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) is welcoming back Mary Ann Jung's interactive shows. This award-winning actress and Smithsonian scholar has been recreating history's most fascinating women for more than 35 years with a style like no other. Jung researches and writes her own scripts and performs in authentic costumes, accents and attitudes for her character's eras. This year, learn the story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was an abolitionist, human rights activist and one of the first leaders of the woman's rights movement. Reservations are required; email Polly Fitzgerald at [pollyfitz1@verizon.net](mailto:pollyfitz1@verizon.net) or call 703-759-4345. Membership dues (\$25 per person) and applications for 2020 will be available at the Hospitality Table or visit [gfseniors.org](http://gfseniors.org) and pay online.

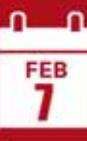
## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

**Holy Happy Hour.** 6:15 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Featuring Music of African American composers with Artist Amy Yurkewitch, clarinet, accompanied by John Nothhaft, organ/piano. Each concert begins at 6:15 p.m. and concludes half an hour later with a brief period to enjoy wine and cheese and meet the artists. There is no

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8

## Here's What's Happening at MCC!

### The Old Firehouse

 **Family Fun Bingo**  
**Friday, Feb. 7, 7-9 p.m.**  
**Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.**  
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

### Presented by The Alden

 **Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana**  
**Saturday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.**  
\$40/\$35 seniors  
\$30 MCC district residents

### Presented by The Alden

 **Movies for Children and Families**  
"Shrek" (2001)  
**Wednesday, Feb. 12, 12:30 p.m.**  
Free admission

### The Old Firehouse

 **Friday Night Activities**  
**Double Feature**  
**Friday, Feb. 14**  
**Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.**  
\$45/\$35 MCC district residents

### Presented by The Alden

 **"Jedi Academy"**  
**Saturday, Feb. 15, 1 and 4 p.m.**  
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

### Closing Notice

**George Washington's Day**  
**Monday, Feb. 17**

### Presented by The Alden

 **Midday Movies: Foreign-Language Films**  
"Black Orpheus" (1959)  
**Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1 p.m.**  
Free admission



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## 495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Study (NEXT)

**I-495 (Capital Beltway) in the vicinity of the Dulles  
Toll Road interchange to the George  
Washington Memorial Parkway interchange in  
the vicinity of the American Legion Bridge**

### Fairfax County

Location & Design Public Hearing

Thursday, March 12, 2020, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presentation starts at 7 p.m.

Langley High School

6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101

Inclement Weather Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Learn about the Virginia Department of Transportation's environmental study regarding plans to extend the 495 Express Lanes by approximately three miles from the Dulles Toll Road interchange to the George Washington Memorial Parkway in the vicinity of the American Legion Bridge to reduce congestion, improve safety and travel reliability, and provide additional travel choices.

In compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771, an environmental study in the form of an Environmental Assessment (EA), which includes a Preliminary Noise Analysis, was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for public review and comment. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on historic properties is also included in the EA.

This project will involve a change in limited access control.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to learn more about the project and discuss your questions with VDOT staff. A short presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

Review study information on the project website ([495northernextension.org](http://495northernextension.org)), at the meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-691-6715 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting or submit them by March 30, 2020 to Abi Lerner, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email [495NorthernExtension@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:495NorthernExtension@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Study" in the subject line.

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NHPP-495-5(095), State: 0495-029-419, P101, UPC: 113414

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## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

charge for the musical program or the refreshments. Visit <https://www.lewinston.org/concerts/> or call 703-356-7200.

**Volunteer for the Environment.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Join in working to combat climate change and global warming. Activities include campaigning on massive data centers and fighting oil and gas pipelines in Virginia. Come be part of the solutions. Free. Email [sbonney001@aol.com](mailto:sbonney001@aol.com).

**THURSDAY/FEB. 20**

**Brain and Breathing.** 10-11 a.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. In this course, you will learn breathing exercises designed to help support brain function. Instructor: Dr. Charles Masarsky of Vienna Chiropractic. Free. Call 701-255-7801.

**Adventures in Learning.** 10 a.m. At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. "Let it Go-Dealing With the Emotional Connection to Items" - Terri Blanchette. Cost is \$45 per semester. To Register/Questions: Call 703-281-0538. View the schedule of classes and registration form at <http://www.scov.org/ail-open-house>.

**Acoustic Autumn Live Music.** 6:30-9 p.m. At Blend 111, 111 Church Street, NW, Vienna. Laissez Faire is an acoustic swing quartet playing classics from the '30s and '40s. The group consists of acoustic bass, swing rhythm guitar, saxophone/clarinet, and trumpet. In the tradition of New Orleans jazz, the quartet emphasizes an acoustic sound when feasible and plays charts by Armstrong, Ellington, Count Basie and others from the era.

**The ABCs of CBD and Medical Marijuana.** 7:30-9 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. The discussion will provide medical information about CBD/THC, the differences between CBD and medical marijuana, and how people can legally obtain medical marijuana in Virginia. Free. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5843108>

**SATURDAY/FEB. 22**

**Boolean Girl Clubhouse.** 1-4 p.m. Campus of Virginia Tech Falls Church, Think a Bit Lab, 7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church. Join Arlington-based nonprofit Boolean Girl at the clubhouse. Hosted in partnership with Virginia Tech, girls and non-binary individuals will learn to code and build electronics in a fun, collaborative setting. Scholarships available for families in need by registering for the Boolean Girl Clubhouse Scholarship. All experience levels are welcome. Cost is \$5-\$65. Email [brian.moran@booleangirl.org](mailto:brian.moran@booleangirl.org). Visit the website: [booleangirl.org/clubs](http://booleangirl.org/clubs)

**Winter Wine & Beer Tasting.** 7-10 p.m. At The Great Falls Grange, 9818 VA-193, Great Falls. The 2020 Winter Wine and Beer Tasting (chaired by Missy Perkins) turns the Great Falls Grange into a WINETER Wonderland with Frosty Beer served on the lower level. Sample a variety of red wines, white wines and locally crafted beers featuring wines selected by Rich Ashton of Classic Wines in Great Falls and beers of the Lost Rhino Brewery in Ashburn. This year's beer selections include Papa's Pilsner, which is made from the hops that are grown locally in Chef Jacques' garden at L'Auberge Chez Francois. Tickets are \$50 per person and on sale through 2/20/20 (or until sold out).

**Washington Sinfonietta.** 7:30 p.m. At The Falls Church Episcopal, 166 E. Broad Street, Falls Church. Conducted by Music Director Joel Lazar, the program will feature three of Beethoven's masterworks: Musik zu einem Ritterballet, Symphony No. 4 in B-Flat Major, and the Triple Concerto. Distinguished artists Aaron Berofsky, violin, Tobias Werner, cello, and Catalin Dima, piano, join the Sinfonietta as soloists in the Triple Concerto. Advance tickets for the performance, \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, plus a small service fee, are available at [washingtonsinfonietta.org](http://washingtonsinfonietta.org). Tickets at the door are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students. Children under 18 are always admitted at no charge.

**SUNDAY/FEB. 23**

**Relay-Palooza.** 1-4 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Join Relay For Life of Northern Virginia for the annual Relay-Palooza Battle of the Bands kickoff celebration benefiting the American Cancer Society. Local acts may register to perform on the Jammin Java stage and then they need your vote to choose a winner. The winner of Relay-Palooza will get the chance to headline the 2020 Relay For Life event. This is a family-friendly event. Donations benefit the live-saving mission and programs of the American Cancer Society. Ticket purchase: [eventbrite.com/e/89780709519](https://eventbrite.com/e/89780709519). Contact: Anusha Nallapat at [nush@vt.edu](mailto:nush@vt.edu). Visit the website: [relayforlife.org/northernvirginia](http://relayforlife.org/northernvirginia)

**Capitol Steps Performance.** 7 p.m. At Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Capitol Steps will perform with new material for the 2020 election. Tickets cost \$37. This is a one-time event and the main fundraiser for the Langley High School Class of 2020 All-Night Grad Party (ANGP). Buy online at <https://form.jotform.com/LangleyPTSA/angp2020>.



### Valentine Senior Social Event

**Jody Marshall will perform on the hammered dulcimer.**

**TUESDAY/FEB. 11**

**Valentine Senior Social Event.** 12-2 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. The Shepherd's Center serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon and Vienna Parks and Recreation will present its Valentine Senior Social event. Held throughout the year, The Shepherd's Center Senior Socials afford guests the opportunity to socialize and stay connected in the community. These Senior Social events help to address the Vision Statement of The Shepherd's Center: A World Without Loneliness. Entertainment will be provided by Jody Marshall on hammered dulcimer and Jim Queen on fiddle. Tickets are \$18 per person. To register, call 703-281-0601 by Feb. 3, 2020. Registration is required. No refunds. No walk-ins.



### Nora Jane Struthers Concert

**Nashville-based singer/songwriter Nora Jane Struthers with Sarah Borges and the Broken Singles.**

**FRIDAY/FEB. 21**

**Nora Jane Struthers Concert.** 8 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Nashville-based singer/songwriter Nora Jane Struthers is a rootsy artist with a bent toward mixing traditional country and contemporary rock stylings into her passionate Americana sound. Also on stage, Sarah Borges and the Broken Singles. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com)

## DINING

# Greek Cooking Served in a Classy Setting

### Restaurant Review: Nostos Restaurant

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY  
THE CONNECTION

**A**lthough the Nostos Greek restaurant has operated in the Tysons Corner area for a while, it remains a steady go-to destination for every sort of patron, from ladies chatting over lunch to businessmen and couples. Patrons have learned that for outstanding Greek cooking served in a classy contemporary setting, Nostos is an ideal restaurant.

Because the menu offers a number of tempting dishes, your best bet is to enjoy a meal with several friends—that way you can sample several dishes so that you get a real idea of what the kitchen puts out. And with friends along, you can choose at least two appetizers: the *tzatziki*, Greek yogurt with garlic and cucumbers, and the *melitzanosalata*, roasted eggplant whipped with olive oil and garlic, both of which come with heated wedges of pita bread. Add to that an order of the *tyrokafteri*, a peppery hot spread of feta cheese and hot peppers... this is an ideal dipping treat for the wedges of pita bread, especially for those who like a spicy kick. For an extra treat as an appetizer, add on the entrée Taverna salad with a toss-up of romaine lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, feta cheese, and kalamata olives.

Do check the specials menu before you order the

rest of the lunch (or dinner) items—recently the yummy lamb chops were on offer that day, a pared-down version of the standard menu offering that includes grilled asparagus and roasted potatoes. Regardless, the lamb is sensational, and although rather pricey on the regular menu, lamb lovers would likely head to that as their entrée selection.

Other lunch entrées include swordfish kabobs, which a fellow patron loved, plus other seafood kabobs (including grilled octopus); and meat kabobs, including chicken, meatballs, or a meat sampler with skewered chicken, beefsteak, and lamb. Vegetarian entrées of beans, or zucchini, or beets; or cheese choices that include grilled Cypriot sheep and goat cheese, or feta cheese with kalamata olives, plus more.

Scanning down the menu, patrons come across the section with fish entrées, including a whole Mediterranean bass or the *kakavia*, a seafood stew with tomatoes, potatoes, shrimp, and *kalamaria* with crusty bread. And traditional entrées include the renowned *spanakopita*, a favorite choice for Greek food lovers who relish the layered phyllo dough stuffed with spinach, feta, and scallion; and the equally renowned *mousaka*, layered eggplant slices that enclose potatoes and ground beef.

When it is time for dessert, scan through the dessert wines, brandies and cognac, and liqueurs choices...or just order a cup of coffee to pair with a selection of the famed *baklava* (three different options); the rice pudding; the airy *galaktoboureko*; or

SEE DINING, PAGE 11

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# NEWS

## Justice and Legislative Sunday

FROM PAGE 3

no food...(through) weekend because school is closed... It's hard to believe that we live amid such great wealth and in a county with such great housing stock, that there would be individuals who literally cannot afford to live among us, even after working 40 plus hours a week... It's hard to believe that we live in a nation where elementary and high school education is free and available to all, but the quality of that education and the quality of the physical building will largely be determined by the zip code of those facilities," Pastor Walton said.

He spoke about school-aged children and those who gather in places of worship but must consider the serious risk and potential of some disturbed individuals who do not respect the laws nor the lives of others. "They cause significant damage to families and even significant damage to entire communities." Before the Justice and Legislative Service began, security guards stood inside the entrance of his church.

**PASTOR WALTON** added that many individuals were only moved to action when it impacted their lives. However, doing so, they miss the meaning of justice; justice is for all, not for the individual. He said that some individuals were so blessed; so "comfortable" they lost their sensitivity to the persons and individuals who found themselves in the margins.

"If we are not careful enough, ...we can forget we are so blessed. We lose our sensitivity to the individuals that need us the most.... Today it is them. But there is the possibility it could be our day and our time tomorrow. Tomorrow, I would want someone to reach down and help pick me up... It's the poor, the marginalized, those that are struggling without health care, those that have no voice to speak for themselves.

After service, all gathered in the fellowship hall where members of the congregation and legislators mingled, asked questions and shared thoughts. As the event wound down, each legislator and school board member stepped to the microphone and gave a snapshot of proposed laws and actions in their purview.

## Legislators Reflect on Social Justice Initiatives

— MERCIA HOBSON

**Del. Marcus Simon (D-53):** We are looking at words in our codes; code still matters a lot. We, just this year in 2020 on Friday, took the language out of a code that allowed buses to be segregated....Something I've been working on personally, what can we do about these racial covenants that still exist in our land records.



**Del. Ibraheem Samirah (D-86), right:** I had a couple of bills I've been working on, (and others) we will be working on throughout this year... One is to allow accessory dwelling units in your home. What that means is, if you have a cottage, a basement or an attic, you should be able to utilize that to house a family or an individual for anywhere between \$400 to \$800 a month ...Another way is to allow you to use your home for two families as it is; what we call up-zoning for two family units... These are easy solutions for the affordable housing crisis. They cost \$0 on the state; gives you more money for your pocket; allows your grandchildren, your children and anyone you want to live around you (to do so).

**Vienna Town Council Member Pasha Majdi:** I'm on the council in Vienna, which I don't talk a lot about here on Sundays. It's relevant this year because... I'm running for mayor. The election is May 5. It's a local, independent election. No Republicans; no Democrats. It's just your neighbors running for office.



**Del. Mark Keam (D-35):** In a different time in Virginia, meaning before last November, the words "justice and legislative" didn't go together very often... Many times, your legislative agenda at the state level and sometimes at the county level, did not necessarily reflect the justice aspirations of that term...Thanks to the many of you who have worked so hard to bring us a few friends to put Delegates Simon and Samirah, Senator Jennifer Boysko and myself in the majority party in the Commonwealth of Virginia. What that means, is whether you're talking about Racial Justice, Gender Justice, Workplace Justice, Workers Rights, Environmental Justice, Social Justice, Medical Healthcare, and even Justice at the federal level, Impeachment Justice, we can now finally do the legislation because that's the way your views are expressed in the democratic process.







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