

Nicki Watts holds up an insulated jacket, one of over 30 coats and jackets, and other cold-weather gear donated to Share of McLean for community neighbors in need by the Eddie Bauer clothing store Tysons.

Sharing The Warmth

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 4 ❖ CALENDAR, PAGE 9 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10

What's Coming In Central Park?

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Vienna's Budget Underway

PAGE 5

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Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
HENRICO	9657	0	LAKESIDE AVENUE	NORTH RUN	2/17/2022
FRANKLIN	7825	606	PRILLIMANSWICH/ROUTE 606	BRANCH OF TOWN CREEK	2/16/2022
WASHINGTON	18840	11	LEE HIGHWAY	GREENWAY CREEK	2/15/2022
CARROLL	4791	922	HIDDENVALLEY RD/ROUTE 922	SNAKE CREEK #1	2/15/2022
GILES	8436	635	BIG STONY CK RD/ROUTE 635	LAUREL BRANCH	2/11/2022
FRANKLIN	8031	1605	WHSPRNG CK RD/ROUTE 1605	MAGGODEE CREEK	2/8/2022
LOUDOUN	11375	792	THOMAS AVENUE	SUGARLAND RUN	2/7/2022
NOTTOWAY	12852	610	SPAINVILLE RD	SWEATHOUSE CREEK	2/5/2022
SMYTH	17646	657	THOMAS BRIDGE RD	S FORK HOLSTON RIVER	2/4/2022
BLAND	3072	608	SKYDUSKY RD	BIG WALKER CREEK #1	2/3/2022
SCOTT	16698	623	SPEERS VALLEY RD	N FORK CLINCH RIVER	2/3/2022
ROCKBRIDGE	15653	712	WADES RD/ROUTE 712	CEDAR GROVE BRANCH	2/2/2022
DICKENSON	5887	885	BRIDGE STREET	RUSSELL FORK RV @ HAYSI	2/1/2022
GRAYSON	8915	741	HOMESTEAD RD	BIG FOX CREEK	2/1/2022
LEE	11003	880	RED FLETCHER RD	DRY CREEK	2/1/2022
LEE	10908	672	ROUTE 672	MARTIN CREEK	2/1/2022
RUSSELL	16341	71	NORTH 71	COPPER CREEK	2/1/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

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NEWS

Tenth Annual McLean Chocolate Festival April 24

Looking for vendors to sell chocolate and chocolate related items
The 10th Annual McLean Chocolate Festival, sponsored by the Rotary Club of McLean, is scheduled to take place on April 24, 2022 at the McLean Community Center. The Rotary Club of McLean is looking for vendors to sell chocolate and chocolate related items at this year's Festival. If you or your company is interested in being part of this year's Festival please contact Mr. John McEvilly, President of the Rotary Club of McLean, by email at mcevillyjohn@outlook.com. There are currently 9 local vendors committed including McLean's own Mars Wrigley, the world's leading manufacturer of chocolate, chewing gum, mints and fruity confections.

Due to Covid 19 no Festival was held last year. However, in 2020 almost 3,000 attended. A similar number is expected for this year's Festival. A children's game room will also be available. For additional information about this year's Festival please see the Festival webpage at: www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org.

Free St. Patrick's Day Lyft Rides Offered

Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly two-thirds (63%) of nighttime U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers, a local nonprofit organization says free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this month's St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2022 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) and operate until 4:00 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide® code in the app's "Payment" tab (under the "Add Lyft Pass" option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's 2022 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 17 on www.SoberRide.com.

During the 2019 St. Patrick's Day campaign (COVID-19 eliminated the 2020 campaign and limited last year's offering), nearly 700 (697) people in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired — the second highest level of ridership for St. Patrick's Day in SoberRide's 31-year history.

The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day, Halloween and the winter holidays through and including New Year's Eve.

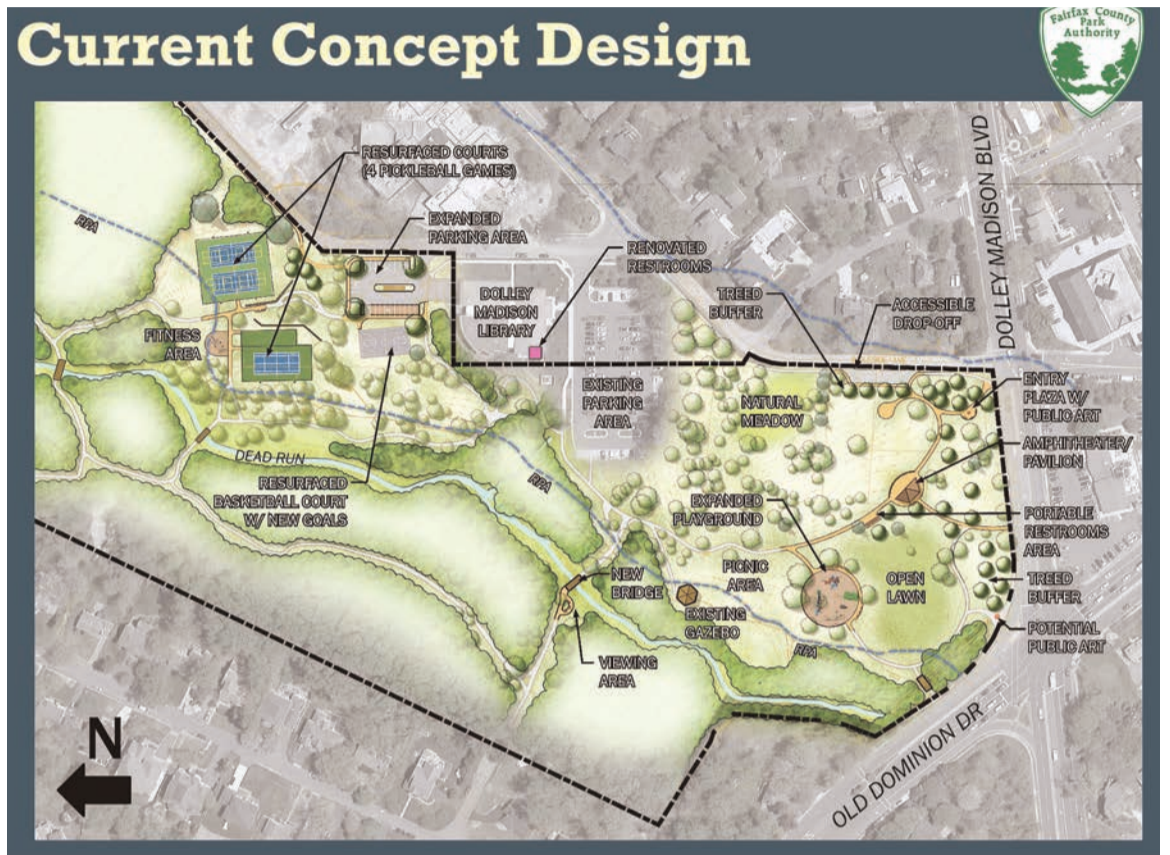
"Lyft is dedicated to providing access to reliable and responsible rides, and we're proud to partner with programs like WRAP to offer Lyft as an alternative to impaired driving," said Kamillah Wood, Director of Public Policy for Community Safety at Lyft. "Through our Roadway Safety Program and our partnerships with the public, we hope to empower our community with the tools to protect themselves and those around them this holiday season."

Sponsors of WRAP's 2022 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Amazon, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation of Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. WRAP's 2022 Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the Maryland Highway Safety Office/Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 81,645 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area

NEWS

McLean Central Park Development Concept Unveiled



Because there is flexibility for the Current Concept Design (2022) to differ slightly from the Approved Master Plan (2013), it does so.

Community response more favorable to amphitheater than opposed.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The planned construction start for the long-awaited upgrades and additions to McLean Central Park is Spring 2023. The consultant is finalizing the design in May. Public comments will be accepted until April 1, 2022, with review and any revisions happening the same month.

On Wednesday, March 2, the Fairfax County Park Authority held a virtual meeting with the public to review the McLean Central Park Development Concept Plan. “We hope to share with you our vision for the future of this park, based in large measure on the input we have received from park users during the master planning process and in previous public meetings,” said Judy Pedersen, public information officer for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The Park Authority’s project team presented and discussed the concepts and community input thus far. The floor was opened for public discussion and a question and answer session following the presentation. The phone-in system didn’t work, and Pedersen asked people to submit their comments through McLeanCentralPark@PublicInput.com.

“We in McLean love McLean Central Park, and we want to get this right. We worked hard in 2013 to develop a Plan that had a lot of support, but we didn’t have a lot of money at the time,” Dranesville District Supervisor John W. Foust (D). They brought the plan back

to the community in 2020, and although it is fundamentally the same, it is not exactly, according to Foust.

Presenter Adam Wynn, senior project manager and planner for the Fairfax County Park Authority, said that the park had money to begin concept design in 2019. Then, with the successful 2020 Park Bond Referendum, they received \$2.2 million to support the project construction.

“The (2013) Master Plan is very much a guide and decision-making tool for future development,” Wynn said. He listed the 2013 Master Plan facilities: an amphitheater, a drop-off zone, fitness equipment, a picnic area, bocce court, game tables, and seating spaces.

“But there is flexibility for the Development Concept (2022) to differ slightly from the Master Plan (2013),” Wynn said. He added that the Master Plan is used to establish the long-term vision for how the park will be used in the future and as a tool for making decisions on everything from planning and design to construction, resource management, and programming.

The Park Authority reportedly received almost 500 comments for the May 2021 Public Meeting. It became apparent that the community’s sentiment and stakeholders remained solid in most areas compared to 2013 but varied slightly in a few places, such as bocce ball.

Wynn said that “an overarching theme” became apparent recently. Residents and stakeholders wish to see current park amenities and green space protected and developed. As for which features gath-



Fairfax County staff presents and assists at the Wednesday, March 2, meeting with the public to review the McLean Central Park Development Concept Plan.

ered community support, the amphitheater did, the playground and court improvements.

According to Wynn, more people favored the amphitheater than opposed. The need for a facility that could offer educational, social, and recreational facilities for the local community beyond what the existing gazebo could allow was one of the grounds for support. It would also be an option for sites where large indoor gatherings are not allowed or advised owing to health concerns such as COVID.

Reasons cited for opposition included adjacent comparable

venues, possible environmental effects, maintenance problems, extra traffic in the park, visual and auditory impacts, and the necessity for restrooms where none currently existed.

“We clearly heard that the courts were well used, and none of them should be removed,” Wynn said. Many people expressed a desire to have the tennis courts improved and upgraded. This included the basketball courts and the tennis and pickleball courts.

Wynn said many people expressed a desire to have the playgrounds renovated and consolidat-

ed so that children of all ages and abilities could be accommodated in one central place.

There was a mixed reaction to the fitness area, with some worried that the equipment might not be used. By 2021, unlike 2013, the bocce ball and game tables drew little attention. Finally, Wynn said that many people believed that including public art was critical.

Looking at the concept for the new amphitheater, it became smaller, and the site shifted slightly. The amphitheater is planned to be placed in a location that re-

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 6

Inherently Divisive Concepts

DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

Governor Glenn Youngkin started "day one" of his term by issuing Executive Order Number One within minutes of his inauguration, "Ending the use of inherently divisive concepts, including Critical Race Theory, and restoring excellence in K-12 public education in the Commonwealth." With my graduate degree in education and 30 years of experience as a teacher and administrator, I have been anxiously waiting to learn more about "inherently divisive concepts" and "Critical Race Theory" and how it would affect education policy in the new administration. Last week my questions were answered in part when the Governor released the "Superintendent of Public Instruction's Interim Report on Inherently Divisive Policies, Programs, Training and Curricula." I do not find the answer to be satisfactory for public schools that must educate all children.

The State Superintendent defines "inherently divisive concepts" as advancing any ideas in vi-



olation of Title IV and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that codified the principles of equal protection and nondiscrimination found in the 14th Amendment. There is a convoluted logic in the State Superintendent's report that suggests that laws that were passed to eliminate discrimination can be used to justify discrimination. Providing early intervention

and remediation for children with special needs would be considered unlawful discrimination under the report's definition.

For example the report recommends rescinding the Department of Education's Culturally Responsive Website with an explanation that it "generally promotes academic equity of outcomes versus equity of opportunities for all learners." The report sounds like the responsibility of government as viewed by the writer is to offer opportunity, but without a responsibility to ensure that all can achieve.

In the recommendation to rescind the Navigating EdEquityVA website, the explanation is that it contains "Resources that permit and

advance policies, programs, and activities that promote equitable outcomes for students versus opportunities." Once again, the report seems to suggest that the obligation of government is to offer opportunities without a responsibility to see that all students can achieve under it. The elimination of these two websites that provide resources for teachers is the electronic equivalent of book burning.

A shocker for me is the recommendation that the Virginia Mathematics Pathways Initiative be rescinded. The program was designed to give more students access to higher math, and it is unclear why it is being rescinded. It looks like anything that deviates from schooling of the 1950s is likely to be sacked in the new administration.

I encourage anyone concerned that I might be too harsh in my criticism of the report to review it for yourself at https://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/interim-30-day-report-on-inherently-divisive-concepts.pdf and let me know your reaction at kenplum@aol.com. You can also let the Governor know your reaction to the report at his tip line helpeducation@governor.virginia.gov.

Last Marijuana Reform Bill of Virginia's Legislative Session Dies in Committee

SB 745 would have ensured automatic resentencing hearings for current felony marijuana convicts.

Yesterday, the Virginia House of Delegates Appropriations Committee voted to kill Sen. Scott Surovell's bill to grant resentencing hearings for individuals incarcerated for marijuana distribution and parole hearings for individuals serving sentences enhanced by prior marijuana-related convictions on a party-line vote. The bill, SB 745, was the last marijuana-related bill of the legislative session awaiting committee action.

"Yesterday, the House appropriations committee decided to kill a bill with bipartisan support which would have ensured the punishment fit the crime for past felony marijuana convictions," Surovell said. "The attitude of the majority of Virginians towards marijuana use has changed dramatically since many of these individuals were originally sentenced, and to refuse to acknowledge the draconian nature of these sentences is an injustice."

Gracie Burger, State Policy Director for The Last Prisoner

Project and an early partner on the bill, said the following: "SB 745 by Sens. Surovell and Lucas provided an urgently-needed solution to the problem of cannabis prisoners left behind bars since the Commonwealth legalized adult-use marijuana last year. Public interest has shifted on the criminalization of cannabis and we must provide a pathway for that shifted position to be reflected in the punishments our state continues to uphold. Virginians sentenced under outdated laws deserve the opportunity to have their sentence reconsidered, as a matter of both fairness and fiscal responsibility, and SB 745 would have provided that opportunity. Continuing incarceration for these individuals is a waste of limited public safety resources that should be prioritized elsewhere".

Sen. Louise Lucas served as the bill's Chief Co-Patron. The legislation also received support from Justice Forward Virginia and the ACLU of Virginia.

Passed Senate (22-Y 18-N) on Feb. 15; in the House, failed to report (defeated) in Appropriations (10-Y 12-N).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Built-in Fan Base for Speed

To the editor:

There is a lot of discussion around the Commanders stadium being in Northern Virginia. I propose that we bring it to Great Falls - but not for the football. You may not have heard, but NASCAR built a track and raced in the L.A. Coliseum this year. It was a huge event. Besides the additional business for the area, the driving I have observed during my commute to

school leads me to believe that we have a built-in local fan base who likes fast driving. The closest tracks are almost 100 miles away in Richmond and Dover. If the Clash at the coliseum was so good for the people in L.A. then it might just work in Northern Virginia. It would also create a venue for weekday race commuters to prove their skills on the track!

Thomas Gillis, age 14
Cooper Middle School
8th grade

Let Us Know Your View

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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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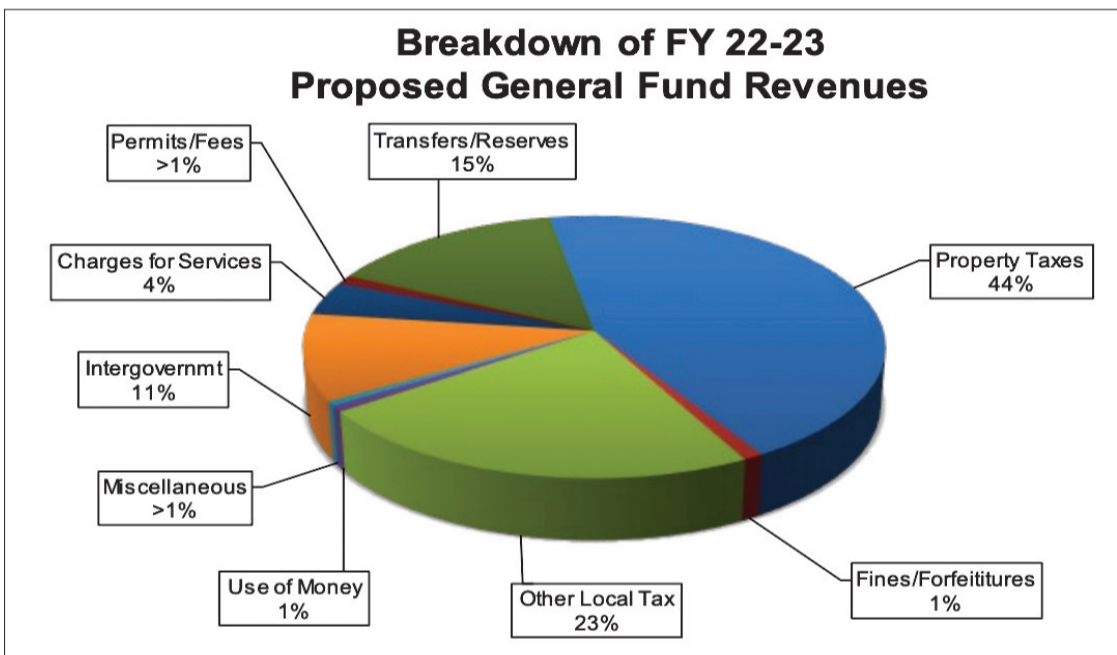
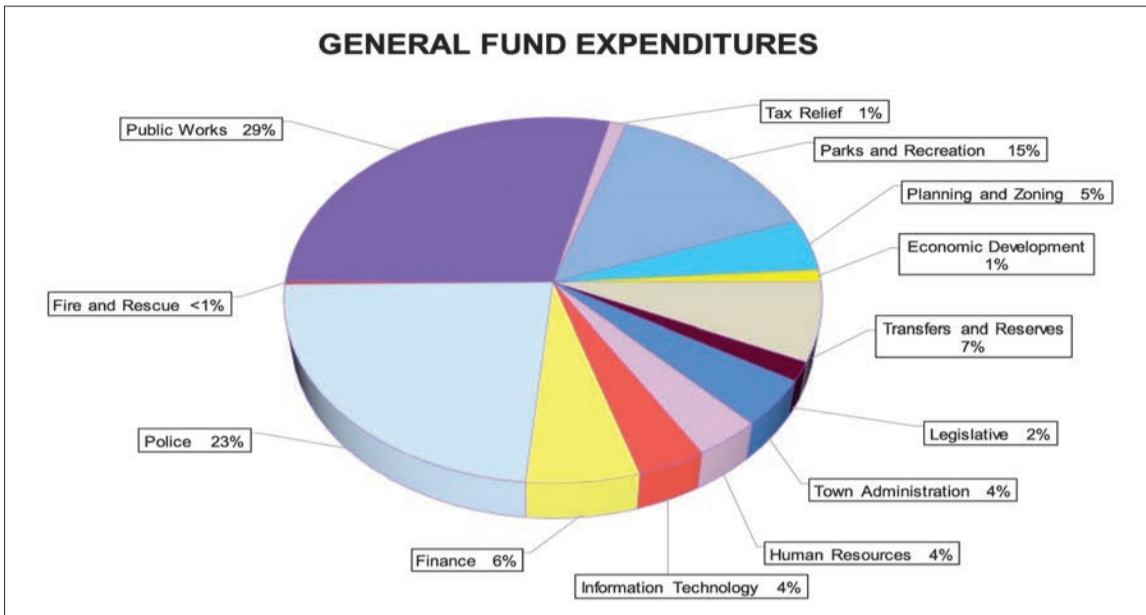
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CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com





SOURCE: WWW.VIENNAVA.GOV/your-government/town-budget

Town of Vienna Budget Deliberations

Beginning Saturday, March 12, the Vienna Town Council will begin deliberating the Town's FY2023 proposed budget. The proposed \$48.7 million balanced budget reduces the Town's property tax rate by one cent from .2225 cents to .2125 cents per \$100 of assessed value. It also funds compensation increases for eligible employees, adds no new programs, and addresses inflationary increases in operating costs mainly through tax revenue increases related to assessed value of new construction.

"This proposed budget is based, in part, on recommendations from the staff budget committee, said Vienna Town Manager Mercury Payton. "The result is a legally balanced proposed budget that reflects general consensus from a variety of operational perspectives."

The after-effects of the pandemic include a 40-year-high inflation rate as of January 2022. The proposed FY23 budget addresses this by using some of the prior year surplus to fund a salary increase for all eligible employees, and by

adopting a separate step-based pay system for sworn public safety staff addressing specific wage and hiring pressures in that sector. Eligible employees will receive a total increase based on three percent deferred from fiscal year 2021-22 funded from the surplus and four percent for fiscal year 2022-23.

"Health insurance premiums will increase by 11.7 percent for most employees, and the salary increase is important to cover those increases and address inflation, wage pressure and employee retention concerns," Payton said.

The Town Council will hold two conference sessions, and a third, if necessary, to review the proposed budget and make any revisions in its discretion. Conference sessions are open to the public, although no public comment is permitted. The public will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the final plan during a public hearing. The proposed budget is available for review online: www.viennava.gov/your-government/town-budget

<https://www.viennava.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/3998>

ment/3998

The FY23 budget process schedule is as follows:

March 12, Town Council Budget Conference Session 1, starts at 9 a.m.

Budget Conference Session #2
Monday, March 14, 7:30 p.m. Vienna Town Hall

Proposed Budget, Tax Rate, Water & Sewer Rates Advertised
Thursday, March 24

Public Hearing – Proposed Budget and Water & Sewer Rates
Monday, April 11, 8 p.m. Vienna Town Hall

Budget Conference Session #3 (If needed)
Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m. Vienna Town Hall

Public Hearing – Proposed Tax Rate
Monday, April 25, 8 p.m. Vienna Town Hall

Adoption of Budget, Tax Rate and Water & Sewer Rate
Monday, May 16, 8 p.m. Vienna Town Hall



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Fill Us In!

In-Person Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2024 Programs

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

The governing board and staff of the McLean Community Center seek **input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at a Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2024 (which runs July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024).

This is an opportunity for residents to suggest class offerings, community events, theater programs, art exhibits, youth events and teen activities that are meaningful to the community.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You may also submit comments to holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov.



McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

Community Response More Favorable To Amphitheater Than Opposed

FROM PAGE 3

quires minimal grading. It is further from surrounding dwellings and the intersection. As a result, few trees need to be removed, and environmental disruption kept to a minimum. The amphitheater will function as a pavilion for general community usage and double as a performance venue.

The amphitheater's drop-off and parking area were modified so that it could be a pull-off type for Mapleside Avenue, reducing the number of trees affected. The previously intended drop-off location can be transitioned into a controlled meadow.

All sports courts will be resurfaced, and pickleball courts will be upgraded to the Park Authority's current norm of two pickleball games per tennis court. New backboards will be installed on the basketball courts. If there is enough money left over in the budget, the lights on the basketball courts may be updated. The park's total number of pickleball courts would increase to four.

The area near the tennis courts where the school-aged children's playground is located will be converted into a fitness area. The existing tot lot on the opposite side of the park will be extended to accommodate new play equipment for children of all ages. The current budget can accommodate new school-age equipment because the previous equipment was reaching the end of its useful life. However, alternative funds must be sought to

replace existing and newer toddler equipment.

FCCA has an agreement with the McLean Library for full use of a restroom with exterior doors on the side of the building. This restroom will be refurbished and made available to park visitors all year.

The lack of bathrooms was a worry for future concerts, festivals, or parks. The plan also included a porta john location near the amphitheater pavilion for occasions such as the Arts Festival and other events.

Other enhancements include bridge repair, new pathways and resurfacing broken trail sections, new site furnishings, natural landscaping, and invasive plant control.

McLean Central Park is located at 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. It is a 28-acre public park adjacent to the McLean Community Center and Dolley Madison Library. The park contains a variety of natural spaces and active recreation areas, including tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds, and trails to serve the community. The proposed facilities and improvements in the revised 2022 Concept Plan are responsive to the feedback received from the public and stakeholder groups. Comments regarding the revised concept plan will be accepted until April 1, 2022 and can be sent to McLeanCentralPark@PublicInput.com.

Highlights of the Q & A Via the Online Chat

Q: What about a scheduling system for the tennis courts?

A: We can talk to Park Services.

Q: Is there any consideration to having a beach area at the creek for younger children?

A: I would just tell you that park rules actually prohibit people from entering the waterways. So, I don't believe that we would consider encouraging that activity.

Q: Any possibility of adding more tennis courts in Mclean Central Park?

A: The Master Plan doesn't show that, and additionally, there really isn't any room in that area when you look at the grading.

Q: What is the capacity of the amphitheater?

A: It depends on what the amphitheater/pavilion is used for. But if it was for performance, it would be roughly the size of what is used by the existing gazebo plus a little additional more. But we don't have a specific number until we hire a consultant, but it would be in that general range.

Q: Are there any plans to include a sidewalk along the perimeter of the park along 123 and Old Dominion and from neighborhoods nearby so that the local community can walk to this newly refurbished park safely to enjoy it?

A: I know for this project that's outside of our scope of what we can work on.

SCREENSHOTS

Amphitheater Precedents



Playground Precedents



Fitness Precedents



Precedents for consideration as ideas for possible designs for use at McLean Central Park.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) presents his bill creating a marijuana marketplace to a House subcommittee earlier this week.

Up in Smoke

Black market to remain underground for now as lawmakers reject licensing scheme.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Virginia's black market for marijuana will remain underground for now. Earlier this week, a House subcommittee rejected a bill introduced by Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) that would have created a way for the newly created Cannabis Control Authority to issue licenses to sell recreational weed.

"I'm very disappointed," said Ebbin shortly after the vote. "Years of work on establishing a regulated adult use market for cannabis has been dispatched by the House Republican majority without giving it thoughtful consideration."

Republicans started the session saying that ending the stranglehold on the black market was a priority. But the effort stalled when the GOP caucus was divided on the issue. Several House Republicans offered their version of what a marketplace could look like, but none of those bills passed. Now the delay will offer all of the many businesses wanting to do business in Virginia an opportunity to make campaign contributions in an election cycle where all 140 members of the General Assembly will be on the ballot.

"We have folks who are still trying to grapple with the differences between CBD, the terms hemp,

cannabis, delta 8, delta 9," said Del. Emily Brewer (R-64), chairwoman of the subcommittee that killed the bill. "There's a lot of confusion. So I really truly think for us to get to a regulated market, all the stakeholders need to get together."

Ebbin says the stakeholders are together, and he dismisses the idea that lawmakers are confused about a topic they've been debating for years.

"It's hard to read their minds, but I'd say they're unprepared to govern in this area and afraid of their base," said Ebbin. "I think they're afraid of cannabis, which the General Assembly has already made a public policy decision to legalize. And they didn't do their homework."

SOCIAL EQUITY LICENSES became one of the major flashpoints during the debate as Republicans pushed back on the idea that people convicted of misdemeanor crimes should get first dibs on getting a license to sell marijuana. Ebbin's bill also had preferential licenses for family members of people convicted of marijuana misdemeanors. Republicans campaigned against social equity licenses last year during the campaign, and now they feel they have a mandate to reject them.

"I'm opposed to taxpayer-funded money going to criminals to start businesses because they broke the

law," said Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) on the campaign trail last year.

Republicans were also opposed to the idea that jurisdictions have been disproportionately policed. The Ebbin bill created a process for the Cannabis Control Authority to use Census data to determine which jurisdictions experienced disproportionate arrests and convictions during the failed war on drugs. Del. Michael Webert (R-18) introduced a bill that would have ditched this approach.

"You can have some wealthy areas that have been targeted by a cocaine bust," said Webert.

HELPING ECONOMICALLY disadvantaged areas emerged as a rare point of agreement during the debate. Ebbin's bill included language directing the board of directors of the Cannabis Control Authority to use Census tract data to identify areas that are "economically distressed." Republicans were also hoping to add preferential licenses for women- and minority-owned businesses.

"I don't think Republicans necessarily hate the idea of equity licenses," said Del. Paul Krizek (D-44). "Maybe they hate the word equity. I mean it seems like it's a verboten word these days. But they want to do the same thing that we want to do, and that's right the wrongs of the past."



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PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

The Old Firehouse



**5th & 6th Grader Party
St. Patty's Party**
Friday, March 11, 7-9:30 p.m.
\$35/\$25 OFC Members.
Preregistration recommended.

Presented by The Alden



2022 Spring Youth Production
Sat. and Sun., March 12-13, 2 p.m.
Free; registration required.

Presented by The Alden



Unruly Theatre Project Improv Show (Virtual)
Wednesday, March 16, 7 p.m.
Free; registration required.

MCC Governing Board



Public Hearing for FY2024 Programs + Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 23, 6:30 p.m.
Open to all.

The Old Firehouse



Dinner & Movie
Friday, March 25, 3:30-10 p.m.
\$50/\$40 OFC members.

Presented by The Alden



**Sponsored by The Alden
The Judy Carmichael Trio**
Sunday, March 27, 2 p.m.
\$25/\$15 MCC district residents

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www.mcleancenter.org

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Nikki Watts holds up an insulated jacket, one of over 30 coats and jackets, and other cold-weather gear donated to Share of McLean for community neighbors in need by the Eddie Bauer clothing store Tysons.

Warm Winter Coats Shared with McLean Neighbors Who Have Less

Share of McLean receives donations from local retailer.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Winter is not done with us yet, and a local business and others are helping to keep McLean neighbors warm. Share Inc. of McLean has traditionally received donated coats from local businesses and shops. Some companies have given once, while others have given annually. Traditionally, the Eddie Bauer store in Tysons Corner provides jackets through their "One Warm Coat" drive. Following the drive's success this year, SHARE was notified that the Eddie Bauer store had additional outerwear, primarily coats and jackets, to donate, according to Catherine M. DelPrete of Share Inc.

Volunteers from the charity group collected four large bags containing over 30 new

and like-new insulated Sherpa lined jackets, down vests, long coats, other items, and plush fleece-lined leggings, hats, and shirts. According to DelPrete, most of the coats are adult sizes, although there are some youth coats too. "We are grateful for the generosity of Eddie Bauer and the other local businesses who host these winter coat drives," DelPrete said. "This is a heart-warming example of national retailers using their resources to directly help the local community."

The Share of McLean Food Pantry and Clothing Room is located at the McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. It is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Share, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit run by volunteers. Founded in 1969, it provides non-discriminatory help to community neighbors in need. It presently requires over 1000 volunteer hours each month to administer the program, and it is always looking for more. SHARE reports that they provided services to about 1,500 families last year, including 4,000 household members, most of whom are children.



The Share of McLean Food Pantry and Clothing Room is located at the McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. It is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU MARCH 13

"The Phlebotomist." Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tysons. Tickets can be purchased online at www.1st-stage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

NOW THRU MARCH 13

"Every Brilliant Thing." At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Guided by an unnamed narrator, the audience is drawn into the story of a young boy who tries to cure his mother's depression by creating a list of all the most wonderful things in the world. At times humorous and at others gut-wrenching, this extraordinary, interactive play brings the actor and audience along together on a unique journey of shared discovery and catharsis. Visit www.NextStopTheatre.org.

NOW THRU MARCH 30

Fiber Optics. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At McLean Textile Gallery, 6819 Elm Street, McLean. Philadelphia printmaker Fay Stanford will show her fabulist banners. Stanford creates wry fairy tales about suburban family life – especially death, disease and aging. Visit the website: mcleantextilegallery.org.

MARCH 1 TO APRIL 30

The Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park invite the public to participate in its 2022 photo contest. Help celebrate all that is special about the farm with the second "Focus on the Farm" fundraiser. Open to photographers of all ages and abilities, capture the beauty and farm life at Frying Pan Farm Park. The categories include nature, landscape and scenery, and farm animals. Photos must be taken, and entries submitted between March 1 and April 30, 2022. You can enter up to 10 photos. The fee is \$7 per entry for adults, and \$5 per entry for children up to age 16. The fees will directly support the park and care and feeding of the animals at the farm. Go to the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park website for detailed instructions and submission information; or email the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park at friends@fryingpanpark.org. Frying Pan Park is located at 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Call 703-437-9101.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Party. 7-9:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Old Firehouse 5th and 6th Grader Parties are themed and decorated accordingly. Free catered food and beverages will be distributed to participants. Parties feature a DJ, an open dance floor and a variety of activities. Preregistration is recommended. Parents who wish to volunteer for parties must submit an email request to Aaron Greene at oldfirehouse@mcleancenter.org. Website: <https://mcleancenter.org/calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2022/03/11/12985/-/st-patty-s-party>

MARCH 11-13

"Fiddler on the Roof." Fridays at 8 www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



IONA will be featured at the Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls on Sunday, March 13, 2022.

p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. Director Bartlett Sher brings his fresh take on a beloved masterpiece to life as "Fiddler on the Roof" begins a North American tour direct from Broadway. A wonderful cast and a lavish orchestra tell this heartwarming story of fathers and daughters, husbands and wives, and the timeless traditions that define faith and family. Visit the website: capitalonehall.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Model Train Open House. 1-5 p.m. At Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna. Stop by the Historic Vienna Train Station where you can see and hear HO scale model trolleys and trains including Thomas and some of his friends on display and in operation. Great family fun and activity for the young and young-at-heart. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders. See www.nvmr.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Irish Dance Performance. 3-4 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Enjoy a performance by the renowned young dancers of Foley Academy of Irish Dance in celebration of the St. Patrick's Day season. No registration necessary.

MARCH 12, 13, AND 19, 20

Dionysian Play Festival. At Traveling Players Studio, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, in Tysons Corner. Ariadne's Thread – 11 a.m.; The Odyssey – 3 p.m. and Hecuba – 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now available for Traveling Players' Dionysian Play Festival, which runs weekends March 12-20 at their Studio in Tysons Corner Center. Performed by Traveling Players' students, the festival will travel back in time to the beginning of Western Theatre, in ancient

Greece, with three modern twists on classic myths.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Family Orchestra Concert. 4-5:30 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colt's Neck Road, Reston. The spring program during which the RCO traditionally spotlights talented youth from our area, is loosely modeled after a popular radio game show. The soloist, 18-year-old violinist George Pekarsky, and the orchestra will perform the music without divulging titles, so you can say, "Wait! Don't Tell Me!" Cost: \$25 adults, \$18 seniors (60+), Free, youth, military, first responders. Visit the website: www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring IONA: pan Celtic peregrinations from Asturias to Appalachia, with fiddle, vocals in all the Celtic tongues, flute, bouzouki, bass. Visit www.IonaMusic.com.

MONDAY/MARCH 14

Pi Day. 3:14 to 5 p.m. At Historic Sully Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, in Chantilly. Real pie may not go on forever, but it does have a very long history as a classic food made at Sully in the 1800s. Visit the 1794 kitchen and see an interpreter bake a traditional recipe over an open-hearth fire and sample a piece as you learn about this historically delicious food. The program cost is \$3.14. Call 703-437-1794; or visit Sully Historic Site.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 16

Unruly Theatre Project Improv Show. 7 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. The area's hottest professional teen im-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

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2022 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION



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3/30/2022.....Spring Family Fun

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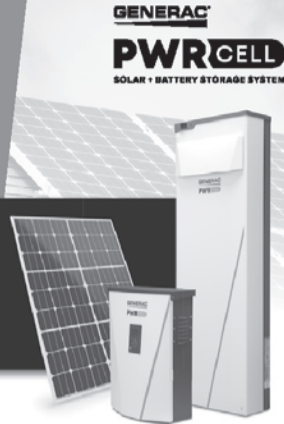
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

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prov troupe brings you a hilarious night of comedy. Come help spread some joy while being wildly entertained by these young performers.

MARCH 18-20
Super Pet Expo. At Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Dogs, cats, Champion Trainer, hermit crabs and reptiles will highlight this show. Friday, March 18 - 3-8 p.m.; Saturday, March 19 - 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, March 20 - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission: Adults \$15; Children aged 4-12; \$10, age 3 and under, free tickets: www.superpetexpo.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19
Annual Kids' Trout Fishing Derby. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Behind Herndon Police Station, 397 Herndon Parkway at the Sugarland Run Trail Stream, Herndon. Join this annual tradition at Sugarland Run Trail behind the Herndon Police Station, where the stream will be stocked with Rainbow Trout just for this event. Limited fishing poles and bait will be available for use. Trout Unlimited will be on site to help clean and store your catch. Teens and adults, age 16 & up, must have a valid Virginia State Fishing License to fish if they wish to fish after the event (12:00 p.m.). Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation or call 703-787-7300.

MAY 21-22
Girls on the Run Spring Registration. GOTR NOVA will be offering an in-person, 10-week curriculum for the Spring 2022 season. Two in-person 5Ks presented by Cigna will be held on May 21st and 22nd in Sterling and Ballston, respectively. Teams will continue to be school and community-based to further our outreach efforts in being accessible to every girl across Northern Virginia. Currently, 105 teams throughout Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William are open for Spring 2022 registration through March 1, 2022. For more information about spring registration and sites for Girls on the Run of NOVA, visit www.gotrnova.org.

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.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13
Going Green - Sustainable Swaps. 1-2:30 p.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Single-use plastics and papers are pervasive in every aspect of our modern life from zip bags to paper towels. So much time, energy, money, and resources goes into creating something that is destined for the landfill. What a waste! Join them as they take a deeper look at what we throw away and learn simple ways to minimize your individual impact. Cost is \$9.

YOUTH POLLINATOR GARDEN GRANTS
As part of the Great Falls Garden Club's 80th Anniversary Celebra-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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NEWS

New Deputy County Executive for Safety and Security Named

Board of Supervisors appoints former Fire and Rescue Department's assistant chief.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION



SCREENSHOT
Thomas G. Arnold

Thomas G. Arnold is the new Deputy County Executive for Safety and Security overseeing the Police and Fire & Rescue departments, Department of Emergency Management and Security, Department of Public Safety Communications, and the Department of Animal Sheltering.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appointed Arnold as Deputy County Executive for Safety and Security at its meeting on Feb. 22, 2022.

"I'm excited about the opportunities that lay ahead as public safety continues to evolve," Arnold said. "I will be focused on exploring ways to further integrate safety and security across all aspects of our work as a county and I look forward to a close, collaborative relationship with the community."

Until last week, Arnold was the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's (FRD) assistant fire chief since 2020. Arnold will replace David Rohrer who recently retired after 41 years with Fairfax County. Rohrer served as Fairfax County Chief of Police for eight years.

Successful programs like Diversion First, with partnerships at their foundation, are a model for what I hope we can accomplish. I will also be placing an emphasis on reducing risk in the community, to help prevent emergencies and the need for emergency services. With direction from the County-wide Strategic Plan, equity at the center of our decisions, and the solid strategic work already being done in public safety and security agencies, we will continue to provide the highest quality public safety service to our community.

Arnold will oversee the Police Department,

the Fire and Rescue Department, the Department of Emergency Management and Security, the Department of Public Safety Communications and the Department of Animal Sheltering ... He will receive an annual salary of \$215,000, according to Fairfax County.

He worked as senior advisor to the chief and liaison to other county departments. Arnold supervised the Fiscal Services Division, Data Analytics Strategy Management Division, Information Technology Division, Public Information Office, Health and Wellness Section, and Planning Section of the FRD.

Arnold holds numerous certifications, never stopping learning. Three years ago, he was awarded the Executive Fire Officer designation from the National Fire Academy. The program reportedly "is intense and involves taking four graduate and upper-division-baccalaureate equivalent courses over a four-year period," according to a post on FRD's Facebook page. Additionally, Arnold has received several performance and accomplishment awards for his service. Arnold published papers on topics relating to fire and rescue.

Arnold began Fairfax County career 21 years ago as a firefighter in 2001. He advanced through the ranks to become a lieutenant, captain, battalion commander, and deputy chief. Arnold received a Master of Science in executive fire service leadership from Grand Canyon University. He holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Pennsylvania State University.

To further the idea of planting gardens for pollinators like birds, bees and butterflies, the Garden Club hopes to encourage the idea of creating these kinds of gardens by offering a \$150 Grant to a Great Falls youth between the ages of 9-14 to create their own Pollinator Garden.

All interested individuals can find information about the Grant by visiting the Great Falls Library where there is a display with lots of helpful resources. In addition, the Grant Application and additional information can be found on the Club's website: www.gfgardenclub.org.

The Grant Application must be completed by April 15, 2022.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

tion, the Garden Club is sponsoring a \$150 Youth Pollinator Garden Grant to be awarded to a child ages 9-14 who lives in the 22066 Zip Code.

Currently the Great Falls Garden Club maintains two garden sites at the Great Falls Library and one garden, The Blue Star Memorial Garden, at the Village Center in Great Falls. One garden at the library lines the walkway along the library's path and the other is the Meadow visible from Georgetown Pike. Beyond their aesthetics, the gardens serve to attract many pollinators when in bloom.

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Now We Wait



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Which in this column's context implies news of consequence, and semi unexpectedly at that? Although in the cancer-patient world it's all consequential, until it's not. Still, I didn't anticipate, given what little I know about medical diagnostic procedures/tests, that the upper endoscopy I had on Thursday might involve a post-procedure 'wait.' I figured the little scope they slithered down my throat would determine definitively why I've had difficulty swallowing food these last few months. And it sort of did, however ...

As I learned from the gastroenterologist while lying on a gurney in recovery, she took two tissue samples to be biopsied. Though she had good news in that there were no blockages, tumors, or problems with my esophagus - opening or closing, nevertheless; she did feel the need to retrieve some tissue for a pathologist to exam more scientifically. I was told those results would be back in five to seven days. Ergo, the title of this column.

Let me be clear, in and of itself, waiting is not the problem. As a cancer patient, I'm always waiting - for something. And unless one integrates/assimilates that into their method of operation/process of elimination, the anxiety and stress of it will make Kenny a very dull boy - for which I need no provocation, according to my wife, Dina. No, the problem here is that I'm waiting when I didn't think I'd be waiting. I figured, incorrectly, that after the scoping was complete, the analysis/diagnosis would be complete. As Linda Ronstadt sang: "Poor, Poor Pitiful Me." It appears, considering the lack of evidence from the procedure to explain away my swallowing difficulties, there are now two more diagnostic procedures scheduled, neither of which sound very pleasant, to find an answer.

Here I thought as Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) thought in "Godfather: Part 3: "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in," that every malady/medical situation afflicting me might not have a cancer risk, I was a bit surprised to learn that as a cancer patient, it all matters, it all could be related, and I'll never be out of the woods, even if I can see the forest save for the trees. I'm sort of disappointed in myself thinking that any medical procedure that I have is somehow (A) not complicated by the fact that I have cancer, and (B) very possibly, directly/indirectly related to my pre-existing cancer diagnosis. Either it's a cause or an effect. On the face of it, this is no way to live. On the other hand, it's a miracle I'm still alive and I'm thankful and grateful every day that I am.

So, what's a little waiting? It's all I've ever done since Jan. 1st, 2009 when I first went to the Emergency Room with symptoms. I should have remembered the mantra bedeviling all cancer patients since time immemorial: it's always something.

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



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Chesterbrook, Longfellow & McLean schools!



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SOLD!

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