

They Caught More Than Fish

GAP YEAR, PAGE 3



Luke Konson and Daniel Balsarak, on the day they catch fish #50, successfully fulfilling their goal to Fish All Fifty.

OPINION, PAGE 6

PHOTO BY MICHELLE KONSON

Halloween Happenings

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Luke Konson, left, and Daniel Balsarak hold the elusive alligator gar.

They Caught More Than Fish

A glimpse into the record-setting gap year of two pandemic college students.

BY MERCIA HOBSON

Luke Konson and Daniel Balsarak of Oakton graduated from a private school in mid-summer of 2020, and were set to attend Clemson University where they would be roommates. On July 22, 2020, the university president announced classes would start virtually. Not wanting to take endless online courses, Luke and Daniel ditched college for a gap year with their parents' blessings.

The two borrowed the Konson family van and set out with the goal of each catching the state fish in all fifty states hoping, by the best of their knowledge, to become the first anglers to do so.

Fast-forward to June through September 2021. Through a series of emails, Luke and Daniel keep the Connection up-to-date as their gap year came to a close.

There was some serious fishing going on in the gap. Luke Konson and Daniel Balsarak hooked salmon, fish #7, in Maine, caught Smallmouth bass, fish #12, on the Little River in Tennessee, and reeled in walleye, fish #19, in a heavy Minnesota snowfall with temps hovering at 12 degrees. A flight to Hawaii tallied the Humuhumunukunukuapua'a #49. Then it was back to Virginia, the Rapidan Headwaters Park in Syria, for brook trout, fish #50.



PHOTO BY LUKE KONSON

Daniel Balsarak holds the first state fish of the trip, striped bass, in Maryland.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The dads join their sons in Alaska, where they catch Chinook Salmon. From left, Daniel Balsarak, Mickey Konson, Paul Balsarak, and Luke Konson



PHOTO BY DANIEL BALSARAK

Luke Konson holds a striped bass in New Hampshire.

SEE MORE THAN FISH, PAGE 10

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

VIENNA/OAKTON / McLEAN CONNECTION ❖ OCTOBER 20-26, 2021 ❖ 3

Record Fundraising for Community Foundation for NoVa

A record fundraising total of more than \$500,000 was raised during Community Foundation for Northern Virginia's 2021 Raise the Region, an annual, mission critical fundraiser for the Community Foundation.

The event was held Friday, Oct. 8, 2021 in a virtual format to protect the health and safety of all its participants. The theme this year was Building a Community that Works for Everyone and highlighted a record level of giving from the Community Foundation throughout the region.

Community Foundation awarded more than \$2 million of emergency response support last year to address the immediate impact of COVID. This year the Community Foundation continued to address the fallout from the pandemic with the launch of our Build Back – Dream Forward Initiative. <https://www.cfnova.org/community-leadership/build-back-dream-forward> To date Build Back – Dream Forward has awarded \$530,300 in grants to over 20 local organizations. For a complete list, see <https://www.cfnova.org/grants-and-scholarships/grants/covid-19-response-fund-for-northern-virginia>

"We launched Build Back Dream Forward last fall to help those who had been disproportionately impacted by the virus and its fallouts. Our goals for the initiative are to promote more social and economic mobility, racial justice and equity and more inclusive systems of economic growth," said Eileen Ellsworth, president and CEO, Community Foundation for Northern Virginia.

More than 500 business, philanthropic and community leaders registered for this year's



virtual event to raise unrestricted funds to support the Community Foundation's ability to grow philanthropy to respond to need and seed innovation throughout the region. The event included an online auction and raffle, a video presentation highlighting work in the region, and opportunities to engage and connect.

The event featured the presentation of the 2021 Community Leadership Award to Karen Schaufeld, philanthropist, author, entrepreneur, and lawyer.

"Karen is a strategic and highly effective advocate for the needs of Northern Virginia. Her passion is clearly contagious on behalf of the entire region," said Ellsworth.

"I see a problem and feel like I have to do something about it, said Schaufeld. "Can I actually do something with my time and my resources? Can I actually be effective?"

"I can't think of anyone who deserves this award more than Karen. I think it's fair to say she spends a majority of her time thinking about how she can improve the world around her," said Kirsten Langhorne, Langhorne Custom Homes.

www.cfnova.org/RaiseTheRegion.

Support for the Community Foundation's

Pedestrian Killed in Oakton

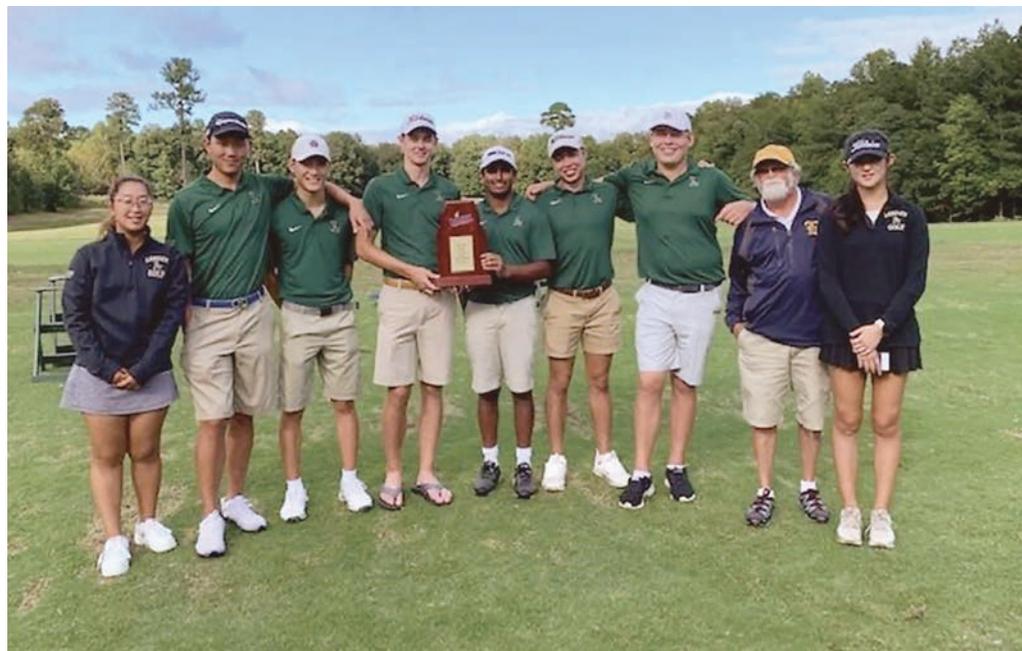
Detectives from the FCPD Crash Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate a fatal crash involving an electric skateboard that occurred Oct. 11 at approximately 10:29 p.m. in the 2600 block of Hunter Mill Road in Oakton. Preliminarily, detectives determined David Yazdani, 32, of Oakton, was riding an electric skateboard northbound on Hunter Mill Road near Conejo Lane. Detectives believe Yazdani lost control and fell into the southbound lanes of the road. The driver of a 2009 Hyundai Santa Fe was traveling southbound on Hunter Mill Road and struck Yazdani, who was lying in the road. The driver of a 2007 Toyota Rav4 was also traveling southbound on Hunter

Mill Road and struck Yazdani after the Hyundai. Yazdani was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. Both striking vehicles remained at the scene. Detectives do not believe that speed or alcohol were factors in the crash for the pedestrian or the drivers.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

This is the 11th pedestrian fatality in the County to date in 2021.

Year to date, in 2020 there were 12 pedestrian fatalities



The Langley golf team won its sixth consecutive VHSL state championship on Tuesday, Oct. 12. In other news, Langley marching band was named Grand Champion of the Stafford Invitational. It's the first time in Langley history that the Marching Saxons have done so.

2021 Raise the Region Event was provided by signature sponsors: Claude Moore Charitable Foundation; Jeane Dixon Children to Children Foundation; John and Nina Toups Charitable Fund; Nolan Family Charitable Fund; Schaufeld Family Foundation; Fred Schaufeld; Tony & Annette Nader; Cliff & Debbie White; SWaN Investors Management. Community Leadership Sponsors Ted and Lynn Leonsis; Truist; Auction Sponsor Pohanka Automotive Group; Photo Engagement Sponsor Monument Wealth Management; Raffle Sponsor Caimi-Markis Family Fund; and Community Wealth Building Sponsors Tom and Hillary Baltimore; The

Blackthorn Foundation; David and Amy Bosserman; Dewberry; Eileen Ellsworth and Bob Weil; Robert and Pamela Kipps; Lubetzky Family Foundation; Telos Corporation; Washington Gas; John H. Wolff & Wealthspire Advisors. A complete list of sponsors <https://www.cfnova.org/events/raise-the-region-gala/2021-raise-the-region>

During the past 2 years the Community Foundation awarded \$20 million in grants and scholarships and now reports \$89 million in managed philanthropic assets. For more information, please visit us at www.cfnova.org.

Vienna Police to Participate in Drug Take Back

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 2p.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.

On Oct. 23, 2021, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., 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 the collection point inside the Vienna Police Department temporary facility located at 301 Center Street, South, Vienna, Va. 22180 (the former Faith Baptist Church).

Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing

it and disposing of it directly into the collection box. If an original container is used, the individual should consider removing any identifying information from the prescription label. Liquid products should remain sealed in their original container to prevent leakage.

DEA will collect vape pens or other e-cigarette devices from individual consumers only after the batteries are removed from the devices.

Intravenous solutions, injectables, and syringes will not be accepted due to associated hazards (The only exception is EpiPen).

Commercial businesses, pharmacies, or other medical facilities may not use this as a means to discard expired medications or medical waste.

For DEA Authorized Collectors that provide year-round drop-off locations to the public to dispose of unwanted pharmaceuticals, go to Controlled Substance Public Disposal Locations.

I-495 Southbound Lane Closures

During the next two weekends, weather permitting, the left lane of the southbound I-495 (Capital Beltway Outer Loop) general purpose lanes will be closed along the three bridges over the Dulles Toll Road (Route

267) from 10 p.m. Fridays to 5 a.m. Mondays for bridge joint work, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

During the weekends of Oct. 22-25 and Oct. 29-Nov. 1, the two left lanes of the southbound I-495 general purpose lanes are

scheduled to be closed overnight as follows:

- 11 p.m. Fridays to 7 a.m. Saturdays
- 11 p.m. Saturdays to 7 a.m. Sundays
- 11 p.m. Sundays to 5 a.m. Mondays

At least two lanes of the southbound I-495 general purpose lanes will remain open at

all times each weekend. Also remaining open each weekend will be the southbound I-495 general purpose lanes ramp to the westbound Dulles Toll Road (Exit 45A), and the southbound I-495 ramp to eastbound Route 267 (Exit 45B).

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.

OCT. 1-31

MVFD Coloring Contest. The McLean Volunteer Fire Department is inviting elementary school students across the area to participate in a coloring contest during October's Fire Prevention Month. Students can download an image of the fire station, color it any way their imagination leads and mail it back to the address: 1455 Laughlin Ave., McLean, VA 22101. At the end of the month, they will hold a drawing – with the winner receiving a visit to his or her street by the antique Pirsch fire truck. Here is the link to the drawing: <https://www.mcleanvfd.org/coloring-contest/> Visit the website: www.mcleanvfd.org

THURSDAY/OCT. 21

SPARC Ribbon Cutting. 12 p.m. At Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. SPARC, a non-profit that provides day programs for adults with disabilities, has opened its new administrative office in Vienna at The Church of the Good Shepherd. An official ribbon-cutting ceremony and talent show will take place Oct. 21 (an earlier event was postponed as heavy rain flooded parts of the church building). Visit www.GoodShepherdVA.com

FRIDAY/OCT. 22

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. McLean Community Center is helping the American Red Cross with Diverse Blood Donations. For an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor word: HEARTOFGOLD, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) Eligibility Questions: Call 1-866-236-3276.

FRIDAY/OCT. 22

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. to noon. Via Zoom. The McLean Art Society will be holding a Zoom Meeting. Ally Morgan, a visual artist and teacher will be doing a mixed media presentation on animal portraiture. The demonstration will begin at 11 a.m. If you would like to be included as a guest for this presentation, contact M.A.S. President Ray Goodrow at raymgo-drow@aol.com. Guests are always welcome.

SATURDAY/OCT. 23

DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In conjunction with the U.S. 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 the collection point inside the Vienna Police Department temporary facility located at 301 Center Street, South, Vienna (The former Faith Baptist Church).

TUESDAY/OCT. 26

Blankets to Bust. 6 p.m. At the Plaza in Tysons Corner Center. AR Workshop Alexandria will be on-site to teach a Special 'Blankets to Bust Breast Cancer' Crafty Hour benefiting the Tigerlily Foundation, a national breast cancer foundation providing education, awareness, advocacy and hands-on support to young women (15-45) – before, during and after breast cancer. You'll receive all materials, instruction, and access to our video tutorial so you can complete your project at home. The blanket requires no needles or knitting experience! You

will get 5 skeins of chunky yarn in your color of choice and your blanket will measure roughly 40x50. This special event and project is complimentary (valued at \$85/per person). Due to limited seating, this will be a ticketed event to participate. The cost of this event is \$10/per person and 100% of your ticket price will be donated to the Tigerlily Foundation.

I-495 SOUTHBOUND LANE CLOSURES

During the next two weekends, weather permitting, the left lane of the southbound I-495 (Capital Beltway Outer Loop) general purpose lanes will be closed along the three bridges over the Dulles Toll Road (Route 267) from 10 p.m. Fridays to 5 a.m. Mondays for bridge joint work, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation. During the weekends of Oct. 22-25 and Oct. 29-Nov. 1, the two left lanes of the southbound I-4 95

general purpose lanes are scheduled to be closed overnight as follows:

- 11 p.m. Fridays to 7 a.m. Saturdays
- 11 p.m. Saturdays to 7 a.m. Sundays
- 11 p.m. Sundays to 5 a.m. Mondays

At least two lanes of the southbound I-495 general purpose lanes will remain open at all times each weekend. Also remaining open each weekend will be the southbound I-495 general purpose lanes ramp to the westbound Dulles Toll Road (Exit 45A), and the southbound I-495 ramp to eastbound Route 267 (Exit 45B).

SUNDAY/OCT. 31

Pathways Out of Poverty. 3:30-5 p.m. on Zoom. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church and Redeemer Lutheran Church of McLean are partnering to launch a monthly series of panel discussions on "Pathways Out of Poverty in Northern Virginia." The first of this series will be held on Oct. 31 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm on

Zoom. Virtual attendees will hear some of Lewinsville's local partners describe their experiences on the topic of Accessing Affordable Housing. Find more information here: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/pathways-out-of-poverty-in-northern-virginia/> Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED-BL Certification Are you current on your CPR and First Aid training? It only takes a few hours and could help save someone's life! First Aid training is recommended every 3 years, and the American Heart Association recommends CPR training every 2 years. A certification session will be held in Great Falls taught by the American Red Cross and targeting Saturday, December 4 in the Village Centre if there is enough interest. The cost would be \$133/person and would cover Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED-BL

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Tired of politicians nickel-and-diming you?

Had enough? Vote Republican.

FAIRFAX BUDGET PLAN WILL LEAD TO HIGHER TAXES FOR MOST HOMEOWNERS
(SUN GAZETTE, 03/02/21)

County Raises Taxes on Used Cars for Some Residents
(Fairfax Times, 08/20/21)

Board Approves 5 Cent Bag Tax
(Fairfax Times, 09/17/21)

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SCAN ME

Which Way Virginia?

DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



From reading previous columns that I have written or having heard me speak over the last year as well as hearing my message reinforced by others, you are aware that as an historian as well as an elected official I believe that the last two years in Virginia have been the most transformative in the Commonwealth's history. I spend considerable time reading, writing, and teaching about our state's history. It is a subject that obviously is of great importance and interest to me.

I could not be more pleased and excited than I am about being a part of the transformation that has occurred. No longer does present-day Virginia fit into a category of Old South or socially regressive. Consider what has happened in the General Assembly over the last two sessions as I have enumerated in previous columns.

Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment after decades of struggles to do so. We lifted barriers to abor-

tion and asserted a woman's right to choose. Jim Crow era laws that were among the most discriminatory in the South were repealed, and the Virginia Values Act prohibiting discrimination in housing and employment was passed. Important steps were taken to reduce the school to prison pipeline. Gun safety legislation was signed into law including my universal background checks bill.

Criminal justice reform continued to ensure that our laws were not racially discriminatory. We increased pay and training for our police to ensure that they can do their jobs fairly. The death penalty was abolished, and criminal defendants and civil litigants were granted an automatic right to appeal that exists in every other state. My bill that ended excessive fines and prison time for petit larceny passed. Criminal records for many nonviolent offenses will be expunged under a new law. And more. Details for both sessions are at <https://lis.virginia.gov/>.

None of these bills passed easily. Some passed by a single vote. Many bills that passed

the House of Delegates did so with a 55 to 45 vote reflecting the partisan membership of the House. Gov. Ralph Northam signed the bills into law as he had campaigned among legislators to get the bills passed. Although most of these bills had been debated for decades over their merit and political implications, it was the outcome of the 2019 elections that put progressive Democrats in control of the General Assembly to work with Governor Northam who had come into office in 2018 that brought about this transformation.

In many regards the election that is taking place now with early voting and election day on Nov. 2 will decide if Virginia continues a common-sense approach to governing or slips back into a state where the rich get richer and the poor and minorities are subject to unfair discrimination. Election fraud or the "big lie" is not an issue. The choice is clear for Virginia voters for there are candidates for governor and the House of Delegates who would turn back our progress in their first year in office. Virginia has come too far to turn back now, but Virginia voters will make that determination at the ballot box!

Signs of Fall, Redistricting in Trouble

BY JOHN LOVAAS



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

It's starting to seem like fall is really here. Nighttime temps are starting to dip into the 50s, even upper 49s. (Never mind that it's already snowing in Colorado.) And, with drier air and fewer hours of sunlight, I think I'm seeing trees with leaves exchanging their greens for browns, yellows and even a few reds.

In the Reston Farmers Market, recently recognized once again for being best in Northern Virginia, pumpkins, gourds, apples, grapes, peppers and broccoli have replaced the corn, peaches, plums and berries of summer. Shoppers are rising a little later. They're wearing long pants, even an occasional sweater, instead of shorts! That means the Market is just weeks from wrapping up our 24th season. It's been a terrific year, transitioning to normalcy following a full season under rigorous Covid 19 precautions while the community was locked down. That was a year we'll never forget. Somehow, with amazing community support, Fran, Keith, Anne and I managed to serve 64,000+ customers, providing an outlet for farmers with few alternatives and with not a hint of illness. A peek ahead to the 2022 season -- we expect to open what will be my 25th year on/about April 23.

But, I digress!

Changing weather and different farmers market fruits and veggies are not the only indicators of fall's arrival. This is Virginia, so we know that if in fact it's fall, there must be election campaigns in the air. Indeed there are.

The big headliner this year is the race for governor between Former Guv. Terry McAuliffe and newcomer Donald Trump wannabe Glenn

Youngkin. The two of them are everywhere, including on the airwaves. The TV is chockablock with increasingly sharp-edged ads. Statewide there are Lt. Governor and Attorney General races, too. All 100 Delegate seats are up also.

Please don't forget to VOTE.

Staying with Virginia politics, there is disappointing news from the Redistricting Commission created as a result of the Constitutional Amendment approved by voters just last year. This is the reform which is supposed to end the practice of gerrymandering that was the norm for redrawing district boundaries following a decennial population census. The Commission is being hijacked by both political parties sabotaging the Commission's work.

According to a respected, terribly senior State Delegate who, like myself, backed the reform effort, both parties appointed party stalwarts who were enemies of reform to represent them on the Commission. Early on in the Commission's deliberations, I happened to watch a hearing and was treated to a NoVA Democrat (Sen. Barker) scolding fellow commissioners and reminding how important it was for them not to break up districts of incumbents such as himself. Yep, he wanted to continue to select his partisans rather than follow the principles set forth in the constitutional amendment, i.e., compact, communities of interest, etc. And, Republicans have blocked opportunities for compromise on the Commission. Make no mistake about it, there has been bad behavior on the part of both parties here. They have combined to block agreement on maps for state legisla-

tive districts. In fact, the commission has given up and moved on to see if they might be able to reach agreement on redrawing U.S. congressional districts. Time is running out and I don't know that we can expect any better outcome on congressional districts. Next step?

Responsibility for drawing state legislative districts now goes to the Virginia State Supreme Court, whose judges were all selected by Republicans. With those bloodlines, many expect predictable outcomes, i.e., maps decidedly favoring Republicans. I hear from folks with more experience than I that that isn't necessarily the case. But, having been fooled once apparently, pending results in drawing new congressional districts I'm thinking it may be time to cast my lot with the critics/cynics of this so-called reform process. Still I can't quite let hold of hope that this more open process that so many worked so hard to achieve still might yield some improvement to the evils of gerrymandering. Stay tuned.

JOHN LOVAAS IS A COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND FOUNDER OF RESTON FARMERS MARKET

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Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name.

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Practice Equity—When None Are Ignored, All Will Thrive

BY ROSIE ALLEN-HERRING

United Way of the National Capital Area (United Way NCA) has always worked to address the inequities in our systems for employment, education, health and food access, financial stability and opportunities for all. But, most importantly, we recognize that these inequities existed long before COVID.

While we have all been reeling from the pandemic, we must continue taking the next steps to help diminish the disparities and racial inequities in the region. In July 2020, we began work towards our next five-year commitment, which focuses on equity and actualizing our work in the community. Our goal is to create an equitable society where everyone in our community has fair and equal access to health, education and economic opportunity.

We're asking the community to join us as we practice equity as a mindset and a personal journey to support a greater movement. United Way NCA supports and encourages these journeys by providing those who join us with facts, stories and events focused on inequities in education, health and economic opportunity.

The work United Way NCA is doing with Project Community Connect, Oct. 18-23, 2021, includes more than a dozen hygiene and feminine hygiene kit distribution events and a series of

virtual workshops covering topics in food access, basic needs, education and economic opportunity. Project Community Connect provides equitable access to meet residents where they are and resources for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness, as well as the region's ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) population, representing the growing number of individuals and families who are working but cannot afford the necessities. 2020 ALICE reports show that in Fairfax County 23 percent of households struggle to afford basic needs.

Project Community Connect exemplifies that United Way NCA serves as a connector for individuals and organizations that share our goal. Our organization champions connections and conversations that advance our journey toward equity for all people in Fairfax County. As we continue our work as equity advocates, we ask you, our friends and neighbors, to join us as we listen to, respond and deliver needs to the community. We strongly believe that when none are ignored, all will thrive.

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.

Rosie Allen-Herring is the President and CEO of United Way of the National Capital Area

VOTE NOW

EARLY IN-PERSON voting locations are open through Oct. 30 at three government center sites: Fairfax County, Mount Vernon, and North County.

Any registered Fairfax County voter may vote early at any Fairfax County early voting location.

Early in-person absentee voting is available for the November 2021 General & Special Elections at the following three locations from now through Oct. 30.

❖ Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax 22035

❖ Mt. Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Ln, Alexandria 22306

❖ North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr, Reston 20190

Thirteen additional early in-person voting sites are open Oct. 21 - Oct. 30.

- ❖ Burke Centre Library
5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke
- ❖ Centreville Regional Library
14200 St. Germain Dr, Centreville
- ❖ Franconia Governmental Center
6121 Franconia Rd, 22310
- ❖ Gerry Hyland Government Center

8350 Richmond Hwy, 22309

❖ Great Falls Library

9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls

❖ Herndon Fortnightly Library

768 Center St, Herndon

❖ Mason Governmental Center

6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

❖ McLean Governmental Center

1437 Balls Hill Rd, McLean

❖ Providence Community Center

3001 Vaden Dr, Fairfax

❖ Sully Governmental Center

4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly

❖ Thomas Jefferson Library

7415 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church

❖ Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library

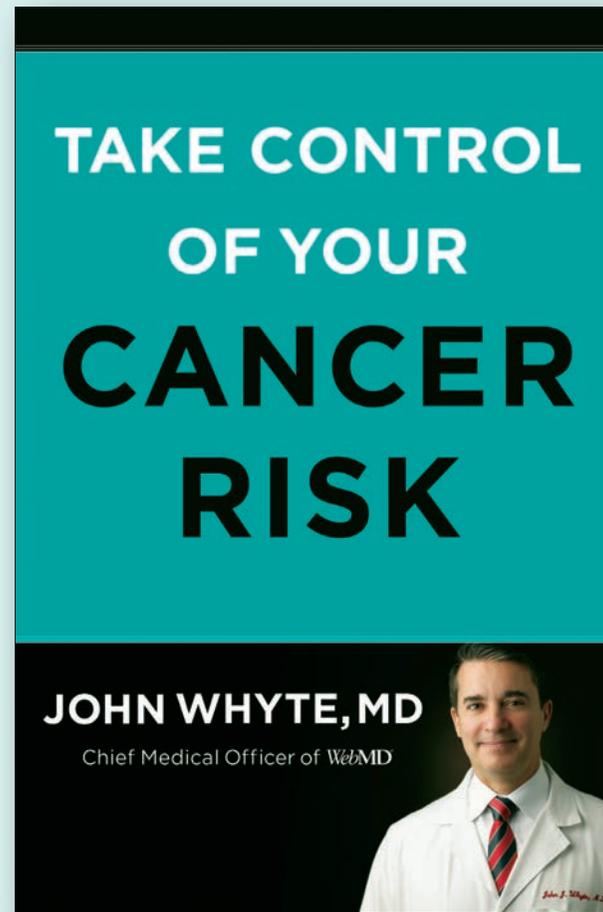
7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

❖ West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Rd, Springfield

The list of early voting sites, their addresses, and days/hours of operation, links to sample ballots and more can be found on the Board of Elections website at www.fairfax-county.gov/elections.

Voters can vote in their regular polling places on Election Day, Nov. 2. On Election Day polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters who are in line by 7 p.m. will be able to vote. Visit <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation> to find your polling place.

Dr. Whyte's New Book Released October 5, 2021



This book shares straightforward information and equips you with strategies to help you on a journey to better health, including:

- Assessing your cancer risk
- Knowing which screenings you need, and when
- Learning the role food, exercise, and sleep play
- Understanding the relationship between stress and cancer

You have the power to reduce your cancer risk--and this book will show you just how easy it is.

Order this and Dr. Whyte's other books on Amazon.com

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Artist Jill Banks talks with Tobias Webster-Main, 13, of Great Falls and his mother, Erin Webster-Main.



Walt Lawrence, formerly of McLean, and long-time Great Falls resident, is a landscape and wildlife photographer.



Cindy Grisdela, fabric artist and contemporary quilter, shows her work to Ellen and Rich of Great Falls.



John Francis McCabe, oil painter Great Falls Artists' Atelier

Great Falls Studio Art Tour 2021

Visiting artists in their workplaces.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls Studio produced a much-needed breath of visual arts activities and opportunities the weekend of Oct. 15 to 17. Patrons of the arts, those looking to support artists by purchasing pieces for their homes or offices, and folks simply looking to soak in creative energies had the opportunity at the 18th Annual Great Falls Studio Art Tour.

An interactive tour map traced a path to locations throughout Great Falls for demonstrations in various mediums, including wood carving, painting, quilting, the century-old hand cranking of a lithographic press and participation in artistic activities.

Tobias Webster, 13 of Great Falls, visited the Atelier Studios, a stop on the tour, with his mother, Erin. The artists in residence at the Artists' Atelier lease their spaces from the Arts of Great Falls. The non-profit arts organization provides affordable, shared studio spaces as one part of its mission.

Tobias does not paint but likes to look at how artists create. "It's inspiring ... that people can make these amazing pieces," he said, looking at works by artist Jill Banks. "This one is the best example. When you look at the people, their faces are so well done. But they are not clear. It allows you to see yourself there, associate with memories."

Atelier artist Walter Lawrence of Great Falls is a photographer and favors the birds of Great Falls. "There are so many different varieties of birds you can get from your backyards to the parks ... I keep discovering them." Lawrence told of a local "rookery," an area where herons breed on an island in



People browse the art walk displays during the 18th Annual Great Falls Studio Art Tour.

the Potomac River off Riverbend Park filled with sycamore trees. Lawrence said he hires a guide from the park to run a boat so he can "fish with his camera." He catches images of great blue herons, egrets, cormorants, and eagle fledglings in their nests.

Cindy Grisdela of Reston is also an artist at Artists' Atelier, as is John Francis McCabe of Great Falls. Grisdela is an award-winning fabric artist specializing as an "organic, intuitive artist." I generally have a rough idea of what I want. But the process evolves as I work through it," she said. "The colors and the shapes interact with each other and the lines."

For painter McCabe, his work is not organic. McCabe paints in oil following the classic realism tradition. On Saturday, he demonstrated his skill by painting a portrait of



Arlee Barnes from Great Falls Physical Therapy admires Lalo's woodcarvings.

Mark Casso dressed in his 1st Virginia Regiment Revolutionary War uniform.

Not all artists on tour proved professionally trained. Lalo, no last name, has no formal art training, according to Arlee Barnes of Great Falls Physical Therapy. His wood carvings of birds, horses, and rabbits stood outside an office building in the Great Falls Village Center. A native of Costa Rica, it appeared Lalo carved the vast majority of artwork out of single pieces of wood.

Inside the office-turned art gallery for the weekend, a different kind of sculptural work could be viewed. Ronnie Jolles' primary medium is paper. She uses hundreds of types of paper from across the world to create her artwork. Each could be called a collage, but they are more a sculptural art form in paper. Sections and images rise off the two-dimen-



Light shining on the sculptural artwork by Ronni Jolles captures the depth of the textured papers cut and torn to create pillars of birch trees against an abstract mountain and forest scene.

sional surface creating shadows and depth facilitated by her use of paints to enhance the images.

In 2006, the Connection featured a story about photographer Walt Lawrence. Asked his personal goals at the time, Lawrence said, "to develop my collection of images of Great Falls, and another is to help Great Falls Studios find a permanent location in the community." He said one of the organization's goals was to find a facility where the artists in the village could work, teach and display their work to the public. "Great Falls has the potential to become the art center of Northern Virginia, and I want to work towards making it a reality."

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10/2/2021.....Election Preview

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www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar



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

A Lifesaving Cause

OCT. 22 Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Donors of all ethnicities needed.

Presented by The Alden

OCT. 24 Chamber Music: Borisevich Duo
Sunday, Oct. 24, 2 p.m.
\$10/\$5 MCC district residents

The Old Firehouse

OCT. 30 OFC House of Terror
Saturday, Oct. 30, 5-10 p.m.
\$5 per person
Preregistration is recommended.

The Old Firehouse

NOV. 1 Dave & Buster's Trip
Monday, Nov. 1, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$70/\$60 MCC district residents
Food included.

The Old Firehouse

NOV. 2 Indoor Trampoline & Movie Trip
Tuesday, Nov. 2, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$50/\$40 MCC district residents
Waiver required. Food included.

Presented by The Alden

NOV. 3 Native American Fusion Music
with D'DAT (Virtual Workshop)
Wednesday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m.
Free Admission.
Registration is required.

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www.mcleancenter.org
Home of The Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org
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PHOTO BY MICHELLE KONSON

Luke Konson and Daniel Balsarak, on the day they catch fish #50, successfully fulfilling their goal to Fish All Fifty.



PHOTO BY KONSON FAMILY

From left, Paul Balsarak, Lori Balsarak, Michelle Konson, and Mickey Konson

They Caught More Than Fish

FROM PAGE 3

The gap year really wasn't about the fish, though. That was the diversionary activity. Luke and Daniel reported that up to fish #49, they traveled 47,053 miles in a minivan, crisscrossing the United States. The earth's circumference is 24,901 miles. They wrecked 1.5 minivans and spent 206 nights on the road sleeping in the van.

Physically, Luke and Daniel successfully caught the state fish in all 50 states. The kindness of newfound friends coming forward even during the pandemic sustained them and propelled the anglers forward, helping to locate prime fishing spots that would yield success and dollars donated to their GoFundMe.

Internally and emotionally, Luke and Daniel snared a survival guide on how to approach potential challenges.

"We have lived so frugally this past year, sleeping in our parent's vans in Walmart parking lots most nights and losing tens of pounds as we eat very little on the road. Our biggest costs have been gas and fishing licenses." They lived on jars of peanut butter, ramen noodles, and a boatload of coffee.

Paul Balsarak is Daniel's father. "The trip could never have been done by one person alone," he said after the epic journey. "Simon and Garfunkel, Bonnie and Clyde ... Everyone needs a partner. And Luke could never have done this without Daniel, and Daniel would never have done this without Luke. These days there's more fear and timid living than when we were young. I love how these boys took off on a grand adventure, being careful and thoughtful but also taking risks."

Luke and Daniel learned about resilience. There was a car accident in which Konson said, "thankfully, neither of us was injured." They faced ice storms and elk appearing most unexpectedly around highway turns from Colorado to New Mexico. They dealt with flat tires, being stuck in the mud, and "having to make and change plans over and over due to circumstances," as they said in an email.

However, when multiple challenges topped together and amplified their combined challenges, Luke and Daniel sought support. It was, according to Mickey Konson, New Mexico, that nearly beat down Luke and Daniel.

Luke later said that they already felt despondent and were exhausted by the cold days of long hikes to different streams attempting to catch the elusive Arkansas alligator gar. Trying to sleep in the frigid van added to their stress. They didn't know what to do except to avoid any further challenge from the alligator gar. They traveled to New Mexico, hoping to try their luck and knowledge to fish for trout. It didn't pan out.

"Luke talked about New Mexico," said Micky Konson. "That was really the lowlight of the trip because it was January; it was cold ... they were both miserable and just wanted to come home. I had not heard them say that before. So, they did come home, and they regrouped and headed back out. You know, it was unclear whether they were going to finish."

Months later, an email arrived from the promising anglers. The weather had warmed, and their journey was filled with countless stories of how strangers and friends, and friends of friends, reached out

to them and helped them along the way.

Once again, co-signing their email "Luke & Daniel," they wrote: "It's been so heartwarming to see and experience people's generosity and kindness in this way. We're hoping for one last push to get us over the finish line before we move into Clemson on Aug. 12."

Aug. 14, Luke & Daniel wrote: "WE DID IT!!! We caught our Virginia state fish, a brook trout, this week on our way to moving into Clemson University. We are so thankful for all the support we received from people literally all throughout the country ... We are now roommates with a different challenge ahead as we embark on our college studies in Environmental Resources (Luke) and Engineering (Daniel). So, our Fish All Fifty journey is complete!"

AT THE BEGINNING of their journey, Michelle Konson said why she sent her 18-year-old son around the country fishing. "He's learning to figure out life ... the value of a dollar, how to be flexible and change plans."

A year later, in September 2021, Michelle Konson said that Luke and Daniel had done something that they will likely never have the opportunity to do again in their lifetime. She added, "Luke has grown this past year; he is so much more confident, capable, and has a much stronger sense of who he is. Luke was initially enrolled at Clemson's Business School, but after his year on the road, he switched his degree to Environmental and Natural Resources. He realized after this year that his passion and interests lie in the great outdoors, and that's what he'd like to pursue for his future."

Lori Balsarak said that the journey was a

Read The Prequel

"Casting off Distance Learning for Fishing Line," Vienna/Oakton/McLean Connection, September 9-15, 2020

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2020/sep/10/casting-distance-learning-fishing-lines/>

"great alternative to a year of online learning. ... They learned lots of life lessons, such as patience and perseverance; they're better prepared for college and life. They saw and came to appreciate the wonder of nature [and] they experienced kindness from complete strangers.

Paul Balsarak added, "It was trusting God that helped ...[us] parents let them take such an adventure."

According to Luke when he closes his eyes and thinks of the trip's good memories although there are many, it is driving at night where there is no light pollution. "Just the stars as we've never seen them before, and driving through deserts and mountains, seeing elk and moose." Asked what they did, their parents told them not to do, Luke said, "They always said, don't drive at night, especially out west and we primarily drove at night."

One final question, what will Luke tell his grandchildren in the year 2071, fifty or so years from now and they are graduating from high school.

"Get out on your own and travel, whether in the United States or not... You learn a lot of things. That's really the only way to get the experience. Not exactly like this but something similar ... and their own."

Leadership Fairfax Launches Equity Council

Leadership Fairfax, a community leadership development nonprofit, launched its Equity Council on Oct. 13 during a kick-off meeting, bringing together over 20 leaders in the fields of racial and social equity, business, community service, academia, and government. The purpose of the council is to be a catalyzing force for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and resources related to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in Fairfax County. The council will convene representatives, thought leaders, and influencers who can identify the greatest challenges, possible solutions, and highest potential initiatives related to inequities and disparities in the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors as well as civil society. More information, schedules, and research can be found at leadershipfairfax.org/serve-fairfax.

The Equity Council was created by Leadership Fairfax Board Chairman Danny Vargas, President and CEO of VARCom Solutions, Chairman Emeritus of the Friends of the National Museum of the American Latino, and former Chairman of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development. He stated,

“The collective experiences over the past two years have ... exposed the fact that there are persistent, lingering, and pervasive inequities and disparities in our society that must be addressed with purpose and intentionality, and it will take leadership to implement these necessary and overdue changes.”

The founding Chairman of the Equity Council is Leadership Fairfax At-Large Director Bill Bouie, President and CEO of Sky Communications and Chairman of the Board of the Fairfax County Park Authority. Bouie commented that the Equity Council volunteers “have the passion to make Fairfax County and our world a better place by working to tear down walls that deny access to success and human dignity.”

Karen Cleveland, Leadership Fairfax CEO said, “The establishment of the Equity Council reaffirms Leadership Fairfax’s commitment to racial and social equity. This effort represents our movement from programmatic training, around the issue, to engaging the community on all levels with defined outcomes and accountability measures in place.”

The Equity Council will serve as a working group to lead Leadership Fairfax’s involve-

ment in the equity space as part of the organization’s Serve Fairfax initiative.

Serve Fairfax provides community volunteers with board training and education to prepare, diversify and expand service on commissions, boards, committees, and advisory councils in the region. Serve Fairfax connects interested volunteers with organizations seeking volunteer service and ideas and serves as a repository for Community Conversations examining racial and social equity.

Council Members:

- Amanda Andere, CEO – Funders Together to End Homelessness
- Cynthia Bailey, Deputy County Attorney – Fairfax County
- Sindy Benavides, CEO – League of United Latin American Citizens
- Stephanie Berkowitz, President and CEO – Northern Virginia Family Service
- Eileen Ellsworth, President and CEO – Community Foundation for Northern Virginia
- Leila Gordon, Executive Director – Reston Community Center
- Oanh Henry, CEO – Allegra Print and Mail

of Fairfax

- Esther Lee, CEO – Refraction
- Noralisa Leo, Founder and President – Volta Communications Group
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- Roberto Quinones, Founder and Mentor – DC Hispanic Employee Network
- Donielle Scherff, Government Proposal Consultant – Scherff Consulting, LLC
- Lynne Strobel, Partner – Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh
- Kerrie Wilson, CEO - Cornerstones
- Julian Ha, Executive Recruiter Practice Leader, Heidrick & Struggles
- Dr. James Egenrieder, Research Faculty and Director, Thinkabit Lab – Virginia Tech College of Engineering
- Melody Gonzales, Senior Policy and Program Specialist, Community Advocacy & Partnership Engagement Dept. – NEA
- Karen Smaw, Director of Diversity Business Investment and Entrepreneurship – Fairfax County Economic Development Authority
- Dr. Charles Thomas Jr., CEO – Clear Cloud
- Sang Yi, Councilmember – Fairfax City Council

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

Certification. The class would be 1 hour 45 minutes, plus an additional 2 hours online. Email Molly Hockman at mhockman@cox.net.

SUNDAY/OCT. 31

Reformation Sunday. 11 a.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church will welcome guest preacher Rev. Jessica Tate of NEXT Church to the pulpit on Reformation Sunday. Rev. Tate will also lead the adult education class prior to worship from 9:30-10:30 am, discussing the subject “Is Faith Still Possible?” Both the class and the worship service will also be live streamed on Lewinsville’s YouTube Channel. <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/reformation-sunday/>

NOW THRU DEC. 7

Volunteers Needed. St. Marks (Vienna) English as a Second Language program is looking for new students and volunteers. Classes will be on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings from Sept. 28 to Dec. 7. All classes will be conducted online using the Zoom App. There will be no in-person classes. For students: <https://bit.ly/StMarkRegistrationFall2021>. An online placement exam will be given. Visit the web page: www.stmarkesl.org or - Email: stmarkesl@gmail.com; Call: 703-980-9380, or 703-242-7449.

ONGOING

In-Person Worship. 10:15 a.m. The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. In-person worship services are held with some restrictions. Details at: https://faithconnector.s3.amazonaws.com/goodshepherdva/files/revised2_in_person_worship_be

[gins_june_13.pdf](#)

FRESHFARM MARKETS OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER

Local FRESHFARM Markets are opened. Residents are encouraged to pre-order as much as possible, but grab-and-go and prepackaged options will be available for purchase at all of the markets listed below.

Saturday Markets

Arlington, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. -- N Courthouse Rd. and 14th St N, Arlington
Oakton, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. -- 2854 Hunter Mill Rd., Oakton.

Sunday Market

Mosaic, 9 a.m - 2 p.m. -- 2910 District Ave., Fairfax

COVID-19 TEXT MESSAGES IN SPANISH

As part of its efforts to provide coronavirus-related information and assistance in multiple languages, Fairfax County now provides COVID-19 text alerts in Spanish. To sign up, text FFXCOVIDESP to 888777.

FAIRFAX COUNTY CORONAVIRUS INFO CENTER

Fairfax County Health Department COVID-19 webpage – www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus

Emergency Information Blog (you can subscribe by email or follow by RSS) – www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Call Center – The community may call 703-267-3511 with questions. The call center is open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.

Residents may also text FFXCOVID to 888777 to receive updates from Fairfax County about COVID-19.

Twitter – @fairfaxcounty and @fairfaxhealth

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CALENDAR

NOW THRU NOV. 1

Reston Farm Garden Market Fall Festival. 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Cost is \$28 per child and \$6 per parent, children 2 and under free. The event will feature a range of activities, including several moon bounces, a petting zoo, the Express Train for both adults and children to ride. Visit www.restonfarm.com. Call 703-759-0000 or email info@RestonFarm.com.

NOW THRU OCT. 30

Art Show. At Reston Art Gallery-Lake Anne Plaza, 11400 Washington Plaza WB -Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Julia Malakoff's solo show, "Good Juju" is a collection of mixed-media collages, displaying bright colors, nature inspired shapes, textures and organic papers fused with hand painted acrylic paints. "Colorful comfort and visual stories that inspire and bring a sense of renewal, joy and magic"-this is the goal of my current collection of work, says Malakoff. The gallery is open on Saturdays, 10-5 and Sundays, 12-5 and by appointment. Visit the website: www.juliamalakoff.com

NOW THRU NOV. 7

A Disco Musical Comedy - Disaster. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. By Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick. Concept created by Seth Rudetsky and Drew Geraci. Additional material by Drew Geraci. Directed by Evan Hoffmann. Choreography by Ashleigh King. Music Direction by Elisa Rosman. Visit www.nextstoptheatre.org.

NOW THRU OCT. 31

Fall for the Book: Fall for the Book Festival featuring live and recorded events will be held virtually and in-person at George Mason's Fairfax campus. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Fall for the Book events and sessions are free and open to the public. Fall for the Book is free with the generous support of sponsors including the Fairfax County Public Library, George Mason University, the Fairfax Library Foundation, and the City of Fairfax among others. Fall for the Book returns with a new hybrid format including virtual and in-person events, including lively Podcasts. For schedule visit www.fallforthebook.org.

NOW THRU JAN. 2, 2022

LuminoCity Festival. 6-9 p.m. At Roer's Zoofari, 1228 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. The LuminoCity Festival, a one-of-a-kind, immersive light display experience, will be a festive experience for guests of all ages. Be ready to enter a world straight out of your wildest imaginations as you step into an unforgettable spectacular night of lights. The festival includes African, Asian, Arid, and Ancient-themed exhibits of spectacularly lit



The Disco Musical Comedy - Disaster will be shown at NextStop Theatre in Herndon through Nov. 7.

art displays set up in the zoo's walk-through area. Visit the website: www.roerszoofari.com.

OCT. 22-NOV. 7

The Turn of the Screw. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher from the story by Henry James, this classic ghost story depicts the trials of a young governess, haunted by ghosts while caring for two orphaned children on a remote estate in the English countryside. This innovative adaptation is a spine-tingling, tour de force for two actors and will be directed by Christopher Richardson.

FRIDAY/OCT. 22

Comedian DL Hughley. 7 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. One of the most popular and highly recognized standup comedians on the road today.

NASCOW Fundrazer. Virtual 10 a.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park. Virtual. NASCOW Fundrazer is back at Frying Pan. Sponsor your favorite of the nine cows competing, just like race cars get sponsors. A fun way to support the farm you love. Visit the website: <https://friendsoffryingpan.org/nascow/>

Monster Mash 5th and 6th Grader Party.

7-9:30 p.m. At The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. The Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Parties are themed and decorated accordingly. Partygoers can enjoy catered food and beverages, a DJ spinning the latest tunes, an open dance floor and a variety of other attractions and activities. Cost is \$35/\$25 MCC district residents. Preregistration is highly recommended.

SATURDAY/OCT. 23

Petite Pumpkin Painters Program. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. At Sully Historic Site,

3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Halloween is just around the corner and it's time to start breaking out the decorations. Let your kids get hands-on with this year's fall decorations at Sully Historic Site's Petite Pumpkin Painters Program. Bring your preschooler (ages 3 to 5) to pick their own perfect pumpkin from our pumpkin patch to paint, and let their creativity shine. While your child's artwork dries, children can play the many outdoor games set up for the season. The cost is \$9 per participant. Advanced registration is required. Call 703-437-1794.

DogFest (Reston) Washington

D.C. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Reston Town Center, 1818 Discovery Street, Reston. Canine Companions DogFest is coming to you! So grab your dog and get ready to have a tail-waggin' good time! We'll change lives, four paws at a time. Furry friends and their families are invited to join us online for a day of fun, festivities, contests, graduate speakers, dog demonstrations, and more. Register for free at www.canine.org/DogFestWashingtonDC to receive a FREE DogFest bandana for your dog!

Libertas Fashion Show. 6-8 p.m. At Cascades Overlook Event Center, 21453 Epicerie Plaza, Sterling. Libertas Home, a non-profit organization dedicated to end sex trafficking and child abuse in Northern Virginia, presents Libertas Fashion Show. Cost is \$35-\$50. Visit the website: libertashome.org

Pianist Brian Ganz Plays Mozart. 8 p.m. at Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. With the Virginia Chamber Orchestra. Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major, K. 488. Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 ("Italian") will be another program highlight. Tickets, from \$25 to \$50, at vco.events

SUNDAY/OCT. 24

The Borisevich Duo. 2 p.m. At The Alden, McLean Community Center, McLean. The Borisevich Duo, featuring pianist Margarita Loukachkina and violinist Nikita Borisevich, is an internationally acclaimed violin and piano duet, frequently performing across the United States and Europe. \$10/\$5 MCC district residents

SUNDAY/OCT. 24

New Dominion Chorale. 4-6 p.m. At Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Thomas Beveridge conducts NDC and orchestra in his Yizkor Requiem, a fusion of Jewish and Christian rituals honoring the dead, and in several Mendelssohn Psalms. Masks and proof of vaccination are required. All performers have been vaccinated and will wear masks during the performance. Visit the website: www.newdominion.org

SUNDAY/OCT. 24

Moscow Correspondent. 2-3:30 p.m. Zoom event at Cold War Museum, 7134 Lineweaver Rd., Vint Hill. The Cold War Museum presents a Zoom event with former NBC/ABC Moscow correspondent Marvin Kalb on trying to cover the Soviet Union while surrounded by KGB agents. Cost is \$20. Visit the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/assignment-russia-foreign-correspondent-in-the-crucible-of-the-cold-war-tickets-170141432605>

MONDAY/OCT. 25

The Blackest Battle by Psalmayene 24. 7:30 p.m. At Reston Community Theater's Center-Stage, Reston. In this revolutionary hip-hop musical, Bliss and Dream, members of warring rap factions, fall in love while wrestling with making sense of their turbulent lives. As part of the Washington West Film Festival. Directed by Raymond O. Caldwell. Cost is \$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 27

Senior Resource Fair. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Frying Pan Park Pavilion, 2739 west Ox Road, Herndon. Join in a Resource Fair that is free to the public. Receive valuable information on community services that specifically benefit seniors. The Senior Resource Fair is a great place to learn about local agencies, products and services available to help seniors get the most out of life.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 27

Performing Arts Documentaries - Episode Three. 1 p.m. At The Alden Theater at McLean Community Center, McLean. Free admission; registration is required. Come explore the history of the Broadway musical in this six-part documentary. Register for The Alden's email list at www.aldentheatre.org to see the name of the film being shown.

OCT. 29 - 31

"Waitress." Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. Inspired by the beloved film, "Waitress" tells the story of Jenna, an expert pie maker who dreams of a way out of her small town. A baking contest and the town's new doctor may offer her a fresh start, but Jenna must summon the strength to rebuild her own life. Visit the website: capitalonehall.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Spooktacular. 5-7 p.m. At Great Falls Village Centre Green, Great Falls. Enjoy trick-or-treating with local merchants and a haunted house. For kids 12 and under, in costumes. Pet Costume Parade and Contest, 4 - 4:45 p.m.

SATURDAY/NOV. 6

Pancake Breakfast. 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. The Clifton Lions Club Annual Family Pancake Breakfast. Cost is \$10/adult; \$5/child under 12; Free under 5. All You Can Eat. Sponsored by the Clifton Lions Club.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

NOW THRU NOV. 6

Workhouse Haunt. 7-11 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This year's Workhouse Haunt immerses guests through a highly-themed walk-through experience, as creepy characters deliver contactless scares in multiple scenes. Guests will travel in small groups for a frightening 30-minute experience that brings them next to the site's abandoned, historic

buildings and into the dark woods where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights that are not for the faint of heart. Cost is \$25. Occurs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday each weekend from Oct. 3 through Nov. 6. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/workhouse-events/2021-workhouse-haunt-the-collection-2/>

OCT. 1-31

Ghost & Graveyard Tour. 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays additional

tours at 8:30 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 per adult; \$14 for seniors, military and law enforcement; \$10 per child. Tour departs from Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. Follow an 18th-century costumed guide by lantern light through the charming streets of Alexandria's historic district known as Old Town. On this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends and folklore. You will also hear about unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and

angry ghosts looking for revenge. Appropriate for ages 9 and up. Visit alexcolonialtours.com

THROUGH OCT. 31

"The Madness of Poe." At Synetic Theater, 1800 South Bell Street in Arlington. "We watch how Poe, the inventor of American horror, created some of the most frightening and disturbing stories the world has ever known," said Synetic Theater founder Paata Tsikurshvili. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday

at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Industry Night is Monday, Oct. 25, at 8 p.m. Tickets \$10-\$60, www.synetictheater.org, or in-person at the box office located in the underground Crystal City Shops, or via phone at 703-824-8060 x117.

THROUGH OCT. 31

Ongoing Halloween Display. At 2508 Halterbreak Court,

SEE HALLOWEEN, PAGE 13

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

FROM PAGE 12

Herndon. Come see the punny skeletons, which are cooking up fun and ghostly apparitions appear in the windows and yard. Animated skeletons (Queen, Bruno Mars 24 karat magic, and Rick James Superfreak), talking witches and jumping spiders come out on Oct 31.

COX FARMS FALL FESTIVAL THROUGH NOV. 7

Giant slides, hayrides, rope swings, farm animals & their babies, Cornfield adventure, farm chores, kiddie zone, apples & cider, food, entertainment, Imaginature Trail, over 90 acres. <https://coxfarms.com/fall-festival/festival-attractions/>.

Fields of Fear. Not recommended for children under 12 years old. When night falls on the farm, it's time for Fields of Fear. Friday and Saturday nights until Nov. 3. Fields of Fear, the Dark Side Hayride and the Cornnightmare. The Firegrounds feature several bonfires, a six-lane slide, music, karaoke, entertainment, tasty treats, Foamhenge, and more. All under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian (18+). Tickets required. Last admission at 10pm Come alone or in a group. Buy your tickets online or same-day at the door. Proof of age required. See <https://fieldsoffear.coxfarms.com/> for more details on timed entry assignments, rain policy, food options, and complete list of attractions.

OCT. 16 TO NOV. 6

"Wait Until Dark." 8 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Set against the socially turbulent 1960s, "Wait Until Dark" follows the story of Suzy, a blind woman who, while left alone in her apartment, becomes embroiled with a group of con men hatching an elaborate scam. As the tension mounts, Suzy must fend for herself, but the phone line is cut, and the house is plunged into darkness. Can Suzy outwit her murderous visitors? Note: All patrons are required to wear a mask (even if vaccinated) for the duration of the performance. Admission: \$21 to \$24 per person. Visit the website: thelittletheatre.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 21

Halloween Ball and Anniversary Celebration. 7:30 to 10 p.m. At Barkhaus, 529 E Howell Ave, Alexandria. Celebrate Barkhaus's first birthday with a Halloween ball. Guests will dress formally and add their own Halloween twists to their costumes. Dogs are encouraged to dress up as well. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, puppuccinos for dogs, a limited-edition Barkhaus anniversary shirt and more. Admission: \$75 per person. Visit the website: brewskisbarkhaus.com

OCT. 22, 23, 29, 30

Grief & Ghost Tour at Lee-Fendall House. At 7, 7:30, 8:30 and 9 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Celebrate Halloween with a look at Victorian mourning traditions coupled with stories of tragic deaths and mysterious occurrences at the Lee-Fen-

dall House. Customs such as draping the mirrors after a death, funeral practices, hair mementos, mourning clothing and séances will be explored. These tours offer a rare opportunity to see the house after dark. Tours groups will be limited to 10 participants and tickets must be purchased in advance. Face masks are required. Admission: \$15 per person. Visit leefendallhouse.org

SATURDAY/OCT. 23

Old Town Trick or Treat by Old Town Business Association. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At various locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. Bring your little ghouls and goblins to historic Old Town Alexandria for tricks and treats from your favorite boutiques and restaurants. Check the event website for more details and a trick or treat map. Visit the website: oldtownbusiness.org

SUNDAY/OCT. 24

8th Annual Doggie Trick or Treat. 1 to 5 p.m. Meet at The Dog Park, 705 King St., Alexandria. Bring your costume-clad four-legged

treat (tickets go on sale October 15th and are required), and complimentary Halloween pet portraits by Pooch Portrait Studios. This photography experience welcomes pets in costumes to capture a Halloween moment. Details:

Sunday, October 24, 2021 at Pooch Portraits at Westpost Plaza (1201 S Joyce Street in Arlington) from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Pike & Rose on Saturday, October 30, 2021 with PIKEkids Trick or Treat from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (*Tickets required).

Sunday, October 31, 2021 a Bark Social Halloween Puppy Parade at 2 p.m. (*Tickets required at www.barksocial.com) Village at Shirlington on Arlington Mill Drive in Arlington.

Saturday, October 30, 2021, Pooch Portraits on the Plaza at Arlington Mill Drive from 12 p.m.-3 p.m. Dogma Bakery Puppy Trick or Treat from 2-4 p.m.

Sunday, October 31, 2021 a Kids Trick or Treat from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 27

Vienna Halloween Parade. The 75th



A 75-year tradition, the Vienna Halloween Parade is Oct. 27. This year's theme is the "Roaring 20s."

friends to historic Old Town Alexandria for tricks and treats from your favorite boutiques. Winners receive gift cards from The Dog Park in three different categories. Visit the website: thedogparkva.biz

SUNDAY/OCT. 24

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2 p.m. Parade begins at Mount Vernon Ave., south of E. Bellefonte Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray's annual Halloween Parade begins at Mount Vernon Ave., south of E. Bellefonte, and continues down to the Mount Vernon Recreation Center play fields. Children, pets and strollers in costumes are invited to march and show off their finest and scariest Halloween garb; awards are given for Best Pet Costume, Best Decorated Business, Best Decorated Home and Best Decorated Stroller. visitdelray.com/halloween

OCT. 24, 30, 31

Halloween Pet Portraits and Trick or Treat. At Village at Shirlington, and Westpost (formerly known as Pentagon Row.) Federal Realty invites kids in costumes to trick o'

annual Town of Vienna Halloween Parade will take place at 7 p.m. The theme for this year's parade is "The Roaring Twenties." Children and others in costume are invited to march along in the parade, no need to register, meet at 6 p.m. at the United Bank, 374 Maple Ave., E. For sponsorship details, check out the Town's Halloween Sponsor brochure or contact Lily Widman via email or at 703-255-5738. Visit the website: <https://www.viennava.gov/residents/concerts-and-events/halloween-parade>

OCT. 28 AND 30

Poems and Stories of Edgar Allan Poe at Ivy Hill Cemetery. 7 to 8 p.m. Tour begins at the Ivy Hill Cemetery Office, 2823 King St., Alexandria. "Even in the grave, all is not lost!" The Guillotine Theatre presents "Poe outside the Vault" at Ivy Hill Cemetery. Actors from Guillotine Theatre will read from the works of Edgar Allan Poe. This is a sell-out event in a most suitable atmosphere. Seating is limited. RSVP to info@IHCHPS.org. Admission is \$20. Visit the website: ivyhillcemetery.net

FRIDAY/OCT. 29

Halloween Vampire Ball. At Synthetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.; Show starts at 8 p.m. Synthetic Theater, in association with the National Landing Business Improvement District, JBG SMITH, and The Freshman, is throwing a VAMPIRE BALL. The festivities start with a performance of The Madness of Poe followed by an indoor/outdoor dance party with all the food, drinks, and candy that a ghoul could ask for. Expect aerialists, Edgar Allan Poe-themed cocktails, dancing, physical theater, spooky Georgian remixes, fun-sized candy bars, and more. Tickets are \$95-\$125 and are available at synthetictheater.org.

OCT. 29-31

Boos & Booze at Café 44. At Café 44, 44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 401, Alexandria. Café 44 is hosting its annual Boos & Booze Halloween event featuring themed craft cocktails and treats. Costumes (and reservations) are encouraged for

Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy, Mount Vernon. Celebrate Halloween with 18th-century entertainment and activities. Visit Mount Vernon in costume, watch Halloween-themed Punch & Judy shows, see 18th-century chocolate-making demonstrations and more. Trick-or-Treating at Mount Vernon takes place rain or shine. Admission: General public: \$25 per adult; \$15 per youth; Members: \$17 per adult; \$9 per youth. Visit the website: mountvernon.org

Fall Frolic at Lee-Fendall House. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Hourly sessions occur from 10 a.m. through 3 p.m. Admission: \$15 per person. Enjoy some seasonal family fun in the garden of the Lee-Fendall House during the Fall Frolic. Put on your Halloween costumes and join in on activities catered to children ages 3-12. Activities include a "ghost" hunt, crafts and a costume parade. Timed tickets must be purchased in advance. Visit the website: leefendallhouse.org

Nightmare at Barkhaus. 5 to 8 p.m. At Barkhaus, 529 E Howell Ave, Alexandria. Visit Barkhaus for the dog bar's annual costume contest. Enjoy spooky food and drink specials and send your costumed four-legged friend down the dog runway in pursuit of prizes. Visit the website: brewskisbarkhaus.com

McLean Old Fire House, House of Terror and Family Trunk or Treat. 5-10 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, McLean. The Old Firehouse is transforming the inside of the center into the spookiest, scariest, walk-through experience in McLean. The House of Terror will be divided into two time slots:

- No Scares 5-7 p.m.: Participants can walk through the lighted path and view our actors and actresses with no jumps, scares or fears.
- All Scares 7:30-10 p.m.: The effects are on, the lights are off, and the actors and actresses are out of sight and ready to surprise.

Trunk or Treat. 6-9 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, McLean. If the House of Terror isn't your thing, no worries! Outside, the OFC's Trunk or Treat will have some music, fun and themed vehicles with Halloween candy to share while supplies last.

SUNDAY/OCT. 31

Trick or Treat at Carlyle House. 4 to 6 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Join Carlyle House on All Hallow's Eve for good old-fashioned trickery and treats. Bring your little ghosts, goblins, princesses and action heroes to one of Alexandria's most haunted dwellings. Carlyle House staff will be handing out candy in individual bags. In case of inclement weather please call the museum for event status. Visit novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park

Halloween Spooktacular. 5-7 p.m. At Great Falls Village Centre Green, Great Falls. Enjoy trick-or-treating with local merchants and a haunted house. For kids 12 and under, in costumes. Pet Costume Parade and Contest, 4 - 4:45 p.m.

Trick-or-Treating at Mount Vernon. 2 to 6 p.m. At George Washington's

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Notice of Realty Action: Proposed exchange of Federally owned lands for publicly owned lands located Fairfax County, Virginia.

I. The following described Federally owned land, which is administered by the National Park Service (NPS), has been determined to be suitable for disposal by exchange. The authority for this exchange is 54 U.S.C. § 102901(b), which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire property within a unit of the National Park System in exchange for Federally owned property under the Secretary's jurisdiction that the Secretary determines is suitable for disposal and that is in the same State as the non-Federal property to be acquired.

The selected Federal land is currently managed by the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) and is not required for inclusion in the GWMP. The land has been surveyed for cultural resources, endangered species, and threatened species. Deed restrictions limiting development, protecting resource areas, and requiring GWMP review and Superintendent approval of certain actions will encumber the property upon conveyance of title to the non-Federal exchange party, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA).

The Federal interest to be conveyed to the FCPA is fee title to GWMP Tract 114-005A, which is a 52.17 acre, more or less, parcel of land, which will be subject to the deed restrictions referenced above. Tract 114-005A is a portion of the land that the United States of America acquired by deed from John R. Simpson et al., dated 11/23/1940, recorded 11/26/1940 in Deed Book L-14, Page 548 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia; by deed from Louise A. Simpson, widow, dated 11/22/1940, recorded 11/26/1940 in Deed Book L-14, Page 550 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia; and by deed from George W. Herring and Junita J. Herring, his wife, dated 11/29/1940, recorded 01/27/1941 in Deed Book P-14, Page 106 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia. GWMP Tract 114-005A is also known as Langley Fork Park. The United States of America will convey title by quitclaim deed.

II. In exchange for the lands identified in Paragraph I, the United States of America will acquire GWMP Tract 114-110, which is a 101.65 acre, more or less, parcel of land currently owned by the FCPA. GWMP Tract 114-110 is also known as Langley Oaks Park. The lands are being acquired in fee simple subject only to encumbrances of record.

Neither of the properties described in the foregoing paragraphs is located within a designated floodplain.

The value of the properties to be exchanged has been determined by a fair market value appraisal. The value of the land or interests in land to be conveyed by the FCPA to the United States is greater than the value of the land or interests in land to be conveyed by the United States to the FCPA. The FCPA plans to donate the difference in values to the United States. The FCPA will convey title by quitclaim deed.

Detailed information about this exchange, including precise legal descriptions, survey plats, and the Finding of No Significant Impact documenting the NPS's compliance with applicable Federal law, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, are available at the National Park Service, National Capital Regional Office, 1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington D.C. 20242. For questions or additional information please contact Melissa Mooza, Chief of Lands, at (202) 619-7079 or Melissa_Mooza@nps.gov.

For a period of 45 calendar days after the date of publication of this notice, interested parties may submit comments to the above address. The NPS will evaluate all timely comments and may modify or vacate the realty action in response to them. In the absence of any action to modify or vacate, this realty action will become the final determination of the Department of Interior.

September 21, 2021

Date

KIMBERLY HALL Digitally signed by KIMBERLY HALL
Date: 2021.09.21 15:50:18 -0400

Kym A. Hall
Area Director
Region 1 - National Capital Area
National Park Service

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Improving Parent-Teen Relationships

Adolescence can be challenging, but living with constant discord is not the only option.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

“Why do you hate me?”
“You’re the worst mother in the world!”
These are some of what Kate Hoyle hears from her 14-year-old daughter.

“It’s like she went from being a sweet girl to a raging teen overnight,” said the Woodbridge-based parenting coach and mother of two. “It was like getting slapped in the face.”

As children become adolescents, they often begin to push away parents and crave independence. Topics of conversation that were once pleasant now can be volatile. Some parents may question their parenting abilities.

“Adolescents naturally become more autonomous and shift somewhat to peer influence after looking exclusively to parents for the answer. But a smart parent learns to shift their approach and skills with the onset of this stage of development,” said Hoyle. “This change can be gradual or it can be sudden and is sometimes the result of a major life change. It is important to get to know the parents of your child’s friends.”

Recognizing and understanding the change in behavior that is associated with this developmental stage can help parents to navigate it, says Bethesda-based therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW. “Tweens and teens begin to develop their autonomy by questioning, testing, and for some violating the rules parents set for them,” she said. “They express strong opinions about politics, clothing, music, and social relationships. They begin to yearn for their freedom to do adult-like things. They may lose interest in previous hobbies, be easily embarrassed, and have emotional ups and downs.”

It is not uncommon for teens to act like they know best and to dismiss a parent’s guidance. “It can be annoying, but it shows confidence,” said Hoyle. “Enjoy debates and discussion with them. They need to develop independent analysis and thought.”

However frustrating for a parent, this stage is necessary for a child’s transition from adolescence to adulthood. “It’s when they’re entering the final phase of childhood, where they are working on being able to self-govern and grow into an independent functioning adult,” said Barnaby. “Kids begin to enter this phase around the age of 12 to 14 and want more and more independence and less need for parent connection. Instead, they might see who they are in the eyes of their peers.”

Remember that this stage in a child’s life is only temporary. “One of the biggest things we can encourage in a child is curiosity. Talk to them as the person you want them to be,” said Hoyle.

SURVIVING THE TEEN YEARS

1. Avoid trying to control
2. Spend time together without electronics
3. Withhold judgement
4. Offer sincere praise
5. Maintain open communication
6. Allow independence, but set boundaries
7. Give teens personal space

Though they might appear to push away parents, teens still need to feel connected to them. Simple conversations can help recreate that bond. At times, parents must create opportunities to spend time without phones or electronics with their child, advises Ameila Muench, Psy. D., a child psychologist in Alexandria. “Do something together that they enjoy and try to keep the time consistent,” she said. “This can quickly become your special time away from other family members, and it allows them to open up.”

“Routine and ritual help maintain open communication,” added Hoyle. “Your child gets to know when you are available and you get to understand when they are most likely to be open to talk. Car rides work well because it removes the intensity of a sit-down conversation requiring eye contact.”

Listen without judgment or criticism and resist the urge to offer unsolicited advice, advises Muench. “Use active listening, which means being able to repeat back to them what they have just said,” she said. “Take note of the language they are using. What are they really trying to tell you? Ask questions to find out rather than instantly responding with your view. Listen rather than instruct.”

While establishing rules and setting boundaries are necessary, trying to control a teen might lead to rebellion, says Hoyle. “Get curious, not furious,” she said. “When your teen makes an unhealthy choice or does something you don’t agree with, getting mad or telling them you’re disappointed will further your disconnection. Their behavior is trying to get one of six core emotional needs met: acceptance, affection, appreciation, attention, autonomy, or connection. Which one is it? Look beneath the surface.”

Allowing teens to have a certain amount of personal space and feel that they are trusted can strengthen the relationship between a parent and an adolescent. “Continuous tracking and distrust can affect their mental health that can lead to depression,” said Hoyle.

Self-doubt is common among teens, so praise helps build confidence if offered sincerely. “They’re trying to find their place in the world, so focus on attributes not attainment,” said Muench. “If teens and tweens learn that they only get praise when they look a certain way or achieve through academic endeavors or sports, they can become people pleasers or unhappy perfectionists.”

Remember that this stage in a child’s life is only temporary. “One of the biggest things we can encourage in a child is curiosity. Talk to them as the person you want them to be,” said Hoyle.

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Hardly the Same Thing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It may not have been the miracle I was hoping for: shrinkage or tumor disappearance, from my most recent diagnostic scans but no growth and/or new metastases is nothing to be taken for granted. However, I did experience a miracle of sorts when the envelope I received at home from the “State of Maryland, Maryland SafeZones Automated Speed Enforcement” authority specifying and picturing yours truly exceeding the speed limit by 12 mph was for information purposes only. It was not an invoice. It was a warning. And the \$40 fine associated with this kind of infraction was left on the cutting room floor. Perhaps this is the extent of the miracle that Solange was able to perform when she prayed for me and my burned feet - and thyroid cancer, on July 20 in the Houston airport. Though this outcome was not exactly the delusional outcome I was hoping for, when we consented to her extremely kind offer to pray for me. Nevertheless, a win is a win. And though a shrinking/disappearing cancer tumor would have been an amazing - albeit unlikely outcome, the tumors remained “stable” and I saved a \$40 outlay. On balance, not a bad day’s work.

For which I am extremely grateful. Soon after I entered the cancer-patient world, I learned that any not-automatically-bad news - whether internally or externally to that world, should be acknowledged and appreciated. Any port in a storm you might say. Moreover, I always sought to find the positive in this sea of negativity. Whatever I could see - through any rose-colored glasses I could find, served its purpose to emotionally support me for the many long and lonely nights that followed. Certainly, there’s family and friends to help share the burden brought on by a “terminal” diagnosis, but at the end of the day, literally, it’s sort of you and your thoughts. Finding a way to navigate this minefield of unpredictable results and anxiety is paramount. On the one hand, you can’t take what the doctors and radiologists say as seriously as a cancer diagnosis obviously is, but neither can you pretend that you’re not in the fight of your life. That being said, one must be open to new ideas and unexpected offers. Filtering and interpreting whether any of the suggestions made by your doctors and/or your well-meaning friends and family becomes your lot in life. And it’s an awful lot at that.

Still, a cancer diagnosis is not nearly the death sentence as it used to be for the previous generation. Though it would be naive to characterize a cancer diagnosis as an opportunity, nevertheless unceasing research in a variety of hospital/cancer centers, medical schools, clinical trials, pharmaceutical companies and the like have led to an evolution in the treatment in cancer, particularly non small cell lung cancer which is the type of cancer I was originally diagnosed with in late Feb., 2009. (Though I am now being treated for papillary thyroid cancer as you regular readers know. As to whether I ever had lung cancer, the jury is still out, not literally.)

And since I have an incurable form of thyroid cancer, as written about numerous times in this space, I am forever open to new experiences that might create a path forward for me. The underlying problem in my situation is the odd circumstances that ultimately led to my more recent diagnosis. Since I had years of heavy-duty chemotherapy while treating my presumptive lung cancer, I have suffered kidney damage which only manifests itself in lab work and in what medications/treatment I can be given. As such when I went to the hospital after my thyroidectomy for post-surgical eradication of the remaining thyroid cancer that the surgeon was unable to remove, the dose of nuclear isotopes I was given was only one-third the dose it should have been had I not been so previously chemotherapy-damaged. As a result, I’m sort of stuck. I have a usually curable type of thyroid cancer which is now considered incurable. The solution? I need to find a clinical trial for patients who have been treated for lung cancer for nine years, perhaps mistakenly, suffered irreparable kidney damage from those years of toxicity, who now has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer and who is now unable to process the medicine likely to cure him and thus is: incurable.

You bet I need a miracle, and sooner rather than later. Maybe I should fly back to Houston.

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



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Top 1% Realtors Nationwide
NVAR 90+ Million Dollar Sales Club

#1 Virginia Agent 2020 - NEWSWEEK



**JD Sold More Homes Last Year
in 22101 Than Any Other Agent!**

Per MLS



JUST LISTED!

Offered for...\$619,900

3650 S. Glebe Road, #541 Arlington
WELCOME HOME to this BEAUTIFUL 2BR/2 BA condo at the sought-after Eclipse at Center Park! This fabulous unit boasts over 1000 square feet and includes sparkling hardwood floors; inviting kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite counters, new stove and newer microwave; brand new heavy load washer and dryer; newly installed windows; primary bathroom with separate tub/shower and dual vanity; balcony with courtyard views; 1 parking space conveys PLUS storage room. **CLOSE to EVERYTHING!**



**UNDER CONTRACT
in 3 days!**

Offered for...\$1,299,000

1434 Woodacre Drive, McLean
GORGEOUSLY RENOVATED 3BR/3 full BA home in sought-after Chesterbrook Woods! This stunning property includes a beautifully updated Chef's kitchen with stainless steel TOP-of-the-LINE appliances and granite counters; sun room with wall of windows overlooks the expansive patio and wooded/secluded backyard—a nature retreat at home! Incredible primary suite with luxury bathroom; LL boasts rec room with built-in, fireplace and wine room! 2-car garage; **Chesterbrook, Longfellow & McLean Schools!**



UNDER CONTRACT!

Offered for...\$2,849,000

1623 Woodman Drive, McLean
***SOUGHT-AFTER* CHESTERBROOK WOODS!** SPECTACULAR new home construction by M-R Custom Homes, the premier local builder! GORGEOUS to-be-built 6BR/6.5 BA Thomas French designed luxury home will feature 10 ft ceilings on 1st floor, hardwood floors throughout, a three car garage and elevator ready floorplan. Gourmet chef's kitchen with large center island and breakfast bar, top-of-the-line Wolf/Sub Zero appliance package; large screened porch, outdoor gas frpl; **Chesterbrook, Longfellow & McLean schools!**

**BEST
WASHINGTONIAN
2021**



**For Sale
AND for
RENT!**

6029 Chesterbrook Road
McLean, 22101
\$1,099,000 OR \$4300/mo



SOLD!

6293 Columbus Hall Ct
McLean, 22101
\$1,775,000



SOLD!

6904 Lupine Lane
McLean, 22101
\$2,249,000



SOLD!

111 Smallwood Way
Falls Church, 22046
\$1,009,000



SOLD!

1446 Woodacre Drive
McLean, 22101
\$1,310,000



SOLD!

1506 Hardwood Lane
McLean, 22101
\$1,582,000



SOLD!

1437 Brookhaven Drive
McLean, 22101
\$1,099,000

We're seeing multiple contracts with escalations! Call to chat with JD today!