

McLean Central Park Reimagined

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A couple makes their way down the cool, sun-dappled path at McLean Central Park. (Far left) Seeing the gentleman is using a walker, a man steps off-path, his dog in his arms, and gives the couple space.

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Evictions Coming

More than 2,000 tenants are already involved with the courts on evictions with the end of CDC moratorium looming July 31.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Landlords have prepared to start evicting tenants when the federal moratorium ends July 31, 2021. More than 2,000 tenants across Fairfax County are already involved in the court system.

In fact, 608 writs of eviction have been issued in the county. A writ of eviction is a court notice sent to the Sheriff's Office to remove a tenant's belongings from a property, according to county documents.

Writs of evictions have been issued throughout the county, including 164 in Alexandria, 73 in Falls Church, 59 in McLean, 54 in Fairfax, 50 in Herndon, 40 in Springfield, 34 in Vienna, 32 in Reston, 31 in Centreville and 31 in Annandale.

As of June 14, 2021, 1,432 unlawful detainers have also been issued. Unlawful detainers are issued when a landlord seeks court assistance in removing a tenant from

a property. These include 366 issued in Alexandria, 137 in Fairfax, 113 in Annandale, 103 in Herndon, 103 in Springfield, 89 in Reston, 79 in Centreville, 73 in McLean, and 73 in Vienna.

MORE THAN 10,000 households have needed emergency assistance for rent, utilities and food during the pandemic in Fairfax County.

"We're hearing from residents in the community that have never had to reach out before," said Keisha Dotson, division director, Neighborhood and Community Services.

The county is bracing to hear from more since the existing Centers for Disease Control moratorium on evictions is scheduled to end July 31, 2021.

Many families who have been unable to pay their rent because of the pandemic economic crisis could be facing eviction and homelessness when the eviction moratorium expires.

"We can anticipate that we're going to



"We're hearing from residents in the community that have never had to reach out before."

— Keisha Dotson,
Neighborhood
and Community
Services



"Rental assistance is one of the best ways we can prevent evictions."

— Tom Barnett,
Housing and Community
Development

have a huge call volume," said Chairman Jeff McKay. "I want to make certain we have the resources on the ground to respond to them quickly."

"Rental assistance is one of the best ways we can prevent evictions," said Tom Barnett, of Housing and Community Development.

The county has distributed more than \$31.5 million so far. "There has been an unprecedented demand for assistance," Dotson said on June 29 at the Board of Supervisors Health and Human Services committee meeting, chaired by Dalia Palchik (Providence).

The county will spend \$75 million more in federal assistance to help prevent evictions and homelessness.

The county is also reaching out to landlords.

Supervisor District	Court Involved
Braddock	110
Dranesville	116
Hunter Mill	219
Lee	285
Mason	394
Mount Vernon	295
Providence	360
Springfield	88
Sully	150

* As of June 29, 2021

Writs of Eviction, Top ZIP Codes

22306	54
20171	36
22312	34
22303	32

Unlawful Detainers, Top ZIP Codes

22003	113
22306	112
22042	108
22303	96
22030	70

"We're not just reaching out to our typical clients, tenants requesting this rental assistance, but also the landlords themselves, with our nonprofit partners based in the community, Cornerstones and FACETs," Barnett said. "They have actually been engaging the landlords so that they understand the programs available to help pay rental arrears and so they can help get their tenants through this process."

At the time of the June 29 committee meeting, 975 landlords had applied.

Communities hardest hit by COVID are also those hardest hit or anticipated to be hit by eviction proceedings, in particular communities of color, Barnett said. "Clearly some neighborhoods are getting impacted more than others."

Seeking Equity in Access to Required School Supplies

Leveling the learning field from binders to graphing calculators.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Summer vacation hits the halfway point for students enrolled at Fairfax County Public Schools on Monday, July 18. With the division reaching out to parents, encouraging them to send their children back to in-person learning this fall compared to the fall of 2020 and the economic fallout of the pandemic, the need is greater than ever for equitable access to required school supplies.

Approximately 31 percent of students in FCPS qualified for free and reduced-price meals as of Oct. 31, 2019, reported FCPS. These are families who earn less than 130 percent of the poverty level and those with incomes between 130 and 185 percent.

Each FCPS elementary school has school supply lists posted to their school's website. Middle and High schools often supply these lists on their websites or provide them to students on their return to school, according to FCPS. Costs to purchase school supply items as viewed on the individual FCPS websites can run upwards of over \$100 per student with individual teachers, especially at the higher grades requesting additional supplies, such as a TI-83 series graphing cal-



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
The first day of school for 2021-22 for Fairfax County Public Schools is Aug. 23.

culator at \$125, and the need to replenish items throughout the year.

Asked how many children would require donated supplies and backpacks for the school year 2021-22 opening on Aug. 23, Jennifer Sellers, media outreach specialist at FCPS said, "Around 60,000 FCPS students live at or near the poverty level."

OPPORTUNITIES are available to students in need of supplies. The Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools offers Collect for Kids, described as a strategic team-- comprising businesses, government agencies, and community organizations working together to organize and plan a fundraising effort that helps provide kits of supplies

for students in need. The goal is to ensure all students have the tools necessary to be successful in the classroom. Schools can customize their kits to meet the needs of teachers and students best.

The Collect for Kids monetary campaign allows the Foundation to streamline the distribution of backpacks and supplies. "A donation of just \$50 provides five students in need with the basic supplies necessary for academic success," states the Foundation's website.

Kids R First is a regional non-profit program "dedicated to the education and helping kids (grades K-12) from families of limited financial means with school supplies to receive the same opportunities as their peers," states the charitable organization's website. In 2020, Kids R First provided custom orders for every grade level at every participating school, according to Susan Ungerer, founder/CEO. Volunteers supplied required core items to 25,100 students in need in Northern Virginia and Maryland.

This summer, Ungerer said, Kids R First is working with 38 schools (K-12) in the Fairfax County communities of Alexandria, Annandale, Centreville, Chantilly, Falls Church, Fort Belvoir, Herndon, Reston, and Springfield. "Each individual school order is put on a pallet, shrink-wrapped. Then the Fairfax County Schools warehouse group picks

them up and delivers them to the schools. All the supplies are given to students at the school with the hope they receive them before school begins," said Ungerer.

Some school districts nationwide have taken an initiative to increase educational equity among all their students, leveling the learning field. Schools provide the supplies students need for learning, the same as they do with books and other materials.

PROJECT Free Education at Bellingham Public Schools in the state of Washington provides supplies and opportunities to students at no cost. The budget priority attempted to close gaps. Since the program started in 2011, the division reported it eliminated the need for families to buy school supplies at elementary, middle, and high school; eliminated middle and high school course fees and supplied high school scientific and graphing calculators, and world language Advanced Placement (AP) workbooks.

Fairfax County Public Schools anticipates starting on the first day of school, Aug. 23, 2021, with bus routes and schedules back to normal with full activity, athletic program, and "academic excellence."

If students need assistance with school supplies, they can directly reach out to their local school.

Virginia's Largest Industry

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



COMMENTARY

Virginia's largest private industry is agriculture with an economic impact of \$70 billion annually and 334,000 jobs. Yet, according to Feeding America, one in eleven persons, or 766,620 people in Virginia, face hunger. One in nine children, or 214,270 children in the state, face hunger. The organization estimates that it would take \$433,605,000 to meet the challenge. At the same time the agriculture industry faces natural challenges of weather extremes, declining demand in some areas including dairy products, foreign competition, and expensive financing.

This week I am in Nashville, Tennessee attending the Southern Legislative Conference annual meeting. The agenda for the meeting includes the range of issues facing state governments with an emphasis on the southern states. Improving and expanding infrastructure including broadband will be discussed along with the impact of COVID-19 and changes in federal laws and administration. The meetings are

nonpartisan, but the differences in philosophy of governance are obvious as issues are discussed. Virginia is definitely an outlier among the southern states as to the role and responsibilities of state government.

The agenda also indicates the complexities of challenges facing agriculture in Virginia and throughout the South. I am chairman of the House of Delegates Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources Committee by virtue of my having served on that committee for all the years I have been in continuous membership in the House. Being from a suburban district has not disadvantaged me for my district and region are dramatically affected by what is happening in the agricultural sector. My constituents are the customers of the farmers that grow the crops and livestock that feed the population. I am an enthusiastic supporter of local farmers markets where producers and consumers come into contact at least weekly and where the freshest of farm products are available.

The people who live in my district are impacted by the environmental practices of the entire state. The health of the Chesapeake Bay is a barometer of how well the state is doing with its environmental stewardship. Most of the Shenandoah Valley is in the watershed of the Chesapeake Bay. The practices of the homeowners in fertilizing their lawns as well as the farmers fertilizing their crops have an impact on the health of the Bay and Virginia's seafood industry.

The states are referred to as "laboratories for democracy," and conferences such as the Southern Legislative Conference provide legislators an opportunity to compare notes to see what is working and not working in their states. Boundaries of states are defined in their history. There are no factors other than that history that determine where one state ends and another begins. Challenges such as a pandemic, severe weather conditions, availability of natural resources, and the condition of our air and water do not recognize state boundaries. We are all in this together, and it is to our advantage and maybe our survival to work together. No other sector better reflects these similarities, differences, and challenges than agriculture.

Eviction Prevention Is Not Housing Investment

BY MICHELLE KROCKER

America has a housing crisis - an affordability crisis, as well as a housing supply crisis. Recently, the National Association of Realtors released a report showing that over the last 20 years new housing starts fell 5.5 million units short of long-term historical levels. "The scale of the problem is so large," said David Bank, senior vice president of Rosen Consulting Group and one of the report's authors. "We need affordable, we need market-rate, we need single-family, we need multifamily."

Our region is also experiencing a housing crisis. To address our unmet housing needs, elected officials from the District, Maryland and Virginia unanimously adopted the Council of Governments' regional goal of producing 375,000 net new housing units between 2015 and 2030. Housing should be located in activity centers near transit, with one-third of the units serving low-income households and one-third for middle-income households. The regional goal translates into 25,000 net new housing units per year, so clearly we need to build more housing.

The eviction crisis created by the pandemic is unlike anything we have experienced in our lifetimes. Through multiple assistance programs, the federal government has responded with substantial tranches of funding to provide financial resources to prevent evictions by paying back rent, advancing rent for those impacted by COVID, and helping landlords remain solvent. However, the administrative process of getting that much money out the door has been daunting for state and local governments,

resulting in bottlenecks to deliver relief assistance. With the end to the CDC moratorium on July 31 — with little hope for further extension — strategies for mutually beneficial agreements between landlords and tenants, with the help of trusted community partners and continued rental assistance will be needed to stave off an eviction catastrophe.

Eviction Prevention Does Not Equal Housing Investment. It is imperative that this relief assistance not be construed as solving our pre-pandemic housing crisis. Eviction prevention does not solve the historic under-investment in housing production and preservation. We must have investments to end homelessness, provide permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities, create housing that's affordable for low and moderate income households, young families wanting to buy their first home, and seniors on fixed incomes who want to remain in their communities.

Over the coming months, the Virginia General Assembly and localities throughout the Commonwealth will make consequential decisions on how to spend the largess from the American Rescue Plan funds. With accounts of Virginia's better-than-expected financial recovery from the pandemic, housing advocates should be bold in their recommendations for how Virginia allocates the \$4.3 billion in federal funds. Having secured historic gains for the state Housing Trust Fund, permanent supportive housing, and the new Virginia Opportunity Tax Credit, it's time to build a housing trust fund that closes the gap of only four affordable units for every 10 households eligible for housing that's affordable.

It is also the time for Northern Virginia advocates to press local governments for the funding needed to meet their share of the region's housing goals as defined by the COG pledge. This is housing's moment to imagine a region and a Commonwealth that is fair, equitable, inclusive and provides housing for all. Let's not squander this unique opportunity.

Michelle Krocker is the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance <https://nvaha.org/>

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McLean Central Park is a 28-acre public park under ownership and operation of Fairfax County Park Authority, much of it with tree canopy and walking paths.



Existing tennis courts at McLean Central Park. Lighting is available for night matches and sets.

McLean Central Park Reimagined

MCA passes resolution on the McLean Central Park Master Plan Revised Development Concept; opposes amphitheater unless...

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The proposed McLean Central Park Master Plan Revised Development Concept may come down to a balancing act. During the McLean Citizens Association's July Board Meeting, directors weighed in as they finalized wording in their pending resolution on the matter. The directors considered how strongly they wanted to project the association's opinion about items, such as the proposed amphitheater.

Glenn Harris said, "I wonder whether you want to be a little bit stronger and say something to the effect, MCA is opposed to the amphitheater...unless." The earlier wording proposed was that MCA request... Fairfax County reconsiders the proposed amphitheater.

The Board of Directors of the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) passed a resolution addressing the McLean Central Park Master Plan Revised Development Concept at its July 7 Monthly Meeting. The Board identified issues and addressed possible solutions in its 6-page document. MCA President Rob Jackson sent copies of the MCA resolution to Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville District), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, John Ulfelder, Dranesville Planning Commission, Timothy Hackman, Dranesville District Representative to the Fairfax County Park Authority Board as well as the Clerks for Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission and others.

The resolution mirrored in part content in a letter Jackson sent nearly a month earlier, on June 3, to Sara Baldwin, Acting Execu-



A family cycles through McLean Central Park, in the shade of the tall trees.

tive Director Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA). The Park Authority owns and maintains McLean Central Park, a 28-acre public park at 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. in McLean. A resolution differs from a letter in that it is a formal document about an issue of such importance that the Board wants to have a record of it.

Barbara Ryan, chair of MCA's Environment, Parks, and Recreation (EP&R) Committee, said during her presentation of the proposed resolution to the Board at their July 7 meeting that significant changes had occurred in the area since the Master Plan's revision in 2013. According to Ryan, the recent Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' approval of the McLean Community Business Center (CBC) Comprehensive Plan amendment designed to foster redevelop-



A family walks through McLean Central Park in the shade of the tall trees.

ment will result in "increased urbanization of downtown McLean." In addition, Ryan said that there was "significant development in Tysons" and "heightened awareness and concern about the ecological sensitivity of the park's green spaces and development in nearby parks in McLean."

Unlike the original 2013 Revision, Ryan said that the newly Revised Development Concept lacked community input from stakeholders.

According to FCPA and guided by the 2013 McLean Central Park Master Plan: "potential facilities at the park include an amphitheater, parking lot, a dog park, passive seating areas, a bridge replacement, and improvements to the park's trail network. A timeline for construction will be developed later in the design process."

CURRENT AMENITIES are tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds, trails, and a restroom behind the library. The McLean Central Gazebo is an available rental for recommended activities such as birthday parties and small weddings.

In presenting the resolution for board discussion and possible revisions, Ryan said that EP&R members met twice in June to tour McLean Central Park and look and talk about what was being proposed. They also held two additional meetings with Fairfax County Park Authority to help EP&R members finalize the resolution draft she was presenting that evening.

The first section of the resolution reviewed the history of the park and MCA's long-standing efforts in supporting its facilities. "MCA's desire historically is that McLean Central Park uses be balanced with the other uses in the so-called Civic Campus which includes the Community Center and the [Dolley Madison] Library," Ryan said.

The following section reviewed how McLean Central Park's Master Plan was developed, "including the role of community input in the process." The Park Authority unveiled its conceptual vision for the park and how it would serve the community on May 24. Ryan said the Park Authority provided "little advanced community notification" and announced a 30-day comment period.

The Park Authority extended the comment deadline to July 30, 2021. MCA laid out the need to consider a second extension of the comment period beyond the first four-week extension from June 25 to July 30, 2021.

The Revised Development Concept appeared, Ryan said, "overbalanced in the side of built-environment versus green space." She mentioned the loss of tree canopy and natural space. She noted that the Concept



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The Gazebo at McLean Central Park is available for rentals like this birthday party and open for public use when not reserved.



Development Concept posted on the Fairfax County Park Authority website.

McLean Central Park Reimagined

FROM PAGE 6

proposed elements for which public demand had not yet been established. Ryan maintained various performance venues nearby, such as the Kennedy Center and the Capital One Hall venue due to open this October.

“We consider the proposed amphitheater in light of redundancy with nearby performance venues and consider using that location for other activities or retained as passive recreational or green space,” said Ryan.

The Revised Development Concept did not address the need for better maintenance of existing park facilities. Wrapping up con-

cerns, Ryan mentioned noise and traffic issues, lack of adequate bathrooms facilities to accommodate increased users, lack of safe pedestrian access from the other side of Route 123, the voices of the tennis-playing community, and supporters of a dog park.

TO RESOLVE THE ISSUES, MCA requested FCPA extend the comment period beyond July 30, 2021. MCA also asked FCPA to “conduct a full communication and coordination process concerning the Revised Development Concept proposed changes with stakeholders comparable to, and consistent with the spirit and intent of the process that ac-

companied the 2013 Revised Master Plan.”

MCA urged that County Departments conduct a needs analysis and traffic, parking, noise and light studies, and impact of bathroom facilities. MCA stated it opposed the Amphitheater unless there was demonstrated need, and FCPA considers improving existing resources, including the Gazebo. MCA suggested the area proposed for the Amphitheater be considered for other activities or retained as green space. MCA requested actions to advance and recognize safe ADA-compliant pedestrian and bicycle access and connectivity between Central Park and other portions of the Civic Campus.

Finally, MCA requested the removal of all invasive plants and that future development within the park “should seek to minimize additional stresses to the environment while looking for opportunities to support and enrich the ecosystem.”

Comments regarding the Development Concepts for McLean Central Park can be submitted at McLeanCentralPark@PublicInput.com.

For over 100 years, the McLean Citizens Association has been the “unofficial town hall” the voice of the Greater McLean area on local issues that directly affect the quality of life in our community.” - MCA website.

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Raising the Bar

Ideas for bar cart design and cocktail party accessories.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

While last summer was noted with virtual happy hours and cocktail parties, in-person gatherings are becoming increasingly prevalent this year. Local design gurus say that it's time for hosts to update bar carts and cocktail party supplies.

"The key to an elevated home-bar is not only the liquid that it is served but the glassware that houses it," said designer Maxwell Eckert, who resides in Potomac. "Try minimalistic, statement pieces. They can really set carts apart from others. Use things like unique or geometric shaped bottles."

Available in a seemingly endless array of sizes, shapes and styles, pitchers are a smart and useful investment.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TINA ROSE-BAKER

As in-person entertaining reemerges this summer, accessories like silver serving trays and mint julep cups can make a chic style statement.

silver mint julep cups to serve in."

Display chic glassware that complements those vessels, says Hoffman. "Even though I love a pretty bar cart, I also believe everything on it should be functional so I always incorporate well-designed glassware that double as decorative objects," she said. "I group my glasses together on a pretty tray to eliminate any feeling of clutter and so that I have plenty of room to actually mix up a drink."

"Cocktail napkins, which are limitless in options, can make a big statement with little effort," added Rose-Baker.

No matter how chic, most bar carts offer limited storage space, says Hoffman. "Baskets and trays can turn an otherwise cluttered bar cart into a chic, organized one," she said. "Corral similar items like bar tools or glassware together in a low-profile basket. For summer, a chunky, woven texture feels really fresh."

Consider adding plants and greenery.

"A simple way to take a bar cart to the next level is adding greenery or flowers," said Hoffman. "I'm currently loving a few statement-making tropical leaves on my bar cart."

"Even though I love a pretty bar cart, I also believe everything on it should be functional."

— Caren Hoffman

"I am a big fan of mixing up a batch of cocktails before guests arrive," said Caren Hoffman, a party and events planner based in Alexandria. "It keeps things easy and lets everyone help themselves to a drink so the host can kick back and have fun."

Experiment with a variety of textures when curating a bar cart. "Try porcelain ice buckets or a silver ice bucket and tray set," said designer Tina Rose-Baker of Chantilly. "I also love to use



PHOTO BY CARIN BOUHAROUN

Sharks Achieve 42 Personal Best Times

The Shouse Village Sharks of Vienna lost their July 10 NVSL meet against the Cotton-tail Cobias. The Sharks had a total of 15 first place finishes. Double winners were Mia Franklin, Emha Franklin, Ryan Sribar, and Max Thompson. Single winners were Katelyn Armstrong, Jack Gao, Tristan Redfern, Grace Riihimaki, Lauren Riihimaki, Quinn Riihimaki, and Stella Thompson. The team achieved 42 personal best times. Pictured: Ryan Sribar during his 1st place finish in the Boys 15-18 50 Meter Breast-stroke.

The Hunter Mill Sharks (0-4) lost to host Old Keene Mill, 126-289, in a division 5 meet. The

single winners for Hunter Mill were Evan Chen, Benham Cobb, Collin Hecker, Hunter Jenks and Alexandra Samson. Hunter Mill Sharks who received double wins were Hannah Carmen, Sydney DeLacy, and Regan Hau. Shark relay teams also took first place: 11-12 year old boys 100 meter medley relay team (Evan Chen, Hayes Aylward, Hunter Jenks and Charles Stipanovic); the 11-12 year old girls 100 meter medley relay team (Skylar DeLacy, Sydney DeLacy, Alexandra Samsot, and Sophia MacDonald); the 15-18 year olds girls 200 meter medley relay team (Hannah Carmen, Regan Hau, Sydney Guthrie and Kate Frothingham).

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Six McLean Scouts Earn Their Eagle Rank

The first ceremony in two years due to pandemic restrictions.

On June 13, six scouts from Troop 652 in McLean earned their Eagle rank during a Court of Honor held at St Dunstan's Episcopal Church. The ceremony was the first held in two years due to pandemic restrictions.

The Eagle rank is Scouting's highest honor and is earned by fewer than 8 percent of Scouts. Scouts pursuing the rank earn specific merit badges, serve their troop in multiple leadership positions, and complete a significant service project for their community. Troop 652 has recognized 124 Eagle Scouts since 1964.

Following is information about Troop 652's newest Eagle scouts and their scouting leadership roles and accomplishments:

Christopher Raymond was a member of the Troop since 2013 and served as its first Wilderness Guide. He attended National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) and completed the Maine Canoe Trip and Philmont High Adventure Trip. For his Eagle service project, Chris organized a group to remove invasive plants from the Mary Butler Leven Nature Preserve in McLean. Chris is a rising sophomore at Virginia Tech, studying Forestry Science and Conservation. He earned his Eagle rank in 2019.

Jaeger Schweikert joined the Troop in 2017 and has served as a Patrol Leader and Chaplin's Aid. Jaeger also helped mentor cub scouts in Pack 1127, his former cub scout pack. For his service project, Jaeger organized a group of scouts to build 22 birdhouses, which were donated to the Maryland Wood Duck Initiative. Jaeger is attending National Youth Leadership Training this month and will serve as a crew leader for the upcoming Northern Tier High Adventure. He is a rising sophomore at McLean High School. He earned his Eagle earlier this year and was recently inducted into the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society.

Fritz Vogel was a member of the Troop since 2013 and served as a Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader. As a Den Chief for Cub Scout Pack 1867, Fritz mentored cub scouts in his former pack. He earned Scout-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A Court of Honor held at St Dunstan's Episcopal Church.

ing's High Adventure Triple Crown by completing Scouting's three High Adventures -- Northern Tier, Sea Base and Philmont. As a Scout, Fritz was a member of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society and attended National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). For Fritz's Eagle project, he constructed the Saint Dunstan's stations of the cross outdoor trail. Fritz achieved his Eagle rank in 2019. This fall, Fritz will be attending the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina to study Mechanical Engineering.

John Williams was a member of the Troop since 2013 and served as its Quartermaster, Medic and Guide. John completed two of Scouting's High Adventures including Sea Base and Philmont. For his service project, John organized the planning, construction and installation of the Stations of the Cross, along a nature trail on the grounds of the St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, the Troop's sponsoring organization. John is studying Engineering at James Madison University. John achieved his Eagle rank in 2020.

Andrew Zarazinski joined the Troop in 2019 as a transfer scout and served as the first Troop medic, where he helped shape and define the new leadership position. For his Eagle Scout Project, Andrew built a storage shed for SHARE of McLean to support their additional storage need. He achieved his Eagle rank in 2019. Andrew is also at James Madison University studying Finance.

Ian Zarazinski joined the Troop in 2019 as a transfer scout and served as its Troop Guide for two terms and as an Assistant Patrol Leader. Ian's Eagle Scout Project removed invasive trees from Stratford Hall in Stratford, Va. Ian achieved his Eagle rank this Spring.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Presentation of the recognition plaques.

Meadowlark Gardens Camp Grow honors the Garden Club of Fairfax

Friday, June 25, 2021, The Garden Club of Fairfax was recognized for their contribution to the success of Camp Grow at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna.

The Garden Club of Fairfax donates funds to support Camp Grow through their Community Projects Committee. Camp Grow at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens is a day camp for children and teens to explore nature through hands-on activities, gardening, discovery walks, hikes, crafts, experiments, storytelling, woodworking and animal programs. Camp Grow is designed to engage, challenge, educate and encourage a sense of community.

The non-profit Garden Club of Fairfax, a member of the Garden Club of Virginia, consists

of members throughout Fairfax County who meet monthly from September to June. The club was established in 1926; and its objectives are to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and floral arranging; to share horticultural knowledge; to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment; to encourage conservation of natural resources; and to aid in the restoration and preservation of historic gardens in Virginia.

For more information about the Garden Club of Fairfax google Garden club of Fairfax or email gardencluboffairfax@gmail.com .

For more information about Camp Grow visit <https://www.novaparks.com/things-to-do/camps/camp-grow> .

VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna Police Department from July 2 – July 8, 2021.

INCIDENTS

Animal Case – Quarantine
400 Block Holmes Drive, NW
June 30, 12 p.m.

The Fairfax County Health Department reported that a resident was bitten by her cat. The resident was advised of the 10-day quarantine procedure for the cat.

Suspicious Event
200 Block Church Street, NE
July 1, 7:49 p.m.

A resident reported ongoing issues with his neighbor over two trees that he planted along the property line. The neighbor cut down one of the trees. The resident advised the neighbor to stay off his property.

Domestic Dispute
Ninovan Road, SE
July 3, 5:28 p.m.

A resident reported that his teenage son became irate while they were having a dispute.

Destruction of Property
House of Vape
141 Church Street, NW
July 4, 4:02 a.m.

Due to a burglary that had just occurred at a similar business in town, officers responded to check the House of Vape. They found someone smashed one of the double-paned windows to the business, but were unable to gain entry to the store. Security video shows the incident occurred just a few minutes before the burglary at Tobacco & Vape King.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Heroes Golf Classic to Be Held in Vienna

Luke's Wings will host its 9th Annual Heroes Golf Classic at Westwood Country Club in Vienna on Monday, July 19, 2021. Luke's Wings mission is to reunite wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans with their loved ones by providing complimentary airfare during recovery and rehabilitation. This golf tournament raises funds that allow Luke's Wings to continue to execute its mission.

With COVID-19 restrictions lifting, Luke's Wings is now able to reunite more families and aid recovery. As a nonprofit organization, Luke's Wings depends on donations to support its beneficiaries.

The annual golf event will support Luke's Wings mission in 2021 of providing 2,000 flights to those in need.

Luke's Wings aims to raise \$150,000 at the Heroes Golf Classic this year. Foursomes are still available at \$2,000 and individual players at \$550. Those interested in participating outside of the golf tournament are invited to attend the Post-Play Reception for \$95 per person. At the reception, participants will meet and hear from Luke's Wings beneficiaries as well as network with military community supporters and our Nation's heroes.

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Tuesday, July 20, 2021
For all hotel positions
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Friday, July 23, 2021
For restaurant and kitchen positions



1960-A
Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22102
(1PM -4PM)



VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Hearings to solicit public comments on the drawing of state and congressional legislative districts in Virginia.

A total of eight public hearings will be held in July and August. Hearings are scheduled regionally both in person and virtually. Hearings will be livestreamed and archived online

For more information on dates and registration:
<https://www.virginiaredistricting.org>
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CALENDAR



The Preservation Hall Jazz Band will perform at Wolf Trap on July 17, 2021.

WOLF TRAP PERFORMANCES

<cal2>At Wolf Trap Farm Park, McLean.
 July 16 – Wolf Trap Opera: Viardot “Cinderella” (“Cendrillon”) | Holst “Savitri” in Concert, Wolf Trap Orchestra, Kelly Kuo (conductor)
 July 17 – Preservation Hall Jazz Band
 July 18 – Big Tony and Trouble Funk with Special Guest Sugar Bear, The Legendary DJ Kool
 July 20 – Inez Barlatier “Ayiti: Stories and Songs from Haiti” – Children’s Performance
 July 21 – Oran Etkin: Timbalooloo “Finding Friends Far From Home” – Children’s Performance

NOW THRU JULY 29

Pathway Homes Art Exhibit. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday through Saturday). At Vienna Arts Society, 513 Maple Ave., West, Vienna. Pathway Homes, Inc. is hosting its 10th Annual Summer of the Arts Exhibit—both in studio and online, where Pathway Homes’ residents who have mental health challenges showcase and sell their own art, poetry, and crafts. Pathway Homes is a nonprofit providing mental health services—starting with safe, stable housing—to individuals marginalized by poverty and inequity. Art and creativity are an integral part of recovery for Pathway Homes’ residents. Visit www.sota.pathwayhomes.org

THURSDAY/JULY 15

Smokey Robinson Music. 5:30-7 p.m. At Fairfax County Government Center, 1200 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. If you love R&B classics, come out for the tribute music of Smokey Robinson, featuring lead vocalist SIXX. His ability to mimic the soulful voice of Smokey is superb. Enjoy the free performance as part of the Evenings on the Ellipse Concert Series.

FRIDAY/JULY 16

Friday Night Live. 6:30 p.m. At Herndon Town Green, Herndon. Popular free outdoor concert series returns to regular performances. This will be the 27th season for the concert series which is produced by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce.

Schedule

July 16 -- The Rockets;
 July 23 -- Herr Metal + Dr FU;
 July 30 -- Kristen and the Noise;
 Aug 6 -- Social Call;
 Aug 13 -- It’s All Good;
 Aug 20 -- JunkFood;
 Aug 27 -- All-Star Band;
 Sept 3 -- Shake the Room;
 Sept 10 -- keeton + 8 Track Jones;
 Sept 17 -- The Reflex;
 Sept 24 -- Screaming Mönkeys.

SATURDAY/JULY 17

Vienna Multicultural Festival. 2-7:30 p.m. At Historic Church Street, Vienna. The 2021 Vienna Multicultural Festival will close out the Commonwealth of Virginia’s inaugural Liberty Amendment Month with a day-long bevy of performers, interactive activities, crafts, food, and vendors that celebrate the diverse cultures and communities represented across Northern Virginia. For a performer

schedule, go to vienna.gov/liberty and click on ‘Vienna Multicultural Festival’

SUNDAY/JULY 18

Inside the KGB. 2-3:30 p.m. Zoom event. Sponsored by The Cold War Museum, 1734 Farm Station Road, Warrenton. You Want Your Brightest People Guarding Your Secrets. But What If Those Secrets Show That Your System Is Corrupt? Your Brightest People Are Going to See That Best And Hate It the Most. Cost is \$20. Visit the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tower-of-secrets-inside-the-kgb-and-how-we-escaped-to-the-west-tickets-146651144521>

SUNDAY/JULY 18

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. 5 p.m. At McLean Central Park Gazebo 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean.
 Sunday, July 18 -- The Sensational Soul Cruisers: A Tribute to Motown.
 Sunday, July 25 -- Nashville Girls Night Out.

TUESDAY/JULY 20

Talk with Bethanne Patrick. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. A Great Falls Senior Center Zoom Event. Bethanne Patrick, writer, author and journalist, is above all a reader, one who has built her career on talking and writing about books. Whether she’s recommending a great book, interviewing a novelist or promoting reading online, Bethanne covers both the creative and digital side of the publishing industry. In 2009, she founded the popular #FridayReads hashtag under the Twitter handle @TheBookMaven. The weekly #FridayReads conversation, which peaks on Fridays but runs 24/7, attracts thousands of readers around the world. Bethanne writes for the Washington Post on “10 Books to read in x month”. If you would like a link to the event via Zoom, contact Mary Jo Fox, by July 16th, at mjwfx1491@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 25

Becoming a New Human. 2-4 p.m. Via Zoom. Humanity is in the middle of the biggest change in the history of the planet—a shift towards a new humanity and world. Futurist John Petersen will provide a detailed process for preparing oneself for this epic transition. Cost: \$11. Visit the website: <https://www.meetup.com/IANDS-Northern-Virginia/events/279013336/>

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Time to Kill



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

(Again, not a cancer column. Given the title, it would be a pretty gruesome reference to my life in the cancer world if it were.)

No. Not even close to a cancer column. But I am writing about a similar mind-numbing experience. However, this experience has nothing to do with disease/dying. Instead, it has to do with the effort, patience and excruciating lack of success in attempting to contact, meaning speaking to an actual person, at the Internal Revenue Service and/or at the Social Security Administration. The phone numbers you’re “googled” to call are the opposite of hot lines. They are frigid. Almost too cold to tolerate, but since your financial life expectancy may be at risk, somehow you have to hold on for dear life. Or else pay, or rather be unable to pay, the consequences.

So I’m on hold for 14 minutes and counting, sort of. More like listening to some unrecognizable instrumental between looped messages that say (A) You’re still on hold and (B) They haven’t forgotten you and your call will be answered in the order in which it was received. (Actually, you’re hoping they remember you.) Unfortunately, you have no choice but to hold on. The answers you seek are only found at these places/numbers and unless you go to the source, you’ll be barking up the wrong tree and/or not squeaking the right wheel. I’m fairly certain that if you don’t call them, they’re unlikely to call - back, or forward, especially if the reason for my two calls is to secure money coming to me instead of negotiating how I’m planning to pay them. So sit tight and be brave - and be near a bathroom to make sure nature’s call doesn’t interrupt your interminable wait on hold and/or be sure there are enough bars on your phone so a draining battery doesn’t end your pursuit.

However, presuming the time it will take to speak to someone to be hours, not minutes, it can be an opportunity to while away your wait by multi-tasking and have the music offered up for your listening pleasure to serve as a kind of white noise as you go about some other personal business. In short, you can get things done rather than become increasingly frustrated that you’re stuck by the phone accomplishing nothing. But you have to prepare and anticipate. This wait is not going to be a pleasurable experience. It’s a means to an end, hopefully a rewarding one, but hardly one that’s guaranteed.

If you can only talk yourself into realizing how good you’ll feel once this phone task is completed. Roloids has nothing on the relief you’ll feel when you’re finished with this day’s work (almost literally). Moreover, knowing you don’t have to call them back tomorrow is nearly motivation enough. Crossing this task off your to-do list free’s up not only time but mental space, as well. It’s almost as if you’ve given your life back, at least for a few hours, anyway.

As I sit and continue to write this column, it is 38 minutes since I began this exercise in time utilization. And it’s just now happened, a representative from the Social Security Administration has just interrupted the music loop and offered their assistance. Let me get my bearings and organize my thoughts so I’m clear in what I’m saying. I don’t want to have to make this call again. I already have once before. I have called previously and after telling my tale, was put on hold while the operator researched my claim only to be disconnected when the operator returned to address my question. But this time, there was no disconnect. I received my answer in a reasonably timely manner and off I now go into the rest of my day. Next up: the IRS. Do I dare test my limits and call them on the same day as I called Social Security or do I reward myself and take a well-deserved break? Either way, it’s one down and one to go. I think I’ll call tomorrow. I don’t feel like testing my patience yet again, and besides, I’m finished with this real-time column.

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



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