

Thousands Return to McLean Day

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Samantha Freed, 4, of McLean with her dad, Mike.

Biking to Work from Around the DMV

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New Superintendent Q&A

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10

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NEWS



Petting Zoo — Ava of McLean gives the bunny a one-finger pet.



Valentina Tucker, 3, of McLean, takes a flag from Jerry Friedlander, member of American Legion Post 270 in McLean.



Kids' Way- carousel

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

2022 McLean Day Promised Fun, and It Delivered

Festival returns in all its glory.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

One hundred and seven years after the 1915 premiere of McLean Day, approximately 10,000 people visited Lewinsville Park on Saturday, May 21, for the return of the annual festival, according to a Fairfax County spokesperson for the McLean Community Center.

McLean Community Center presented the event after two years of cancellations and alterations due to COVID-19.

"I think it is amazing we can bring the community together despite the pandemic winding down and taking the last few years away from us," said Daniel Phoenix Singh, executive director of MCC. "We are excited to have it back."

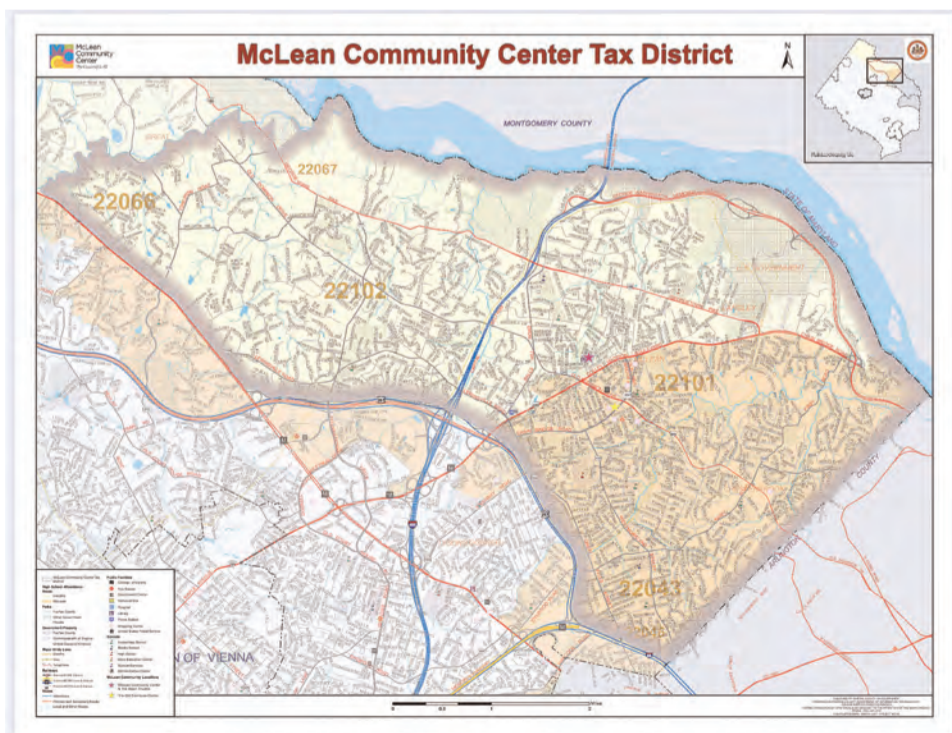
Families and individuals seeking a day of summer fun despite the heat and humidity enjoyed the ticketed carnival rides and smaller rides for young children, food trucks and vendors, free entertainment, and performances, including those by The Alden's professional teen improv group, Unruly Theatre Project, McLean High School Chorus, and G'NASH, a McLean high school student rock band.

The McLean Citizens Association honored nine local high school students in its 24th annual award ceremony at McLean Day. According to MCA's news release, Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust (D), Elaine Tholen, Dranesville District School Board Member, and Scott Spitzer, McLean Citizens Association President, would present

SEE 2022 McLEAN DAY, PAGE 6



Candidates Row



McLean Community Center Tax District
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Election Results

This year's MCC Governing Board in-person election was held from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the McLean Day festival, with twelve Dranesville Small District 1A residents running for seats. Nine adult candidates contended for three adult seats, and three youth candidates sought two seats. Only residents of Dranesville Small District 1A could vote in the election.

The McLean Community Center announced online early Sunday morning, May 22, the 2022-2023 Governing Board Preliminary Election Results, May 21, 2022.

Adults: Kristina Groennings-1531, Anna Bartosiewicz-1,403, Ari Ghasemian-1,400

Youth representing Langley High School boundary area: Charlotte Loving, 69

McLean Community Center The Center of It All		2022-2023 Governing Board PRELIMINARY ELECTION RESULTS May 21, 2022
Announcing preliminary results: newly elected Board members!		
ADULTS		
	Total votes:	
Kristina Groennings	1,531	
Anna Bartosiewicz	1,403	
Ari Ghasemian	1,400	
YOUTH		
Representing Langley High School boundary area:		
Charlotte Loving	69	
YOUTH		
Representing McLean High School boundary area:		
Sarah Tran	62	

Youth representing McLean High School boundary area: Sarah Tran, 62.



PHOTO COURTESY NOVA PARKS

President of the Korean American Cultural Committee, Jeung Hwa Elmejrad-Yi (right) is joined for the ceremonial ringing of the Peace Bell by NOVA Parks board chair Cate Magennis Wyatt and executive director Paul Gilbert



PHOTO COURTESY NOVA PARKS

Folk dance performed by Di Dim See dancer in traditional Korean hanbok dresses at the 10th anniversary celebration of the Korean Bell Garden.

Korean Bell Garden Celebrates 10th Year

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Dignitaries and members of the Korean American community gathered at Vienna's Meadowlark Botanical Gardens on May 21st to celebrate the creation of the first Korean Bell Garden in the United States ten years ago. Since 2012, the garden, a place representing peace and harmony for all, provides a landmark signifying the roots and culture for the many Korean Americans who live in northern Virginia.

The extensive celebration program included traditional dance and music performances, Tae Kwon Do demonstration, traditional dress contest, games, and an opportunity to enjoy Korean foods. An endowment to maintain the garden was presented, and the formal program concluded with a symbolic ringing of the Peace Bell.

Located within the 95 acres of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, the formal Korean Bell Garden, with its bell tower, is a gem amid the park's display of ornamental and native plants. It is the only one of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. The pavilion was built in the traditional way of Korean craftsmen without use of nails or screws. All pieces fit together precisely in a technique that has been shown to withstand the destructive force of earthquakes in Asia. The tower contains the "Bell of Peace and Harmony" which stands nearing seven feet tall and weighs 6,000 pounds. Engraved with traditional symbols, it mirrors designs used in the Sil-la Dynasty, 57 BCE-935 AD. The bell garden



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

The crane, prominent on the Korean Peace Bell at Meadowlark Gardens, symbolizes harmony.

provides a cultural link for the area's Korean Americans, and owing to a partnership with the Republic of Korea, includes plant species typical in a Korean garden, for a natural plant ascetic which tends to a wilder aspect than other oriental gardens.

About 20 percent of the county's 1,150,309 residents identify as Asian. Ethnic Koreans make up 3.8 percent of the county's population, and Fairfax County is home to 60 percent of Virginia's ethnic Koreans.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

The beauty and tranquility of the Korean gardens has been open for all to enjoy since 2012 due to the generosity of many Korean Americans living in northern Virginia.

Call for Entries: MPAartfest 2022 Submissions Now Accepted

McLean Project for the Arts currently seeks submissions for the 16th Annual MPAartfest, a one-day juried fine art and craft show and sale featuring the work of more than 40 local and regional visual artists. This year's festival will take place on Sunday, October 2, 2022 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm in McLean Central Park. Artists retain 100 percent of in-park sales. MPAartfest 2022 is made possible with the help of the McLean Community Center, and our partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

WHAT: MPAartfest 2022 Call for Submissions
WHO: Artists from across the mid-Atlantic region are encouraged to apply
WHEN: Early Application Deadline – June 24, 2022 (\$275); Deadline for Submissions – July 25, 2022 (\$350)
Festival Date – Oct. 2, 2022



WHERE: McLean Central Park; 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd; McLean, VA
Accepted artists will also be featured on the MPAartfest website

HOW: <https://tinyurl.com/mpaartfest2022>

MORE INFORMATION: Contact Jennifer Lillis, Gallery Manager, at jlillis@mpaart.org with questions or for more information

Wrong-Way Fatal Crash On 495 Express Lanes

Virginia State Police is investigating a two-vehicle fatal crash in Fairfax County. The crash occurred at approximately 10:15 p.m. in the northbound lanes of I-495 near Exit 46 for Chain Bridge Road.

A Mazda was traveling south in the northbound lanes of I-495 when it struck head-on a Buick Encore. The impact of the crash caused the Buick to catch fire.

The male drivers of both vehicles died at the scene.

The driver of the Mazda, Kaan T. Karabekir, 28, of Bethesda, Md., died at the scene. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

The driver of the Buick, Patrick J.C. Mullins, 32, of Catlett, Va., was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected. He died at the scene.

A female passenger in the Buick was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital and then on to Washington Hospital Center for treatment of life-threatening injuries and burns sustained in the crash.

The crash remains under investigation.

McLean Police Reports

WEAPONS DISCHARGE: 7100 block of Lee Highway, 5/12/22, 5:46 a.m. After an argument, a man displayed a firearm and shot a round into the air. No injuries or property damage were reported.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY: 1900 block of Kidwell Drive, 5/12/22, 8:20 a.m. A man approached the victim in the park-

ing lot and displayed a knife. The victim ran away, and no property was taken. No injuries were reported.

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY: 8453 Tyco Road Suite F (Arabica Tobacco), 5/18/22, 10:39 p.m. A man forced entry into the building and was confronted by an employee. The man ran and nothing was taken.

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Shuttle buses transport people from satellite lots to the venue at Lewinsville Park.



Families photograph the map and community stage schedule.



Daniel Phoenix Singh, executive director of McLean Community Center



Public Safety-Private First Class (PFC) R. Tiburcio, Fairfax County Police Department keeps his eyes on the crowd.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



Tiny ballerinas on the Community Stage

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www.vahealthy.org/meningitis

2022 McLean Day Promised Fun, and It Delivered

FROM PAGE 3

the awards. This year's honorees are McLean High School students Max Blacksten, Caroline Klein, JoJo Philipps, and Sam Rakowski; Langley High School students Ivy Chen, Alexander Pomper, Kevin Lee, and Sean Lee; and Rishika Singh at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. "Teens who have, on their own and without compensation, helped out in their neighborhood or community are being recognized not only for themselves but as an example to others," stated the news release.

This year's MCC Governing Board in-person election was held from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the festival, with twelve Dranesville Small District 1A residents running for seats. Nine adult candidates contended for three adult seats, and three youth candidates sought two seats. Only residents of Dranesville Small District 1A could vote in the election. Absentee voting concluded on Wednesday, May 18. See sidebar for results.

McLean is represented on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors by Dranesville District Supervisor John W. Foust. "Events like McLean Day provide the community and local businesses a chance to come together and celebrate all that makes McLean such a terrific place to live," he said.



Samantha Freed, 4, of McLean with her dad, Mike.



Climbing Wall-Jakob Lee, 14, scales the rock wall. He came to McLean Day to try it.



Voting Tent: A voter residing in the McLean Community Tax District, Small District 1A-Dranesville, gets ready to cast his ballot in the McLean Community Center Governing Board of Elections held at the festival Saturday, May 21, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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CALENDAR

SATURDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER

The Reston Farmers Market (sponsored by the Fairfax Co. Park Authority) will take place at Lake Anne Village from 8 a.m.-noon. SNAP beneficiaries receive up to \$20 match. Visit <http://restonfarmersmarket.com/>

NOW UNTIL MAY 30

"Natural Habitats" Art Show. Open on weekends, 12 - 5 p.m. (also by appointment). See the beauty of nature in scenes of wildlife in their own locales in Sandra C Dovberg's newest paintings. Reston Art Gallery and Studios, located on Lake Anne Plaza by the lakeside "ART" sign, 11400 Washington Plaza West, Reston. Facebook @RAGSReston ; Instagram: @RestonArtGallery ; Web RestonArtGallery.com.

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Crafts for Kids. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Free, themed art projects for children (with guardian) are offered at Reston Art Gallery and Studios every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Visit the website: www.restonartgallery.com

MCLEAN FARMERS MARKET

The McLean Farmers Market opened for the 2022 season on Fridays at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The market will run every Friday from 8 a.m. to noon through Nov. 11. Local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; breads and pastries; prepared foods; meats; herbs; flowers, and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles of Fairfax County. Visit: <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/>

HERNDON FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays through Nov. 3, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 765 Lynn St., Herndon, VA, 20170 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon>

NOW THRU MAY 30

The Jurassic Encounter Dinosaur Walk Thru Experience. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Bull Run Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The Jurassic Encounter will transform the events center into a walk-through experience featuring more than 50 static and moving, life-like dinosaurs that both entertain and educate. Also enjoy Digging for Bones, the Dino Village, shopping, food, free photo-ops, games, bouncy house and more. Tickets start at \$19 per person (anyone two years and older will need a ticket). Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. Web: <http://feeltheroar.com>



The Herndon Carnival will take place June 2-5 in Herndon.

STARTING MAY 25

Princess Diana: Accredited Access Exhibition. At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. This exhibition features photos and never-before-heard stories of the People's Princess from her Official Royal Photographer, Anwar Hussein, and his sons, Samir and Zak, who are now Official Royal Photographers for the next generation of Royals. Tickets are available here: www.PrincessDianaExhibit.com/Washington.

SATURDAYS, STARTING MAY 28

Weekly Zumba Fitness. 12:30-1:30 p.m. Virtual. Come get in shape while having fun with Lan Le, a certified Zumba instructor! An invitation to attend this virtual event will be sent to registered participants 1-2 days before the event start time. Free. Email: adrienne.leo@fairfaxcounty.gov

SATURDAY/MAY 28

A Star-Spangled Salute. 6:30-8 p.m. At Reston Town Square Park, Market and Explorer Streets, Reston. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a free patriotic concert, featuring The Reston Chorale and Brass of the Potomac. Details at RestonChorale.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 28

"Sixteen Candles" Movie. 7:30 p.m. At The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway,

Centreville. Part of '80s movie night. Tickets \$20.

MAY 28-29

NVMR Train Station 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.

MAY 28-30

ViVa! Vienna!. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. At Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Voted Best Festival by Virginia Living magazine. Enjoy three days of amusement rides, carnival food and live entertainment. Those 21+ enjoy a separate but simultaneous beer garden at Backstage Brewfest. Visit the website: <https://vivavienna.org/>

SUNDAY/MAY 29

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. At the Village Centre Green, Great Falls. Featuring Diamond Alley - Dance/rock mixing contemporary and classic hits Hosted by Garai Orthodontic Specialists. Come relax at the Village Centre Green and enjoy laid-back

evenings of good music and good times with your neighbors.

MONDAY/MAY 30

Avenue of Flags. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon. Post 184 will present the Avenue of Flags. Post 184 will be holding a Memorial Day Ceremony at 10 a.m. at the Chestnut Grove Cemetery in the pine grove. The guest speaker will be Capt. J. O'Keefe, USCG. Town of Herndon Mayor Olem and Herndon Town Council members have been invited. The public is welcome to attend.

JUNE 2-5

Herndon Carnival. At Northwest Federal Credit Union, 200 Spring Street, Herndon. The Carnival will feature 22 rides, games, strolling entertainers, an assortment of food vendors, a Run Into Summer 5K Race (Sunday, June 5 at 7:30 a.m.), free shuttle bus service, and free admission. The Herndon Carnival is produced by the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department with assistance from local civic organizations and businesses. Northwest Federal Credit Union is proud to serve as the title sponsor for the 2022 Herndon Carnival. Event attendees can learn about all the Carnival at herndoncarnival.net. Register for the race at www.herndoncarnival.net/10k-5k-races.html.

STARTING THURSDAY, JUNE 2

RCC Take a Break Concerts. 7-8:30 p.m. At Reston Station, adjacent to Wiehle-Reston Metro Station, Reston. Reston Community Center will present their free Thursday evening summer concerts at Reston Station in summer 2022. Previously held on Lake Anne Plaza, these concerts offer a variety of musical styles with monthly "dance night" instruction on Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

JUNE 3-5

Tyson's Library Booksale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Bag sale on Sunday, June 5. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less. Visit the website: <https://booksalefinder.com/VA.html#X2291>

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Art Sale. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. Vale Club is having an Art Sale featuring original artwork by several local artists. All mediums and sizes. All proceeds benefit the preservation of the Historic Vale School House. Don't miss this special one day event. (Cash, Check and Credit Cards Accepted)

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.

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Join Cub Scouts. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Children in grades K-5 are welcome to join Great Falls Cub Scout Pack 55 for fun, adventure, life skills, camping and more. Visit the raingutter regatta and learn about our pack. Visit the website: <https://www.gfvscouts.com/>

VIENNA TOWN COUNCIL ADOPTS FY2023 BUDGET

At its regular meeting last week, the Vienna Town Council adopted the Town budget, real estate tax rate, and water and sewer rates for fiscal year 2023. The adopted budget:

- Reduces the property tax rate by 1.75 cents to 20.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value
- Funds compensation increases for eligible employees

- Provides a new pay structure for the police department to address challenges with officer recruitment and retention
- Addresses inflationary increases in operating costs, mainly through tax revenue increases related to assessed value of new construction
- Adds no new programs

The vote is the culmination of a two-month budget process involving several Council work sessions and public hearings. During the process, the Town Council asked finance staff to determine the lowest possible property tax rate to help mitigate the tax burden on property owners stemming from large increases in real estate assessments. Due to conservative budgeting, a strong business and state recovery from the pandemic and robust real estate development, the Town finance staff determined

that Vienna realized enough of a surplus last year to offset a larger tax rate reduction than the original 1 cent proposed reduction, and still maintain a rainy-day fund.

This is the tenth consecutive year there was either no change or a reduction in Vienna's property tax rate. The FY2023 Town Budget takes effect July 1, 2022. The adopted budget will be posted online at www.viennava.gov/your-government/town-budget.

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Memorial Service for Robert "Bob" Alden. The family of Robert "Bob" Ames Alden will hold a memorial service for McLean's community servant and MCC champion at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 1724 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean.

Bob was a regular fixture at MCC and

his namesake, The Alden Theatre, as he was among the community leaders who worked tirelessly to establish MCC, McLean Central Park and Dolley Madison Library, "the McLean Green" as he liked to call it.

Bob passed away in June, 2020, but due to the pandemic, a proper service could not be held until now.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA SPRING 2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia continues to offer educational, health and wellness and entertaining programming to our Senior Community. The programming includes Adventures In Learning, Active Wellness Classes, Great Discussions Book Club, Caregivers' Support Group and much more.

The Adventures In Learning program

began in April and repeats every Thursday for 8 weeks. There is ongoing AIL programming all year long. Topics this session include Health & Wellness, Arts & Entertainment & Travel as well as World Affairs Past & Present.

The Active Aging and Wellness Program is an Exercise Class to improve strength, balance and mobility for older adults. This class is held on Wednesdays (via Zoom) from 10:45-11:45 a.m. for eight week schedules. The cost is \$50/session and you can learn more about it and register on the website.

The Great Decisions Book Club is held the 3rd Friday of every month from February - November. Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. This program is designed by the Foreign Policy Association to bring people

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

Bike To Work Day, Month of May Tradition

An upbeat activity for an upbeat month heading into summer.

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The sun was out, no rain and the area's bicycle enthusiasts forged their way to work from all corners of the area, including Springfield where the pit stop at Metro Park ran short of t-shirts but not enthusiasm. For some reason, there weren't as many delivered, but the riders still got exercise, fresh air, water and comradery with fellow bicyclists at the pit stop. "We ran out of t-shirts around 7:30 a.m. But everyone that missed out on the t-shirts were good sports about it," said pit stop manager Jennifer Brown.

There were about 40 people at the Springfield Metro Park pit stop, which is right off Beulah Street and for those that work in Fort Belvoir, it's on the way. One rider came from Vienna to Fort Belvoir and a bunch of riders were on the way to other locations in the office park. The pit stop was right outside Kingstowne, a family friendly area, so a few families stopped in too.

"We also had several families come in together with their kids, often with one spouse then heading off to work on their bike," Brown said.

According to Ursula Sandstrom, Trail Ranger and Outreach Director at Washington Area Bicyclists Association, there were 14,000 registrants and nearly 100 pit stops throughout the region for this year's event. The pandemic put a damper on the ride in 2020 and 2021 but certain stops this year were still crowded, added Bruce Wright, president of the Fairfax Al-

liance for Better Bicycling. In particular, there were a lot of riders at the stop in Reston. "Compared to before Covid, the numbers were probably down a little but it was good to see so many people out on bikes," he said.

Bigger BTW Picture

This year was the 21st anniversary of the official Bike To Work Day as it is known, but the League of American Bicyclists began a Bike to Work Day as part of Bike Month in 1956. Over the years, Bike to Work Day has grown into a widespread event in an effort to get commuters to try bicycling to work as a healthy and safe alternative to driving alone. In the Metropolitan Washington region, Bike To Work Day has grown from a few hundred in 2001 to an all-time high of 18,700 participants in 2017. The event is sponsored by Commuter Connections and WABA.

Advantages of commuting by bike include cost, health, reliability and the environmental advantages. BTW officials cite the Clean Air Partners research data that each year cars and trucks travel more than 38 billion miles on the roads, accounting for 30-40% of the ozone-causing pollutants.

The pit stop in Vienna at Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



FABB's table in Vienna at Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20.



BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

together in study groups to discuss, debate and learn about important global challenges of our time.

The Caregivers' Support Group, started in 2002, is for caregivers of adult family members. Most of the care receivers have dementia, but that condition is not a requirement. Some are cared for at home, some in local assisted living facilities, and some are out of state. Meetings are gently facilitated and encourage sharing of feelings, problems, helpful information, and bright spots. These sessions are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 10:00-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. For more information, contact Jack Tarr,

703-821-6838, jtarr5@verizon.net; o Lynn Rafferty, 703-508-1365, radmom8992@gmail.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30

a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at jtarr5@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and

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

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547. Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks

volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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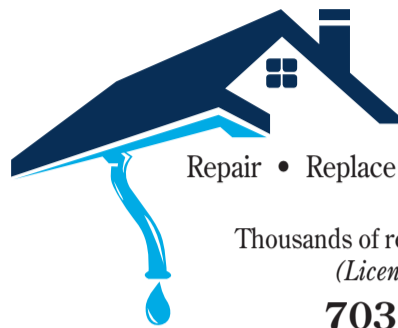


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NEWS

Incoming Superintendent Answers Questions at Town Hall

Real time multilingual presentation provides information equity.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools hosted a virtual town hall on Tuesday, May 17, with Dr. Michelle Reid, incoming superintendent participating from Washington State. The hour-long event, broadcast across the country on Zoom and Facebook Live, enabled multilingual real-time streaming to viewers. Marty Smith, chief operating officer of FCPS, served as moderator from Fairfax.

Before taking questions via the online Q & A and from the over 300 questions submitted through the event registration, Smith commented on Dr. Reid's "exemplary leadership" at Northshore School District in closing achievement gaps and leading the system through the pandemic. He described Dr. Reid's commitment to increasing access, opportunity, and equity for all students in public education and creating the Northshore Racial and Educational Justice Department.

During Reid's tenure at Northshore, Smith said that graduation rates increased for all students, especially English-language learners. Smith added that when Reid arrives at FCPS, she will focus on "ensuring that each student has access and opportunity to reach their greatest potential."

"Dr. Reid is also known for leading robust community engagement so that all stakeholders, including students, have a voice," Smith said.

Highlights of the Q & A lightly edited for clarity and length. FCPS did not release the names of people whose inquiries Reid addressed.

Q: Why did you choose education, and why did you choose FCPS?

A: I think there's no more important work in our country today than the work of public education... to prepare our next generation... Why Fairfax County — the fabulous educators that comprise Fairfax County Public Schools; the high performing students; the hard-working, creative, innovative students; and the strong parental support and commitment evidenced by the people attending this evening are all big draws as we work to create an amazing, humanizing, and just school division.

Q: What will be your focus and goals for your first year in FCPS?

A: One of the things that I'll be sharing with the community on July 1 as I arrive is an entry plan, which will transparently share the work I plan to do in the first 100 days... Number one would be listening and responding to questions... Make sure that I understand how best to support the division while I will stay resolutely student-centered... We need to understand where we've been, where we are, and where we collectively would like to be.

Q: What would you do to ensure that bullied students are provided with appropriate support?

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Dr. Michelle Reid, FCPS's incoming superintendent.

PHOTOS SCREENSHOT



Marty Smith, chief operating officer FCPS.

A: I was one of a handful of educators tapped by our former governor, Christine Gregoire, to write our bullying legislation for the state of Washington. I had the opportunity to train administrators around our state in effective prevention and mitigation practices... You need to interrupt and disrupt bullying behavior so that it doesn't become adult behavior. For our victims of bullying, there has to be a clear reporting protocol, clear consequences for the person bullying, and a feedback loop to make sure we continue to check in with the person who has made a report.

Q: What excites you about coming to FCPS?

A: The diversity of thought, experience, and ideas will lead to some amazing opportunities to reimagine public education. We know today that 65 percent of our students in K-12 education across this country are preparing for careers that do not yet exist.

Q: Tell us your plans for engaging students in those first 90 to 100 days that you're in the district.

A: I had an opportunity to do a town hall with students, and I will say their questions were tough. ... They're authentically rooted in their experience... (They) want to ask straightforward questions about how my work, my vision, and how our division's work will possibly impact their ability to learn and grow and achieve the dreams they have for their futures. I plan to meet with students regularly.

Q: What will you do to ensure employees feel safe reaching out to you?

A: I'm very interested in learning what educators feel, knowing their hopes and dreams for their work in Fairfax County Public Schools, and how I might support them and their work... Right now, in our country, we're experiencing a labor shortage... We must make sure that our workplace resonates with a culture and climate that our staff values because we need each one of them, and we need them to be able to perform at their top for our students to be successful.

To watch the Virtual Town Hall with Dr. Reid on May 17, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQOc4i3ZjeY>.

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A Lot of Perspective



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If you allow it, cancer can be exhausting. However, I'm not referring to the physical toll treatment takes, which as many of you may not know, is often debilitating. Instead, I'm referring to the emotional toll: the worry, the fear, the uncertainty, the dying and of course, the premature death (although some might joke, any death is premature). It's been my intention to, as much as possible, ignore it all, and so far, I've done a pretty good job. Still, it's an anchor, figuratively speaking. It weighs you down, and sort of keeps you in the same place. If you let it, it can moderate your highs and deepen your lows. And being low (depressed) is all it's cracked up to be, and no way to fend off cancer, and/or try to live a semi normal life.

And really, trying to normalize your life despite a cancer diagnosis, with the ongoing treatment and/or the regular monitoring intervals: to scan, to complete lab work, to attend infusion appointments, et cetera, is the cost of doing business, so to speak, and hardly normal. Cancer doesn't always announce itself. Often, it appears out of nowhere with barely a symptom. And when that occurs to a lifelong non-smoker, age 54 and a half, with no family history of cancer, with both parents who lived into their mid-eighties, the absolute last thing you expect to hear from your primary care physician is: "The biopsy was malignant." So much so that when I heard it, I asked "What does that mean?" "What does that mean?" What kind of a moron am I? I know what 'malignant' means: trouble, with a capital "T." But cancer? I never imagined. Moreover, I'm not sure I even knew that an oncologist was a cancer doctor. In fact, it was my primary care doctor who set up our appointment with one for the following Thursday on this very same call. He didn't really elaborate much. He offered little information other than to suggest I bring along any family members. At that point, I began to get the message. I was not in Kansas anymore, if you know what I mean, and this initial appointment was only the beginning of what could very well be my end.

'My end?' I had just spent the last four years or so tending, along with my brother, Richard, and our family caregiver, Maria, to my father who died in early Dec. 2006, and then for another two years until early Dec. 2008, when my mother died, nearly on the exact day as my father had. I/we had been preoccupied with their lives since my father suffered his first stroke. It had been barely one month after we buried our mother, on Jan. 1st when I first experienced symptoms.

I had pain in my left rib cage which a few days later migrated to my right rib cage. That didn't seem right. And then on the weekend, when I had trouble catching my breath/inhaling, and had difficulty bending over, I had to admit that I needed to see a doctor. But cancer? No bleeping way. (I'd swear, but this is a community newspaper.)

Yet, from the depths of that initial despair, I have risen to live and breathe for another 13-plus years. I'm just glad that my parents weren't alive to hear my diagnosis. It would have been devastating for them to hear that their baby ("some baby," my mother would often say) yours truly was diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer. Hopefully, not knowing has enabled them to rest in peace. And what do I know? Cancer is bad enough on its own. You can't make it worse by giving into it. You must make peace with it or find a place for it in your life somehow. Fortunately, I'm good at compartmentalizing.

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



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