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# Great Falls CONNECTION



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A long line awaits in-person early voters in Great Falls on Saturday, Oct. 17, the first day the satellite voting location at the Great Falls Library opened.

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# NEWS

## Hiding at the Top of the Ticket

Race for Senate features two-term incumbent versus first-time candidate.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

When Mark Warner ran for governor in 2001, opponents knocked him for wanting to be governor without having ever run for office before. Now, almost 20 years later, Warner is seeking a third term in the Senate. His Republican opponent in the race, Daniel Gade, has never held elected office before. And Gade's closing argument to voters as the campaign draws to a close is that they should reject Warner because he's a "career politician" who is little more than a partisan hack masquerading as a moderate.

"When he says he's going to work across the aisle, what we really see is him retreating into his partisan positions," said Gade in the third and final televised debate earlier this week. "He gets bipartisan only in an election year."

Warner rejects this line of argument. When questioned about his willingness to work across the aisle, Warner mentions prominent Republicans he's worked with in the Senate, including John McCain and Orrin Hatch. He also points to support from his predecessor in office, Republican Senator John Warner. During his first campaign for the Senate he positioned himself as a "radical centrist," an approach he continues to take 12 years later.

"Virginians know my record," says Warner. "They know my record as governor, when as a Democrat with a two-to-one Republican legislature, we made record investments and remained the best-managed state, best state for business and best state to receive a public education."

The race for Senate in Virginia is not on the national radar as a race to watch, and Republicans have not identified Warner as an incumbent who might be vulnerable. Polls show Warner consistently with a double-digit lead over Gade. The most recent poll is from Christopher Newport University, which shows Warner with a 17 point lead. Despite the outsized lead, the airwaves have been buzzing with ads in the race — including spots on broadcast television where Warner attacks Gade.

"That suggests to me that there's something there. Why go negative unless you have to?" asked Quentin Kidd, director of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University. "I have not thought of this race in any sense as being competitive, but I don't know why Warner would run a negative ad."

Six years ago, when Warner was campaigning for a second term in the Senate, he



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sen. Mark Warner at Belle Haven to talk about the Great American Outdoors Act.

**"Virginians know my record."**

— U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D)

was running another race that few people identified as a race to watch. But in the final days of the campaign, Republican Ed Gillespie surged and came close to beating Warner in an upset. Warner ultimately prevailed, but the unexpectedly close margin in that race gave Republicans hope they might be able to unseat him this year if they were able to find the right candidate.

"This is beyond an uphill race for any Republican running, especially candidates who have never held elective office and have no name recognition," said David Ramadan, a former Republican member of the House of Delegates who is

### Mark Warner

**raised:** \$14 million  
**spent:** \$5 million  
**cash on hand:** \$9 million

### Daniel Gade

**raised:** \$993,000  
**spent:** \$768,000  
**cash on hand:** \$225,000



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Republican candidate for Senate Daniel Gade lost a leg in combat in Iraq.

**"When he says he's going to work across the aisle, what we really see is him retreating into his partisan positions."**

— Republican candidate Daniel Gade

debate at Norfolk State University, Gade acknowledged that he probably shouldn't have said wearing a mask during the pandemic was what government overreach and tyranny feels like.

"In May of 2020, what you saw there was me at a sort of philosophical point that a government that is powerful enough to make you do little things is also powerful enough to take your liberty in other ways," said Gade. "Maybe I mangled the point. I'm not a career politician."

The moderators of that debate also got Warner to admit to making a mistake in

now at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. "Mark Warner wins this one with a landslide."

**THE CANDIDATES** have presented a contrast that's personal and political. Gade, 45, is a combat-wounded vet who now teaches at American University and lives in Mount Vernon. Warner, 65, is a resident of Old Town who made a fortune as a founder of Nextel before becoming state party chairman and launching a campaign for governor. On the campaign trail, they've disagreed on everything from the Affordable Care Act to the Trump administration's response to coronavirus and the vacancy on the United States Supreme Court. They've also admitted a few mistakes along the way. During a

SEE HIDING AT THE TOP, PAGE 7

## Project Community Connect Supports Those Struggling to Afford Basic Needs

BY ROSIE ALLEN-HERRING  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, UNITED WAY OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

The impact of COVID-19 has deepened the economic hardship for residents in the DMV area. Prior to the pandemic, many residents were living paycheck-to-paycheck but were not eligible for assistance because their household income did not fall below Federal Poverty Guidelines. In fact, our recent ALICE (Asset, Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) reports show that 39 percent of the total population in VA and MD and 55 percent in DC are unable to afford basic household essentials in their communities. In Fairfax County specifically, 23 percent are ALICE households. We know that after several months of business closures, layoffs, furloughs or reduced work hours, these numbers have increased with more residents finding it harder to

afford the basic household necessities including housing, food, childcare, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan.

In October of each year, your United Way of the National Capital Area is usually preparing for its flagship event, Project Homeless Connect. However, given this unprecedented time, it was imperative for us to pivot our flagship event to be accessible to more communities and include not only those at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, but anyone impacted by COVID-19.

With our new charge in mind, we have renamed Project Homeless Connect to Project Community Connect. Instead of one day of programs and services at one location, Project Community Connect is a weeklong series, October 19 – 23, 2020.

During this time, United Way NCA is working with partners across the region in delivering hundreds of basic needs items throughout the

week to the people they serve including food, winter clothing and hygiene kits. Additionally, virtual workshops will cover budget-friendly meals, eviction and rental assistance, education resources, opportunities to save and manage bills or start a new career, and health.

We know that the issues of inequity in our systems for employment, education, health and food access, financial stability and opportunities for all to grow to the best of their abilities are not going to change unless we do the work. We are looking to partner with community members who are ready to join our efforts as we mobilize and make bold strides until we achieve equity for all of our community members, regardless of race, gender, income and ability.

Please join us for Project Community Connect if you are in need of resources or services, or if you would like to give back to the community. For more information, please visit: [UnitedWayNCA.org/PCC](http://UnitedWayNCA.org/PCC).

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Why Hillary Lost in 2016?

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to the letter "We Need to Start Talking About The Emotional Impact of Election Day" (October 14-20, 2020). Just to clarify, Trump did not win the election - Hillary lost the election! It started long before 2016 with her entitlement mentality and risking the lives of those serving overseas with her callous behavior towards what one should consider normal and good for the country. I was in intelligence for 30+ years and at any time during my career if I handled classified information the way she and her staff did (personal unsecured server as a starting point) I would have lost my Top Secret clearance, my job and probably ended up in jail. The entitlement mentality of the self appointed ruling class seems to have no shame or limits.

I spent 18 of those 30+ years serving oversea from Africa, Asia, Europe to the Middle East often in quite dangerous situations. To quote some in politics; "no one is above the law." However, in Hillary's case the same laws that everyone in the intelligence community abides by when handling and dealing with classified traffic did not apply to her. Handling classified information the way Hillary did was not "driven to govern for the good of the country." She put in danger my life while serving in the Middle East along with the lives of my fellow diplomats. Comey then gave her a pass which did

unimaginable damage to the credibility of the FBI. James Clapper lied to congress (metadata) when he appeared under oath during congressional hearings with no repercussions for lying under oath to congress on TV. Bill Clinton met with Loretta Lynch on the tarmac in Phoenix to talk about family and children during the Hillary Clinton email investigation (if you believe that I have a bridge for sale). Lois Lerner denied and targeted 501C's that did not meet the standards of the Obama administration (she retired with full pension).

Eric Holder's rogue operation (Fast and Furious) cost at least one known border agent his life (how many Mexican civilians lost their lives with the guns provided under the fast and furious operation is unknown to this day).

So as one looks back as to why Hillary lost, one only has to look at the abuse of the self appointed "ruling class" which continued until the American people said, "enough" in 2016. Donald Trump was elected and Hillary lost primarily because this entitlement mentality of the self appointed ruling class that became so entrenched in Washington.

"No one is above the law" unless you are part of that special class. So what is picked to run against Donald Trump in 2020 but part of the Washington corrupt establishment instead of someone with honest integrity such as former senator Jim Webb of Virginia or Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii. No, instead the democratic party picks one who has been in the Washing-

ton entitlement class for almost 50 years with little or no accomplishment other than to enrich himself and his family. If Donald Trump gets a second term there is no one to blame other than the entitlement mentality of the self appointed ruling class.

In conclusion, regardless of who wins one can only hope that one party or the other wins big and for the good of America so we avoid the rioting, looting to protest the outcome of a close election will bring.

Dudley Losselyong  
Great Falls

#### We Are Not Better Off Now

To the Editor"

Regarding this 2020 election... never mind that President Trump took children away from their parents at our southern border. Never mind his withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement, the Iran nuclear deal and the World Health Organization. Never mind that he continually attempts to abolish the Affordable Care Act. Never mind his self-inflicted trade war with China. Never mind that he has led our country into having unprecedented national debt. Never mind his inaction when foreign governments killed American citizens. Never mind his support of the "very fine people" in white nationalist groups. Never mind that he turns his back on our allies and kowtows to dictators, sur-

rendering the United States' leadership role in the world. Never mind his use of unrequested militarized Federal agents on peaceful protestors. Never mind all that if you want.

Now his willful inaction on the COVID-19 pandemic has cost more than 200,000 American lives, record breaking unemployment, national fear and ongoing unrest. Our country cannot take four more years of this. You already know the answer to that age-old question: No, we are not better off now than we were four years ago.

Don't let anything keep you from voting.

Barbara Glakas  
Herndon

#### Correction

In the Oct. 14 article, "Advancing Diversity and Inclusion Through Changes in TJ Admissions," the quote attributed to Brandon Kim came from Srinivas Akella. It should have read:

"Countering, Srinivas Akella questioned the racial code-based system saying it would institutionalize the very racism that it claimed to fight. You are putting the future of our kids in the hands of administrators who are tone deaf to the needs and concerns of (the) Asian American community (and) have an anti-Asian bias."

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# “Bolster the Blue” Hosting Pro-Police Event



## Support Our Law Enforcement on October 24<sup>th</sup>

A local pro-police organization named “Bolster the Blue” is hosting an event in support of law enforcement on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

The event, titled “Police, Pastors, and Prayer” features special keynote speaker Jason Yates of the organization “My Faith Votes,” and will take place in front of the Fairfax County Courthouse on Page Avenue. Free garage parking is available for anyone who wishes to attend the event.

BOLSTER THE BLUE was started by Fairfax County resident Brenda Tillett, after she and her son decided one day to bring lunch for all of the officers as a way of saying thank you for their service.

Said Tillett, “as my son and I brought hand-written thank-you cards for each officer and lunch, we were humbled by the impact this small gesture had. We wanted to share that feeling of appreciation with officers everywhere again and again.”

**POLICE, PASTORS, AND PRAYER** is an opportunity for all Fairfax residents who appreciate our law enforcement officers to join in prayer with and for the men and women in blue who keep our communities safe.

In addition to keynote speaker Jason Yates and other guest speakers, the event welcomes local community pastors offering prayers and inspirational messages for our police and our country.

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY:** Police, Pastors, and Prayer will feature live DJ’d music, games and activities for kids and adults alike (including face and wrist painting, pumpkin decorating, police sticker scene decorating, cornhole, pumpkin tic-tac-toe, “guess how many candy corns are in the jar,” raffles, and a children’s essay contest.

Food will be available on-site with both a food truck and cotton candy cart present for attendees.

Tables will be available for event sponsors, including the Fairfax County Republican Committee, and Bolster the Blue t-shirts and hats will be available for attendees in exchange for a donation. For more information, email Bolster the Blue at [info@bolstertheblue.com](mailto:info@bolstertheblue.com).

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Meet officers and get to know those who protect and serve us.

Contact us at [info@bolstertheblue.com](mailto:info@bolstertheblue.com) for more information or to get involved.

Flyer distributed by Bolster the Blue for “Police, Pastors, and Prayer”

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**They risk their lives to keep us safe.** But radical left-wing Democrats want to defund and abolish the police, and put suburban families in harm’s way.

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### Bolster the Blue Holds Essay Contest for Kids

Bolster the Blue is now accepting submissions for a children’s essay contest, with prizes awarded to the top 3 winners. Entrants should write an essay in 250 words or less describing the story of the police officer pictured above. Submit entries to [info@bolstertheblue.com](mailto:info@bolstertheblue.com).

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Graphic novels and audiobooks on topics students enjoy can help engage those who don't enjoy reading or find it difficult.

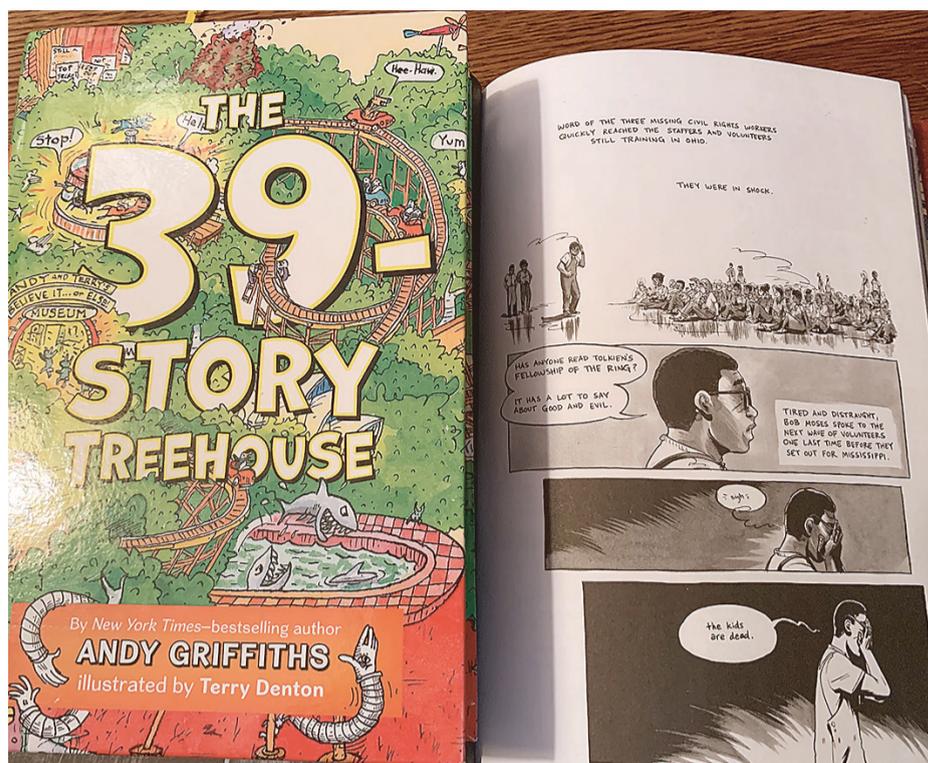


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

# National Book Month

**Month-long celebration focuses on engaging families in reading, writing and literature.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
 THE CONNECTION

It's a line from the Pulitzer Prize winning classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird* that is at the heart of the literary philosophy of Anne Briggs, web services and communications librarian at Montgomery College Library

"The character Scout Finch says, 'Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing,'" said Briggs. "This National Book Month, help make reading as natural as breathing for your children."

Established by the National Book Foundation in 2003 and held each October, National Book Month was created to celebrate the importance of reading, writing and literature. Educators and librarians such as Briggs, are encouraging families to celebrate the month together.

"Use [this] month as an opportunity to refocus on the importance of reading in your family," she said. "Take time to read or listen to audiobooks with your children, working with your child to pick the books that interest them."

In fact, some educators encourage parents to focus on helping children choose books that spark curiosity. "Just because a book is award-winning and highly recommended by your friends doesn't necessarily mean your child will latch onto it," said education consultant Arash Fayz, co-founder and executive director of LATutors123. "Encourage your child to identify topics that they enjoy learning about or would like to learn about and let them pick out a book themselves. This will empower them to feel a sense of ownership over the book choice."

National Book Month is also a time to underscore the connection between avid reading and the quality of one's writing skills. "While we don't have a lot of empirical data, we do see that people who are prolific or creative writers are also voracious readers," said Michelle LeFrance, an associate professor in the Department of English at George Mason University. "People with an exposure to a wide variety of books also have a great sense of curiosity."

For students who have difficulty reading or simply don't enjoy it, Le France says, "Let them read what they are interested in and worry less about the quality. Audiobooks and graphic novels, which don't get enough credit, can share stories in deep ways. I would suggest them for kids who tend to be reluctant readers."

**"While we don't have a lot of empirical data, we do see that people who are prolific or creative writers are also voracious readers."**

— Michelle LeFrance, Ph.D.,  
 George Mason University

"Reading allows readers to learn and to grow and to imagine and to use their creativity and to be moved," added education consultant Karen Gross. "It's key is to increasing vocabulary and a love of words and a sense of the power of words."

While a family trip to the library might not be an option during the pandemic, local public libraries are offering virtual access. From an All American Girl Club event in Alexandria and a parent-child book clubs in Fairfax County to a family story time in Montgomery County, and middle school science fiction and fantasy book clubs in Arlington, families can enjoy literature without leaving home.

"Most public libraries are offering free virtual events to help families remain engaged with reading during the pandemic," said Briggs. "Making time for reading and storytelling in your family can help you raise life-long readers and learners, and enjoy the educational and emotional benefits that come with reading."



Senator Mark Warner, left, and Republican Daniel Gade debate at the studio of WTVR in Richmond.

# Hiding at the Top of the Ticket

FROM PAGE 3

being slow to criticize the name of the Washington football team, which continued to use a racial slur as the team's nickname until the Black Lives Matter movement forced a national conversation about white privilege. During the debate, which was held on the campus of one of Virginia's HBCUs, Warner said he took the wrong position by being one of the few Democrats who failed to demand the team ditch its racist former name.

"I probably should have weighed in earlier," said Warner during the televised debate. "But you learn and you grow, and I think you look at people's history and record."

The role of government has been a central defining theme of the campaign, perhaps best illustrated by a debate over something that happened in 2016.

That's when a woman was killed by a beach umbrella in Virginia Beach. Warner reacted by urging the Consumer Product Safety Commission to step in and potentially help save lives. Gade said that was the wrong response.

"That's maybe a local government responsibility or state government maybe," said Gade shortly after securing the Republican nomination over the summer. "But the idea that this overarching, over powerful federal government would reach into our lives in a way that would tell us how deeply we should drill our beach umbrellas into the sand; that's absurd."

Warner says it's probably a bad idea to let local or state government regulate beach umbrellas.

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"Generally speaking, businesses like to have state rules preempted so they can have a single standard," said Warner when asked about Gade's comments. "If Mr. Gade is suggesting that we ought to have 50 different sets of rules or maybe 50,000 different sets of rules because every locality ought to be able to make those rules, that would be an area I just respectfully disagree."

Perhaps the biggest point of distinction between the candidates has been over the Affordable Care Act. A Republican-led lawsuit challenging the law is on the calendar for the Supreme Court this fall, and candidates for office are using the issue as an appeal to voters on both sides. During the first televised debate hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Warner says Gade's opposition to the ACA would undermine protections for preexisting conditions. Daniel Gade responded that was offensive.

"There were 25 states when the ACA was passed that already protected people with preexisting conditions," said Gade, who lost a leg as a combat vet in Iraq. "And the idea that I would take away protections for people with preexisting conditions is offensive and it's false and it's defamatory."

Warner says Gade can't have it both ways.

"If my opponent wants to change his position and say he supported my decision along with John McCain to keep the ACA, he can make that change," said Warner. "But you can't go out and criticize me for the ACA and then cherry pick which parts of the ACA you want to preserve."

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A long line awaits in-person early voters in Great Falls on Saturday, Oct. 17, the first day the satellite voting location at the Great Falls Library opened.



In-person early voters socially distanced outside the Great Falls Library on Saturday, Oct. 17, the first day the satellite voting location opened.

# Making Sure Their Votes Are Counted

Great Falls Library location sees long lines for early in-person voting.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he need to drop their ballot into a secure drop-off box or slide it into a voting machine spurred hundreds of individuals to wait in the long line on the first day of in-person early voting at the Great Falls Library satellite voting location on Saturday, Oct. 17. One hour after opening, the line reached the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road. “I’m here today because I feel it is important to vote in-person to ensure my vote is counted,” said Angela Bongiorno of Great Falls.

For Jane and Dan Tani of Great Falls, convenience and getting the job done mattered. “This is the first Saturday (the voting location) opened here in Great Falls. I wanted to do it as soon as I could in Great Falls,” Jane said. “We’re eager to vote to get it done,” said Dan. Voter Kimberly Kelly jumped the line and the wait. She walked up to the official Fairfax County Office of Elections Drop-off Box for Fairfax County Absentee Ballots and dropped her envelope into it. “I’m voting absentee because of the line, and I wanted to get it in early. My husband and I work for the government and we wanted to make sure our votes are in. It makes me so very happy,” she said.

Nearby, Larry Kelly, 82 years old (not related), guarded the drop-off box. “If you retire, and you sit, you die, but I’m limited in the number of hours to work for the administration of the Fairfax County Office of Elections.” According to Kelly, the office mailed 250,000 ballots, and 30 percent to 35. are back. Kelly said that the office preprocesses



Kimberly Kelly of Great Falls drops her absentee ballot in the Fairfax County Office of Elections drop-off box.

the ballots dropped in the absentee ballot box, first reviewing and sorting, then the ballots are tallied by running them through a high-speed scanner. “The votes are tabulated... on Election Night, if you look at CAP (Central Absentee Precinct) ... your vote is included in that count,” said Kelly.

In addition to expanding the number of polling locations, Fairfax County instituted curbside and drive-up voting at these sites, a critical resource for voters unable to enter an in-person polling place to cast their vote.

**VIRGINIA'S NEW STATE LAW** permitted registered voters to use absentee/early ballots and allowed an additional 14 in-person early voting satellite locations to open earlier in the week on Wednesday. The 15 new sites were in addition to the Main Fairfax



Masked and socially distanced, couples, multi-generational families and individuals wait in line at the Great Falls Library on Saturday, Oct. 17, ready to cast their ballots and have their voices heard.

County Government Center’s location open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Great Falls location is open two more Saturdays, Oct. 24 and 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Voting times at the other 14 new locations are weekdays, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any registered Fairfax County voter can vote early and at any early site. The last day to vote at any early location is Saturday, Oct. 31, at 5 p.m.

There are three ways to vote in the upcoming elections on November 3, according to Fairfax County. To vote absentee by mail, individuals should apply now. The deadline is Friday, Oct. 23. The fastest and most secure way to apply is online on the Virginia Department of Elections website.

**ON ELECTION DAY,** Tuesday, November 3, polling places in Fairfax County will be open as usual, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Fairfax County Park Authority will host six new polling locations. The action was taken to ensure maximum available parking, enhance public safety relative to traffic and COVID-19 social distancing, and allow election officials to accommodate potentially large crowds. These six sites, Cub Run RECenter, South Run RECenter, Oak Marr RECenter, Spring Hill RECenter, Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center and Green Spring Gardens Horticulture Center, will be closed to customers to facilitate voters.

Visit Office of Elections Fairfax County for more information about early voting, vote by mail, sample ballots, track ballots, registering to vote and election results.

# REAL ESTATE

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

2020 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr compared to 2019 and 2010						
2020 1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Total Sales: 914						
Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-3 Mil	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.25 Mil	\$750k-\$1 Mil	<\$750k
22101	17	36	139	54	108	9
22102	8	11	57	28	21	178
22066	6	15	90	57	66	14
<b>Total:</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>Combined Total Upper Brackets:</b>			<b>379</b>			
			<b>Combined Total Lower Brackets: 535</b>			
2019 1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Total Sales: 920						
Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-3 Mil	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.25 Mil	\$750k-\$1 Mil	<\$750k
22101	8	36	110	67	124	34
22102	11	13	37	41	37	195
22066	5	7	59	49	66	21
<b>Total:</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Combined Total Upper Brackets:</b>			<b>286</b>			
			<b>Combined Total Lower Brackets: 634</b>			
2010 1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Total Sales: 706						
Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-3 Mil	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.25 Mil	\$750k-\$1 Mil	<\$750k
22101	5	6	45	42	81	117
22102	5	13	19	19	38	145
22066	1	8	55	33	51	23
<b>Total:</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>285</b>
<b>Combined Total Upper Brackets:</b>			<b>157</b>			
			<b>Combined Total Lower Brackets: 549</b>			

Real Estate Market 1st to 3rd Quarter Comparison 2020 to 2019 to 2010 in McLean and Great Falls.

# Home As a Safe Haven

## Home sales in McLean and Great Falls in 2020 similar in total count with 2019.

BY KAREN BRISCOE

The first three quarters of 2020 have come to a close and the number of real estate transactions in McLean and Great Falls have been tallied. Year over year, sales are relatively similar in total count with 914 in 2020 compared to 920 in 2019. The even better news is the local real estate market has considerably improved over 2010, which came in at only 706. That represents an increase in sales of almost 30 percent over the last decade.

The first quarter was more springlike than is typical for the Northern Virginia winter season. There was a lot of pent-up buyer demand in many segments of McLean and Great Falls. The emergence of COVID-19 later in the quarter led to volatility in the stock market and many people sought the security of a home as a safe haven. The US Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security (CISA) recognizes housing as a basic human need and thus includes residential real estate activities in the list of essential services during the crisis.

Home for many now represents the place where people live, work, play, educate their children, as well as enjoy physical activity and entertainment. As our nation and world navigate the impact of COVID-19, people still find themselves in situations where they have a need to make a move!

In the local McLean and Great Falls area, the greatest impact for the first three quarters was in the upper brackets, priced over \$1.25 million. In particular, the \$1.25 million to \$2 million price range realized the most significant gain with 286 sales in 2020 which represents a 39 percent increase over 2019 of 206 sales. The upper brackets most commonly include estate type properties which offer the advantages of more physical space for interior living as well as outdoor areas. Homes in good show condition and priced correctly for the market are in low supply. With strong

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Karen Briscoe with her business partner Lizzy Conroy.

demand and lower supply, many segments are experiencing price appreciation for the first time in over a decade. These market conditions are advantageous for Sellers considering a move.

The real estate community continues to serve customers and clients in almost all capacities. Industry professionals have responded quickly to provide the safest and most secure service to all. Agents continue to list houses for sale, show houses to buyers, write contracts and settle on transactions. Meeting the demand to use technology and go virtual, the real estate arena has shifted to offer Zoom meetings, eSigning, and online notary cam closings. When activities are best conducted in person, real estate and related professionals follow CDC guidelines to take necessary precautions for the safety of all parties.

*Karen Briscoe with HBC Group at Keller Williams is an active and experienced Realtor® in the Northern Virginia marketplace. Karen, alongside her business partner Lizzy Conroy and team, works with sellers, buyers, investors and builders in all price ranges. We are available to assist with your real estate needs. www.HBCGroupKW.com, 703-734-0192, Homes@HBCGroupKW.com.*



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Scouts and families

## Great Falls Scouts Clean 'Adopted Road'

On Saturday, Oct. 10, eight children and 10 adults of Cub Scout Pack 55 met at Forestville Elementary school and picked up trash on Utterback Store Road from Georgetown Pike to Leesburg Pike. Pack 55 has adopted that stretch of Utterback Store through VDOT. Each Scout and their family was assigned a section of road to clean up, and they picked up 7 bags of garbage. "Everything went off well and it looks nice and clean now," said Pack 55 Cubmaster Darius Sarraf, "and we're glad that we can help make our home school look good too."



Forestville first grader Hasan Khawaja and third grader Finn Sarraf.

### BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

#### HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR CANCELLED

The Halloween Spooktacular that is usually presented by Celebrate Great Falls at The Village Green is cancelled this year due to Covid-19. After much discussion, the organizers determined that there was just no way to offer the Spooktacular events in a safe and compliant manner.

#### NOW THRU DEC. 8

Just Breathe!...We've Got You! Tuesdays 9:45 to 12 p.m. Via Zoom. A Program of the Shepherd's Center serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon (SC). Three-part webinar series to learn how to get started for your next chapter in life. Each session is hosted by a professional and will allow time for Q & A. Series sponsored by Navy Federal Credit Union; AARP; Kensington Reston Senior Living. Just

Breathe! - A breath and meditation break- Katie Courlander, Katie Courlander Yoga. Call 703-281-0601.

#### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 21

Active Aging Wellness Exercise Class -- A Program of the Shepherd's Center serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon (SC) \$40 payable to Sun Fitness LLC. Register with Casey Tarr, [eileentarr1@verizon.net](mailto:eileentarr1@verizon.net) or 703-821-6838

#### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 21

The free webinar entitled: "Immigrant Community of Northern Virginia: Economic Impact and COVID19" will take place on Wednesday, October 21 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Event details and registration can be found at the following link: <https://www.novaregion.org/118/>

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

**CALENDAR**

**Announcements**

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

**-Werner Heisenberg**

**NOW THRU NOV. 5**

**Haunted Wine Tours.** 6:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. At The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. The Haunted Wine Tours are back for the fifth year in a row, in a new condensed version, so you can enjoy real ghost stories and award-winning wine all while staying safe. Due to the restrictive environment surrounding COVID, there are far less tickets available this year. Therefore priority access to tickets go to wine club members.

**NOW THRU DEC. 7**

**MCC Fantastic Fall Scavenger Hunt.** Join your friends, family and community for McLean Community Center's Fantastic Fall Scavenger Hunt. This exciting fall virtual event allows for you and your team to compete against others and win prizes. This is the perfect event to stay local and have fun with your friends and family. The Fantastic Fall Scavenger Hunt is a game played on a smart phone in which teams complete 75 missions (or challenges) both indoors and outdoors. Missions include answering questions, taking specific photos or videos, finding a specific item, geocaching or completing specific tasks as given in a list provided by the Game Master. The scavenger hunt will take place in and around McLean and from your own home. Participants work in small teams of 4-10 players. Team captains must be 16 years old or older. Visit the website [www.McLeancenter.org](http://www.McLeancenter.org).

**NIGHTMARE ALLEY**

The Workhouse Arts Center announces that "Nightmare Alley" Haunted Drive-Thru is coming to Lorton for this year's Halloween season. "Nightmare Alley" is the first immersive drive-thru Halloween experience in the region. Zombies, swamp creatures, creepy clowns, and scary dolls are among 13 different scary scenes taking up residence on the Workhouse campus. These new campus inhabitants will scare and entertain visitors experiencing the attraction from the safety of their cars. There will be 13 nights of fright, now through Saturday, Oct. 31. Fridays and Saturdays from 7-11 p.m. each weekend in October, and Sundays in the middle of the month (October 25) from 7-10 p.m. Visit <https://www.workhousearts.org/nightmare-alley/>

**OCT. 22-25**

**Calling all runners.** The Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. will have its National Run for Refugees, a virtual 5K. Over 3 days you can run (or walk) your race wherever you are and submit your time miles to the ranking. You can also set up your own peer fundraising page. Through your participation you can help raise donations and awareness for refugees. Please sign up here: <https://www.jbsports.com/ecdc-virtual-national-run-for-refugees>

**OCT. 23-25; AND OCT. 30-NOV. 1**

The Alden Theatre at the McLean Community Center (MCC) is presenting its third and final fall performance of its popular, socially distanced theater program, Drive-Thru Drama in October. New York City-based company Recent

Cutbacks was commissioned by The Alden to write the new show, "Objects in Mirror May Be Spookier Than They Appear." The show will be presented over three weekends, from 6 p.m.-8:15 p.m., Friday-Sunday, Oct. 23-25 and Oct. 30-Nov. 1. Tickets are \$20 per car/\$15 MCC tax district residents. The performances will be held in the parking lot of MCC at 1234 Ingleside Ave. Visit: [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org) or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

**FRIDAY/OCT. 23 AND NOV. 6**

**Evening Campfire.** 7 to 8:30 p.m. At Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Come to Lake Fairfax Park for an evening campfire the whole family can enjoy. Explore the wonders of the natural world through activities, such as nature walks, animal presentations and interactive fun. Learn about nature and our place in it. Topics vary by date. Of course, no campfire would be complete without s'mores. The cost is \$12 per person, and the events are designed for participants age 3 to adult. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-471-5414.

**FRIDAY/OCT. 23**

**Fine W(h)ine: Cabaret.** 7-8 p.m. Online. Rev. Russell and Amy have long histories with wine and whining. Tune in to this live fundraiser comedy show, and donate according to how hard you laugh (or groan). Visit the website: <https://2020-10-fine-whine.eventbrite.com/?aff=cnnews>

**SATURDAY/OCT. 24**

**You're Majoring in What? -- The Journey to Become a Theatre Artist Against Your Parents' Wishes.** 2 p.m. Part of the Virtual Round Table Discussion Series at 1st Stage in Tysons. Free. In these forums, they'll talk and share questions and thoughts with artists, actors, designers, musicians and directors about experiences they have faced as professional artists. Artists participating include Debra Kim Sivigny, Bob Barlett, Ron OJ Parsons, José Carrasquillo, Thembu Duncan, and more. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Registration is available now at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org).

**SATURDAY/OCT. 24**

**Running of the Ghost 5K.** 4 p.m. At House 6 Brewing Company, Ashburn. With Halloween in the air, they are celebrating the 11th running of the Ghost 5k. Runners are encouraged to run in costume. The event centers on the spook-tacular theme of Halloween and incorporates a virtual costume contest, and a "haunted" 3.1 mile course! Great fun for the entire family. All registered runners will receive a commemorative technical long sleeve glow in the dark race shirt, glow in the dark medal, and Halloween candy mailed to their home. The ghostly 5k lollipop style course through the surrounding neighborhoods of One Loudoun will be open for one hour after the start of the race. Digital timing will be used to capture finishing time. Awards to overall & overall second place Male and Female, first and second male and female in the following

age groups will be mailed to each winner: 10 and under, 11 - 12, 13 - 14, 15 - 18, 19 - 29, 30 - 39, 40 - 49, 50 - 59, 60 - 69, 70 +. Register on-line at [www.Ghost5k.com](http://www.Ghost5k.com). For more information email: [Ghost5k@m-b-logistics.com](mailto:Ghost5k@m-b-logistics.com) Connect on social media: [www.facebook.com/ghost5k](http://www.facebook.com/ghost5k), @Ghost-5kandScarecrowSprint

**SATURDAY/OCT. 24**

**"An Evening with Jim Van Slyke."** 7:30 p.m. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Award winning singer, songwriter and recording artist, Jim Van Slyke has headlined sold out appearances on concert stages around the globe including New York's historic Friars Club, Feinstein's at Lowes Regency, and Birdland Jazz Club. Visit [www.nextstoptheatre.org/the-parking-lot-concerts](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org/the-parking-lot-concerts).

**SATURDAY/OCT. 24**

**Making a Scarecrow.** At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Family members of all ages are invited to celebrate the season by creating a scarecrow to use for a fall decoration. Just bring some old clothing to stuff with hay, and afterward, pose with your new friend and take a picture in front of our 1794 Federal style home. Family or pod groups of up to six people will have their own area outside for creating their friend. There will be six family groups per 45-minute session. Slots are still available; make your reservation at least two days before the event. The cost is \$20 per family. The rain date is Oct. 25, 2020. Call 703-437-1794.

**SUNDAY/OCT. 25**

**Virtual: McLean Uncorked.** 5-6 p.m. Wine Down the Fall—A Wine Tasting Experience at Home. Enjoy a true wine experience, one sip at a time, connecting with wonderful wines and fellow wine lovers. Unique wines will be available to pre-purchase by registrants at Chain Bridge Cellars in McLean. For beginners and connoisseurs alike, this wine experience will not disappoint! A wine expert will lead this session and explore various aspects of the art of wine including terroir, production, grape varieties, structure, food/wine interaction, pairing and much more. Participants must purchase wine separately. Free; registration is required.

**SUNDAY/OCT. 25**

**McLean Uncorked.** 5-6 p.m. Virtual. Wine Down the Fall—A Wine Tasting Experience at Home. Enjoy a true wine experience, one sip at a time, connecting wonderful wines and fellow wine lovers. Unique wines will be available to pre-purchase by registrants at Chain Bridge Cellars in McLean for this tasting. Selected wines are from regions and wineries, famous and under the radar—all with great stories to tell. A wine expert will lead this session and explore various aspects of the art of wine including terroir, production, grape varieties, structure, food/wine interaction, pairing and more. Free; registration is required. Activity No. 2010.220. Participants must purchase wine separately. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

# LETTERS

## Opposing County Bond Measures

To the Editor:

Please VOTE NO on all 4 Fairfax County Bond Measures. You cannot vote yes to support almost a half billion dollars in new County debt if you have not invested the time to read the County budget.

Don't mirror the irresponsible behavior of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. There is no such thing as free money and these bond measures create more unnecessary debt burdening the future of all resi-

dents. Tax revenues are going to be down and are used to fund essential county services. If these bond measures support essential community needs then Fairfax County should stop unnecessary expenditures and, in doing so, there will be money in the base budget to pay for what is needed. Just read the budget and see for yourself.

Ethel Pascal  
Great Falls

### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

**Demographics** The Northern Virginia Regional Commission is co-sponsoring this event with the Partnership for a New American Economy and the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia.

#### THURSDAY/OCT. 22

**Blood Drive** at the Boro. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Boro Place, Conference Room E/F, 1775 Greensboro Station Place, McLean. The Boro is partnering with The American Red Cross to host a Blood Drive. Individuals who would like to donate are asked to make an appointment online at American Red Cross Blood Services to schedule their donation. Appointments allow the American Red Cross to exercise hygienic practices and provide donor services. Visit [theborotysons.com](http://theborotysons.com).

#### FRIDAY/OCT. 23

**McLean Art Society Meeting.** The McLean Art Society Membership team will meet from 10:30-11 a.m. This will be followed at 11 a.m. by a one-hour presentation and demonstration by Nancy King Mertz, a nationally acclaimed artist in pastels and oil painting. Ms. Mertz has a B.F.A. in Painting from Eastern Illinois University and is the recipient of the Prix de Pastel from I.A.P.S. in 2018 and has been a Chicago Artist of the Year. Newcomers wishing to attend this session are welcome and will be added to the Zoom list by contacting the McLean Art Society President Ray Goodrow at [raygoodrow@aol.com](mailto:raygoodrow@aol.com).

#### VIENNA LAUNCHES SATURDAY 'SHOP & STROLL' CAMPAIGN

The Town of Vienna announced the launch of a new campaign to encourage visitors to explore the town's diverse shopping centers. The initiative titled Vienna Shop & Stroll will take place on select Saturdays starting Saturday, October 24 through December. Each month, designated shopping centers will host safe and socially distant seasonal activities and in-store promotions for all to enjoy. Locals and visitors can get to know business owners and learn more about the history of each shopping center. Visit [ViennaVA.gov/shopandstroll](http://ViennaVA.gov/shopandstroll).

Schedule: Select Saturdays 12-4 p.m.

October 24 -- Vienna Shopping Center  
November 7 -- Danor Plaza  
November 14 -- Cedar Park  
November 21 -- Jades Shopping Center + Vienna Plaza  
November 28 -- Small Biz Saturday on Church Street and surrounding streets off Church  
December 5 -- Village Green  
December 12 -- Glyndon Plaza

#### SATURDAY/OCT. 24

The Vienna Police Department will participate in the DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes. The Vienna Police Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused, or unwanted medications. Prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled

substances, and over the counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at 215 Center Street, South, Vienna.

#### SATURDAY/OCT. 31

**Virtual 5K/1K Walk-Run-Roll.** 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Join in the Unity Halloween Virtual 5K/1K Run, Walk, and Roll. Sign up, dress up for Halloween (optional), and move your body! Then post your pictures on the Facebook Event page for all to see #Unity5K1K #UnityWalkRunRoll #UnityVirtualHalloween. Cost is \$25. Visit the website: <https://virtual5k-1k-walk-run-roll-halloween.eventbrite.com/?aff=cnnews>

#### JOIN CUB SCOUTS

K-5 students are invited to join Cub Scout Pack 55 of Great Falls for fun, community service, hiking, campfires, and more! Children from Forestville Elementary, other area schools, and home school are welcome. The pack meets virtually once a month, for an optional masked, socially distanced outdoor activity, and the dens meet at least once a month. Contact Cubmaster Darius Sarraf at [cubmasterpack55@outlook.com](mailto:cubmasterpack55@outlook.com).

#### NOW THRU DEC. 1

**White House Ornaments.** 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Assistance League of Northern Virginia. P.O. Box 209, Herndon. 2020 White House Ornaments available for purchase. This year's ornament features John F. Kennedy's official posthumous White House portrait. Cost is \$22 per ornament plus shipping if applicable. To view the ornament and information on ordering, visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org). Proceeds support community-based programs for local Children.

#### TUESDAY/NOV 3

The Woman's Club of McLean hosts a speaker on U.S. presidential wives on Tuesday, November 3rd, at Garfield Memorial Christian Church, 1731 Great Falls Street, McLean, at 12 p.m. Andrew Och, an award-winning media producer, is the author of two books on American presidential wives, from Martha Washington to Melania Trump. Visit [www.mcleanwomensclub.org](http://www.mcleanwomensclub.org).

#### NOW THRU NOV. 12

**Adventures in Learning.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Virtual via Zoom. Adventures in Learning -A Program of the Shepherd's Center serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon (SC). Offering Tai Chi; Health & Wellness; Arts & Entertainment, World Affairs: Past & Present. Sample classes: Moo-ving Toward a Plant-Based Diet, Medicare 101, Masters of Baroque-Rembrandt, Chamber Dance Project, Discovery of Planets Outside our Solar System, My Three Years in Vietnam. For list of full class schedule, visit [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org). Tuition for 8 week course: \$45. Call 703-281-0588 or mail to Shepherd's Center, 541 Marshall Rd. SW, Vienna, VA 22180.

#### SUNDAYS THRU OCT. 25

**CROP Hunger Walks.** 2 p.m. At CHO, Vienna Court Condos, 133 Park Street, NE, Vienna. The annual Vienna CROP Hunger Walk, a hybrid virtual/in-person event, will be held Sundays through October 25. Register for, donate to, or find more information about the Walk at [www.crophungerwalk.org/viennava](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/viennava).

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## "I'll Think About That Tomorrow"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What I'm thinking about - and being thankful for, today, is the disappearance of all the side effects I've been experiencing during the last four weeks or so since I began my pill regimen for my papillary thyroid cancer treatment. Too many to list but upwards of a dozen side effects which encompass all activities from those of daily living to others pertaining to just plain living. Let me reprint the warning that came with the pills: "People using this medication may have serious side effects. However, your doctor has prescribed this drug because he or she has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects." Put that in your pipe and smoke it. That's what I have to smoke every day, if you know figuratively what I mean?

The bigger question, the overriding concern/anxiety is what exactly the thyroid cancer is doing now having been left unmedicated for the last nine days? How irreparable is the damage being done when the cancer has been left unchecked? Moreover, to the extent there has been some damage, is restarting treatment even an option or have I already failed the tolerance test? Being a cancer patient is a never-ending series of questions and/or concerns for which there is hardly clarity. As I have been led to believe/educated since my initial lung cancer diagnosis, there will be no more guarantees coming.

But of course improvements in cancer treatment and ongoing research have improved survivability, and with many patients, myself included, turned the cancer treatment into a chronic disease type protocol, like diabetes. Nevertheless, cancer is in control, the doctors are not. There are no slam-dunks in cancer treatment. How would I ever be able to unwind myself from years of stress and fear just because? I couldn't. A cancer patient today sort of means, I'll likely be a cancer patient tomorrow. I don't see how I could shake that self-image.

Somehow, I must, as I'm trying to do now, exult in the joy of a semi uncomplicated, side-effect free existence because ..., it's not guaranteed. I must try even harder to compartmentalize the unknown while savoring this known, relatively easy time. It's not promised and it's not necessarily likely to occur again, certainly not after I return to treatment. But maybe, my new normal will be switching on and off treatment, sort of like I did while being infused with alimta. Though I still had my CT scans quarterly, so long as the scans showed stable, we kept extending the interval between infusions. The goal being to balance effect on the tumors with the quality of life (freedom from side effects and infusion appointments). Eventually, we stretched the interval to as much as seven weeks from the original three enabling me to live - occasionally, a semi cancer free life. Perhaps this on-again, off-again schedule might apply to this recent thyroid treatment. I have to hope because the side effects, as I alluded to initially, have been affecting my quality of life. And if there's one factor driving my better-than expected survival, it has been my attitude, which has derived directly from my management of side effects. Anecdotally speaking (or presuming) being in a good mood, being able to function with normal parameters (to quote Data from "Star Trek: Next Generation") has been a tremendous contributor to my life expectancy (my oncologist refers to me "as his third miracle").

But I can't know for sure. And of course, that's the crux of the problem for many of us cancer patients. One can never know for sure if you're hindering or helping; and since guarantees stopped being made on the ground-zero day you were diagnosed with a "terminal disease" it's often difficult to know which path to follow. Right now, it's easy to follow the path which is creating a more normal/pleasant quality of life. But at what cost? I can't know what the tumors are doing. Perhaps, in taking a break from treatment, I have unleashed the cancer once again. That's my dilemma: reconciling the present with the future, the fear with the familiar, the hope with the inevitable. And it's likely I'll never know if what I've done has been a help or a hindrance. Yet somehow, I have to make plans and decisions. "Tomorrow is another day." Lest, I be gone with the wind.

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



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Dianne Van Volkenburg and her team of real estate agents and marketing specialists are unsurpassed in providing first-class service to buyers and sellers. In fact, Dianne and her team have one of the highest rates of repeat clients in all of Northern Virginia as former clients, families and friends trust them for their real estate needs.

## Over \$100 Million in Sales for 2020!



Great Falls \$1,585,000



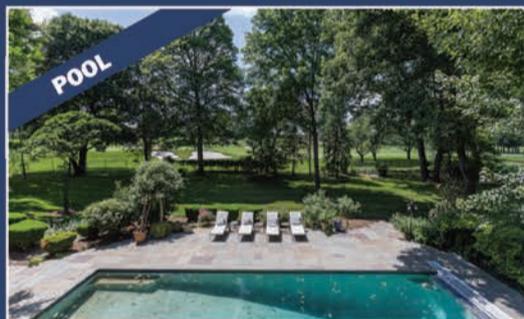
Great Falls \$2,399,000



Great Falls \$1,585,000



Great Falls \$1,150,000



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