

McLean Father-Daughter Dance Reimagined

NEWS, PAGE 4



McLean Community Center's new Father-Daughter Silent Disco Dance will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 30 at the MCC parking lot.

Fairfax Supervisors Condemn Anti-Asian Racism

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Intersection Under Scrutiny

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MEET THE CANDIDATES

McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER 2021 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS



McLean
Community
Center
The Center of It All

The Governing Board and staff of the McLean Community Center strongly encourage all qualified residents to vote for members of MCC's 2021-2022 Governing Board. Your vote sends a very important message of your support of the Center's programs and services.

1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Va. 22101 703-790-0123/TTY: 711 mcleancenter.org

ADULT CANDIDATES

THREE POSITIONS OPEN



SEPEHR HARANDI sepehr.harandi@gmail.com

I'm a McLean boy, I attended Churchill Road Elementary, Cooper Middle and Langley High schools, Longwood University where I played Division 1 soccer and obtained my master's from Oklahoma University. Growing up in McLean was vital to my maturity and development and I ultimately returned. I've been involved in the community in a variety of ways—coaching McLean youth football and basketball, sponsoring McLean 5k and playing for McLean Youth Sports. I choose to run for the MCC board to be a vital part of the community and stay connected to my roots while helping in any way I can.



LISA MARIAM lisamariamcc@gmail.com

McLean Community Center was a big factor in our decision to move to McLean in 2002. Attending classes, performances and events, I appreciate MCC's welcoming atmosphere and outstanding programs that connect me to the community. I'm interested in serving on the Board to help guide MCC through this exciting period of transition to reopening with a new Director. I offer extensive professional and volunteer experience with organizations including ArtsFairfax, the National Gallery of Art, Girl Scouts and school PTAs. I look forward to supporting strong McLean traditions and exploring new opportunities to engage residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.



RASHEQ RAHMAN rasheq.mcc@gmail.com

My name is Rasheq Rahman. As a 25+-year McLean resident with a small business proudly headquartered in downtown and kids attending McLean public schools, the McLean Community Center (MCC)'s world-class activities from children's learning to date nights at The Alden have enriched my family life for generations. I seek a seat on the MCC Governing Board with deep gratitude and the belief that my 20 years of diverse experience in finance (Goldman Sachs), strategy (IBM) and education (Yale, Virginia Tech) enable me to lead the MCC to be ever resilient, innovative and inclusive during this time of change.



SHIVANI SABOO shivsaboo1@gmail.com

My name is Shivani Saboo and I am running for MCC Governing Board. I have lived in McLean all my life and wear my hometown with a badge of pride! I graduated from McLean High School in 2016 and recently graduated from the University of Virginia in 2020. As our town welcomes increasingly more young professionals, I hope to represent those voices and help MCC integrate more with the young adult community. Additionally, as an Asian-American, I hope to represent immigrant communities and push for increased celebration of the diverse cultures represented in McLean.



ALLISON STRATTON allison.c.stratton@gmail.com

I'm excited to run for the board of the McLean Community Center because I believe in the difference a robust and well-functioning community can make in the lives of its residents. A former military spouse, I've volunteered for leadership positions in service organizations and seen firsthand how beneficial these groups can be. My background in higher education and passion for lifelong learning gives me a unique perspective on the types of activities that might be attractive to our stakeholders. Now that our family has settled in McLean permanently, I'm thrilled to have a chance to contribute to our community's wellbeing.

YOUTH CANDIDATES

ONE POSITION OPEN

Langley High School Boundary Area



IVY CHEN ivychen2004@gmail.com

I want to run for the Governing Board because I am profoundly interested in setting policies for the community. I am very interested in matters that will affect our lives and I love to be able to give back to my society. Beyond my academic life, I enjoy participating in a multitude of extracurricular activities, ranging from politics to student government. I want to be involved in leading, making and creating change within our community to ensure that we all create the most positive and helpful environment possible for all.



ROWAN JOHNS rowanjohns887@gmail.com

I'm Rowan Johns, a 15-year-old sophomore at Langley High. I will ensure youth in my community are informed, heard and encouraged, with particular focus on community engagement during COVID-19 restrictions. My interests include music, ranging from school band to playing drums in a rock band. I love sports and have played soccer for 10 years. I learned responsibility early taking care of Jake, my beagle. Academically, I love history and civics. I am enthusiastic, caring and always willing to help others. I believe the combination of my interests and personality make me a good candidate for this role.



CHARLOTTE LOVING charlotterloving@gmail.com

I have been a "customer" of the McLean Community Center my entire life. Whether watching a play, taking classes or enjoying the park, MCC has always been there for me! I know McLean well and have friends in both the McLean and Langley districts through softball, church and other extracurricular activities. I am the social media manager and president-elect of the Langley Nice Cream Club, which has taught me how to communicate, lead, plan and achieve goals. Since the Community Center has been such an important part of my past, I would like to be part of its future.

YOUTH CANDIDATES

ONE POSITION OPEN

McLean High School Boundary Area



MAX BLACKSTEN max4mcc@gmail.com

Hello, my name is Max Blacksten. I am honored to have the opportunity to be in candidacy to serve the community that has given me so much over the past 16 years. I am passionate about helping McLean be the best that it can be, by using my position to improve the lives of teens in McLean through engaging teen activities and advocating for increased teen involvement in the MCC decision-making process. I have significant leadership experience and an understanding of politics through my involvement and leadership in Boy Scouts, Venturing, DECA, Model United Nations and other clubs and organizations!



TYLER JENSEN tylair16@gmail.com

I'm running for the McLean Community Center Governing Board because I believe I can best represent the interests of my community and will offer potential to the board. I'm qualified for this position because I serve on the Youth Advisory Council, I was elected by my peers to serve on the Committee on Raising Student Voices at McLean High School, and I'm the current McLean Community Center Youth Board Member for McLean High School. I am deeply invested in leadership roles and I strive to give back to the community in any way I might. Thank you for your consideration.



CATE KANAPATHY catekanapathy2283@gmail.com

I want to serve my community to the fullest extent, so I'm running for the Governing Board. I believe everyone can have positive impacts on not just the community, but the world, a world I strive to make a difference in. Therefore, I volunteer with various advocacy groups including the Uyghur Human Rights Project and Youth Climate Action Team. I've been accepted into the Youth Advisory Committee and several school clubs, giving me experience in responsibility, dedication and collaboration. I will improve McLean Community Center, but above all, I will improve your lives so I hope to represent you all!



NOOR LECANU noonlecanu@gmail.com

I've grown up here and now that I'm 16 I see myself as not just benefiting from the community—I want to play a role in shaping MCC's future just like it has shaped my youth. Board members should have an appreciation of what McLean and MCC have to offer and ensure their continuity. I've participated in events in our community, and I have a keen interest in the arts, which was not only sparked but nurtured throughout my youth by MCC. These have been positive experiences and I want to ensure it continues to provide these opportunities for youth.



EMMA SAUNDERS emmasaundersformclean@gmail.com

As a native of McLean, I've earned the trust and respect of my peers and am dedicated to representing their diverse viewpoints. I've demonstrated commitment and integrity through my leadership roles such as captain of the McLean travel soccer team, Safety Patrol captain, and as a member of several national honor societies. Passionate about giving back and supporting my community, I am involved with Girls Leadership Club, Cancer Kids First and taking active volunteer roles in many community events. I am a creative thinker and find unique approaches to problem-solving. Thank you for this opportunity to represent your valued perspectives.

For more information on the election, call the Center at 703-744-9348, TTY: 711, or email elections@mcleancenter.org.

Traffic backed up attempting to turn onto VA-7 off Towlston Road.

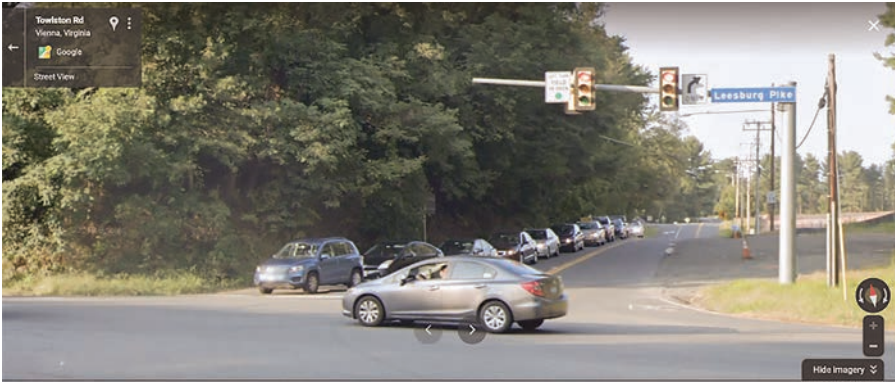


IMAGE CONTRIBUTED

Intersection Under Scrutiny

GFCA holds Town Hall on Rt. 7 and Towlston Road Intersection, McLean and Great Falls residents invited.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Following a fatal December crash at the Towlston Road intersection with Leesburg Pike (VA-7) and mounting safety concerns, local community members requested that the Great Falls Citizens Association host a virtual Town Hall Meeting. On Wednesday, March 31, officials with the Virginia Department of Transportation including Bill Cutler, Northern Virginia District engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation overseeing the Route 7 Corridor Improvements, will address traffic operation and safety improvement concerns voiced by attendees. The meeting is open to community members in McLean and Great Falls.

“A lot of issues have come up and have to do with safety and intersection design, and whether they’re going to be adequate to protect people,” said Michael Barclay, Transportation Committee co-chair for GFCA.

Barclay said one of the first issues is when VDOT completes the intersection, will there be an adequate sight line for vehicles turning left from southbound Towlston Road onto eastbound VA-7 towards Tysons.

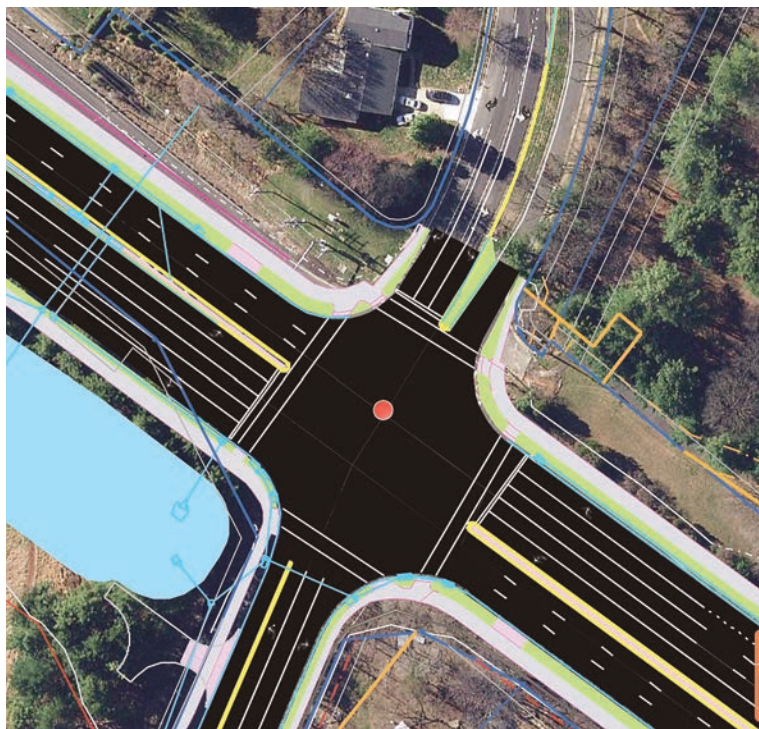
VEHICLE TURNING PATHS and encroachment into the adjacent lane, especially for larger vehicles, is a second concern. Trucks and buses on VA-7 heading west turning onto Towlston Road northbound towards the Arden development may be a safety concern. “That lane doesn’t really have enough clearance for larger trucks and buses to clear the turn safely. They have to swing over into the other lane,” Barclay said.

A third issue is the VA-7 queue length for the signalized intersection. “That queue length is a



IMAGE CONTRIBUTED

VA-7 and Towlston Road pre-construction



SCREENSHOT

VA-7 and Towlston Road post-construction

tion approaching Towlston seems too short to handle the traffic volume.

Compounding concerns are the excessive delays on Towlston Road at the traffic signal light. According to Barclay, vehicles are backed up, particularly in the morning, waiting to turn left onto VA-7 toward Tysons. “And a really bad problem is going to get worse,” he said.

According to Barclay, one hundred twenty-four residences are being completed in the new Arden community by Toll Brothers. Its single entrance at Tate Modern Lane feeds onto Towlston Road, feet from the intersection, which bottle-necks and leads to greater congestion. That will create a growing assault on Georgetown Pike, particularly given its status



The suspect is being held at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center without bond.

POLICE PHOTO

Detectives Make Arrest in Tysons Sexual Assault

Investigation continues, detectives seek witnesses.

A 27-year-old man is facing charges after sexually assaulting a woman who was sitting on a bench near a shopping center in Tysons. Officers were called to the 1500 block of Cornerside Boulevard for a report of a sexual assault on Mar. 4. The victim was sitting on a bench around 4 p.m. the day prior when the unknown man approached her, engaged her in conversation then sexually assaulted her. The woman screamed and was able to leave. As she walked away, the man continued to follow her. A bystander saw the man following her and escorted her inside a business.

As Major Crimes Bureau detectives were working on the case, the man was seen in the area again on Mar. 12. Officers responded and took Mohamed Souidi, no fixed address, into custody. He was charged with object sexual penetration and abduction. He is being held at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center without bond.

Detectives continue to investigate this case and are asking for

your help. Considering the time and location of the assault, detectives believe there may have been people in the area who unknowingly witnessed this crime. If you have any information about this case, or you recognize this man and believe you may have been assaulted by him, please call detectives at 703-246-7800, option 3. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), by text – Type “FCCS” plus tip to 847411, and by web – Click HERE. Download our Mobile tip411 App “Fairfax Co Crime Solvers”. If you would like to be contacted, please leave your name and phone number in the comment section when submitting a tip. Tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

Victim specialists from Major Crimes Bureau’s Victim Services Division have been assigned to this case to ensure the victim is receiving appropriate resources and assistance - FCPD Public Affairs Bureau says in a press release.

as a historic and scenic byway.

Each person must register to attend the Town Hall Meeting. To register for the event, click on the URL: GFCA Town Hall Registration - Route 7/Towlston Rd Intersection or log onto gfca.org and click on the registration link under Upcoming Events.

The VDOT January 2020 improvement description for Towlston Road states: “Shift Route 7 away from Andrew Chapel Cemetery (located at the southwest corner of Trap Road and Route 7). Install retaining wall and new sidewalk along southbound Towlston Road. Add right turn and left-turn lanes on southbound Towlston

Road. Upgrade existing signal and optimize signal timing. Lengthen left and right turn lanes on Route 7. Allow U-turns on Route 7 in both directions. Construct ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps and mark pedestrian crosswalks at the intersection.”

THE INTERSECTION PROJECT is part of the larger Route 7 Corridor Improvements between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive in Fairfax County. It includes widening the road from four to six lanes, adding 10-foot wide shared-use paths on both sides and making major intersection improvements along the corridor.

Fairfax Supervisors Condemn Anti-Asian Racism

Acknowledging the large and vibrant Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in Fairfax County, Chairman Jeff McKay introduced a resolution on March 23, passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors, condemning violence and discrimination against AAPIs.

The resolution requires that the County and schools intentionally consider equity when making policies or delivering programs and services. The Chairman acknowledged that as Covid-19 spread this past year, reports of anti-Asian discrimination, racism, hate crimes, violence, and scapegoating, sadly, increased nation-wide. McKay, speaking to his resolution, said “We hear your concern and anxieties and believe any acts of racism against Asian Americans are unacceptable. In Fairfax County, no matter where you are from, you are welcome in our community.”

Fairfax County counts nearly 20 percent of its population as AAPI, with Korean and Vietnamese as two of its five most spoken languages. Heritage from the Philippines, Korea, Vietnam, India and other AAPI origins add richly to the blended Fairfax County symbolized by the commemoration Korean Bell Garden at Meadowlark Gardens, the Asian American Festival in Fairfax City, and many other cultural events.

— SUSAN LAUME



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION
Bell of Peace & Harmony, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, installed in 2011 to commemorate the equality, opportunity, and freedom Koreans once found in the United States

Joining Forces Against Hate

Local legislators part of newly formed Asian American and Pacific Islanders Caucus.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

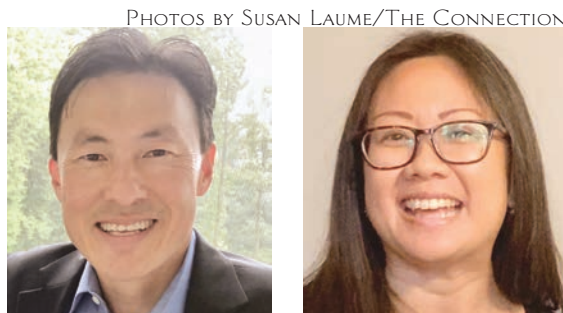
Last week local delegates Mark L. Keam (D-35) and Kathy KL Tran (D-42), joined other Virginia General Assembly members with Asian American heritage to speak out against violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

This week they announced the formation of the General Assembly’s Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus (VAAPIC) and their participation as “founding members.”

The formation of the caucus follows the March 16 mass shootings in Georgia that targeted Asian American women and businesses, and the increase of reports of assaults against Asian Americans across the country over the past year. In the Georgia spa shootings, six of the eight killed were Asian American women. The advocacy group, “Stop AAPI Hate” reports 3,795 hate incidents targeting AAPIs in all 50 states and Washington DC between March 2020 and February 2021; including 49 reports of assault in Virginia.

Del. Keam indicated they expect their developing caucus to assure that AAPI voices are heard in the policy and lawmaking process. Legislators will hold virtual “listening sessions” in Northern Virginia, central Virginia, and the Hampton Roads areas in April to hear from citizens on the support needed, on dates to be announced. Future legislation could address equality in the justice system, government contracting, and language support.

In an emotional response, Del. Tran spoke of the



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION
Delegate Mark Keam, born in South Korea, spent childhood in Vietnam and Australia, coming to California as a teenager; attended the University of California; earned a law degree from the Hastings College of the Law. Virginia delegate since 2009.

Delegate Kathy KL Tran, born in Vietnam, at 2 years old fled with her parents as boat refugees. A two-term Virginia Delegate running for her third term this year; graduate of Duke University; Masters degree in social work from the U of Michigan.

sadness she felt that her young son, at age eight, already understands the meaning of racism, experiencing taunting in school due to his Asian appearance. She spoke of her father’s caution to her, that no matter what she accomplishes, she will always be seen first as an Asian; just as others in black and brown communities are seen first for their appearance. She looks to the Caucus and all Virginias to stand up against racism and violence.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCC

A new Father-Daughter Silent Disco Dance will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 30.

McLean Father-Daughter Dance Reimagined

The program staffers at McLean Community Center have reimagined the center’s popular Father-Daughter Dance that was held in 2019 but was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic. This year, a new Father-Daughter Silent Disco Dance will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 30, in the center’s parking lot. Admission is \$25 per participant; \$15 for MCC district residents. Preregistration is required. The center is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue.

The dance is for fathers and daughters of all ages. Partici-

pants will be required to wear masks and social distancing will be enforced. Each couple or group will be assigned to their own dedicated spaces and will be given headphones with a choice of three, family friendly music genres. DJ Big-Court will provide music and entertainment and participants will receive snack bags and glow products to help get the party started.

For more information or to register, call 703-390-0123, TTY: 711, or visit, www.mclean-center.org.



Yuriko Yamaguchi, A new heaven and a new earth, 2017



Alonzo Davis, Navigating Climate Change

McLean Project for the Arts to Open Two New Exhibitions

McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) will open its two newest exhibitions on April 1, 2021. Navigating Climate Change, Extended by Alonzo Davis (Atrium Gallery) and Intium Novum: Humanity’s End As A New Beginning featuring artist Yuriko Yamaguchi and writer Mineke Schipper (Emerson Gallery) run through June 10, 2021. A Virtual Opening Exhibition Reception and Artist Talk will take place on April 8, 2021 at 7 p.m. Both exhibitions were underwritten by Donna and Bruce Berlage.

“These two exhibitions both bring a focus to our larger world, as Alonzo Davis is an artist who successfully brings a wide angle, panoramic view of the world to all the work he creates,” said MPA Director of Exhibitions Nancy Sausser. “Organized around a concern about climate change and the future of our planet, our second exhibit is inspired

by end of the world mythologies from around the world, in a collaboration between artist Yuriko Yamaguchi and writer Mineke Schipper.”

Images of both Navigating Climate Change, Extended and Intium Novum will be available on the MPA website beginning April 1. The Atrium Gallery Exhibition (Navigating Climate Change, Extended) will be available for viewing during McLean Community Center operating hours. The Emerson Gallery exhibit (Intium Novum) will be open for visitors with timed passes on Thursdays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Visit mpaart.org to reserve your timed pass.

To register for the April 8 Virtual Opening Exhibition Reception and Artist Talk please visit <https://tinyurl.com/mpaspringexhibits>.

For more information, visit www.mpaart.org.

CALENDAR

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Limited time only, restrictions may apply. Financial commitment must be made before community opens, and resident must move in within 30 days of community opening in order to be eligible for the program. See community representative for full details and restrictions.



COMING LATE 2021

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that Fairfax Water is requesting a permit from Virginia Marine Resources Commission to install, by the open-cut/trench method, a 12-inch diameter ductile iron water transmission line, a minimum 36 inches beneath a 20-foot wide section of Pimmit Run, as part of the Raleigh Road Water Line Replacement Project, in Fairfax County. Send Comments/inquiries within 15 days to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Building 96, Fort Monroe, VA 23651 or jpa.permits@mrc.virginia.gov.

Announcements

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-Werner Heisenberg

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

Oakton QB Nick Toole #8 has his eyes set on an Oakton receiver.

Bulldogs Beat Cougars, Reach Season Finale

The Westfield Bulldogs and the Oakton Cougars played in a Concorde District game on March 26 in Chantilly: With the 56-12 win Westfield improved to (3-2) (2-1), and Oakton fell to (1-5) (0-4). Westfield will play in Chantilly on Friday in the season finale. Oakton has a bye week and their season is complete.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MARCH 31 TO APRIL 4

Holy Week in Vienna. 10 a.m. to noon. At The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. A special "Holy Week Experience" will be held indoors, marking the first time this year the church building has been open to the public. Good Friday and Easter services will be online only. Visit the website https://faithconnector.s3.amazonaws.com/goodshepherdva/files/holy_week_2021_announcement_revised.pdf.

APRIL 4, 2021

Live Online Easter Service. 9-10 a.m. Online. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church invites the community to join its Live, Online Easter Worship. You may access the service on the website, YouTube Channel, or Vimeo Channel (search "Lewinsville Presbyterian"). After the service ends, the video will be archived and available on each of these platforms. Visit the website: <https://www.lewinsville.org/live>

GOLDEN GIRLS SEEKS PLAYERS

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 website www.goldengirls.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is

an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

ONGOING

1 Million Cups. Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. networking; 9-10 a.m. program at Make Offices at Tysons, 1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600, McLean. Each week a different business owner gives a brief six-minute presentation about where they are in their business. They then offer up a challenge question about a new idea, product, expansion or something they are facing in their business. The group then masterminds solutions. Free and open to the public. Visit www.1millioncups.com/.

Great Falls Friends and Neighbors (GFFN) invites women living in the Langley High School District or The Estates of Lowes Island to learn more about the group. The purpose of GFFN is to establish and foster an atmosphere in which new and current residents can develop new friendships and community contacts through social, educational and cultural activities. In addition, the club provides service, support and donations to philanthropic and civic organizations in and around the Great Falls community. Email info@gffnva.org or visit www.gffnva.org.

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Good News Travels Slowly



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Sure enough, the email from my oncologist didn't arrive in my inbox before we left for the weekend away on Friday. It wasn't ideal, but as a long time cancer patient, I've learned to make the best of a bad/potentially bad situation. As it turned out, the time away was invigorating, and there was very little mention of the elephant in the room: Kenny's cancer. Friends can be good like that. Once we got home on Sunday, after a two-hour wait at Six Flags to get my second covid-19 shot, I was rewarded. The email from the radiologist had arrived and the news was good, or so it seemed.

What it is that I typically receive is an automated release of the radiologist's report which is likewise forwarded to my oncologist. Granted, I can only understand half of the words, and those are generally the prepositions; much of the report is written by a doctor for a doctor, not for the doctor's patient. Nevertheless, the process is what it is. It's rare anymore that one receives a call from their doctor with scan-type results. Usually, my oncologist amends this first email with a simplified interpretation of the report: "scan looks good," as a hopeful example. So far, and this is Tuesday afternoon after the Wednesday scan, I've not yet received an amended report, the one where the oncologist offers his summary/opinion. We do have a follow-up video appointment with him on Thursday so perhaps he's saving himself/his comments until that meeting. Perhaps not. Regardless, I should have heard something more definitive by now. Presuming I can figure out the true meaning of the radiologist's report is a bit presumptuous. As a cancer patient, I don't want to have to figure anything out. I want to be told. I shouldn't have to live with any unnecessary uncertainty. I have more than enough uncertainty already. And in case anybody can't guess: uncertainty does not improve my quality of life, one that's already fragile. A "terminal" diagnosis will do that and tends to put a patient ill at ease, morning, noon and night. That's what I call a "post-diagnosis existing condition."

That reaction/disappointment being expressed, from what few words and meanings I could grasp from the report: "no new lesions," no significant change, "stable disease," I can say with all the limited knowledge at my disposal, that I'm probably OKAY. In fact, I would say that my warranty has been extended for another three months, until we wash, rinse and repeat in another three months, per the cycle I've mostly been on since 2009 when I was first diagnosed.

However, I'd be foolish to fuss too much because if my interpretation of the radiologist's report is correct, I really can't complain about good news. I mean, what goes around, comes around, and I'm not about to tempt fate and ruffle karma's feathers. These reports, which typically are the first and surest indication that the patient is in trouble - or not, are a lifeline as patients cling to. A good/stable disease report is sort of like a "life preserver" until you actually talk with the oncologist and get a more official interpretation. Of course, to receive good news earlier would be a lot better. But when the news is good, as this report was, anytime you receive it: "it's all good," as so many say.

Naturally, I'd rather hear it directly from the oncologist. Moreover, given that not all the words written in this report are familiar/known to me, especially in the context in which they're written ("medicalese"); obviously, I'd rather hear the assessment of the scan from the oncologist in person/so to speak, and not leave anything to chance - or misinterpretation by yours truly. In spite of these irregularities, which I can't do anything about (I've tried), my modus has been to roll with the punches and take the good, bad and ugly in stride. So I'm not mad. I'm glad. Life goes on. Thank God!

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



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