

Great Falls CONNECTION

Varied Pets of Great Falls

PAGES 6-8

The Scherm family named their chickens after the First Ladies of the United States. Lars has Martha (Washington) and Lucy (Hayes) in his grasp.

CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM

Deer Archery Begins in Parks

PAGE 3

9-11 Remembrance

PAGE 4

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For Sale

\$1,575,000 - Great Falls
510 Arnon Meadow
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 Great Falls.



Sold

\$1,525,000 - Great Falls
714 Gouldman Ln: 4BR, 3FB, 1HB
 Sold for \$225,000 above asking price!



For Sale

\$415,000 - Herndon
13324 Schwenger Pl: 3BR, 2FB, 1HB
 Updated home with a new kitchen close to the future Metro
 and Worldgate Centre Shopping and entertainment in
 Herndon.



Sold

\$2,100,000 - Great Falls
1023 Millwood Ln: 5BR, 4FB, 2HB
 Secured Home Inspection and other contingencies in a
 market where few buyers were getting contingencies.



Sold

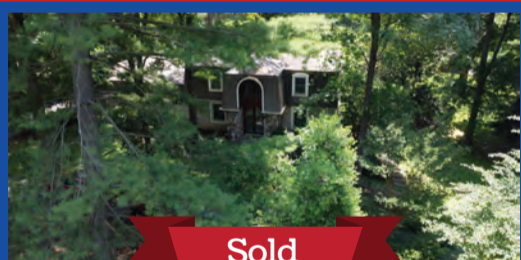
\$1,052,000 - Lake Anna
541 Lake Anna Dr: 3BR, 2FB
 We work throughout Virginia and secured a vacation home
 for our client at Lake Anna. We helped our client get this
 home for more than \$100,000 under the asking price!



For Sale

\$275,000 - Great Falls
Beach Mill Rd: .58 Acres
 Wooded half acre lot with a 2 acre zoning. If combined with
 neighboring 9.7 acre property the combined land could
 potential provide five lots.

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 CALL US TO DISCUSS OUR PLAN FOR BUYING OR SELLING 703-774-9830**



Sold

\$700,000 - Great Falls
10423 Deerfoot Dr: 5BR, 2FB, 1 HB
 Sold quickly before it went on the market



Contract

\$700,000 - Burke
9493 Harrowhill Ln: 5BR, 2FB, 1HB
 Under Contract in 3 days!



Sold

\$978,000 - Reston
2012 Lakebreeze Way: 4BR, 3FB, 1HB
 Won the contract in a multiple offer
 situation without the highest priced offer.

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 through our Military Appreciation Mondays Event!**

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- 9/12/22 - Semper Fi/America's Fund
- 10/17/22 - Stop Soldier Suicide
- 11/21/22 - Navy SEAL Foundation
- 2/13/23 - CIA Officers Memorial Foundation
- 3/13/23 - Our Community Salutes
- 4/17/23 - Operation Second Chance



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NEWS

Fairfax County Deer Archery Program Begins Sept. 10

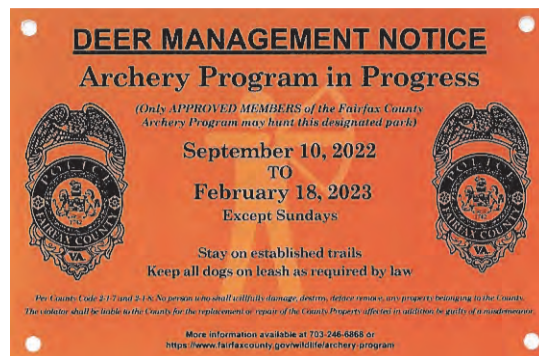
The Fairfax County Deer Management Archery Program begins Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, and runs through Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023.

Under the oversight of the Fairfax County Police Department, in collaboration with the Fairfax County Park Authority, NOVA Parks, and other public landholders, the archery program is conducted in parks and other locations throughout Fairfax County.

The archery program began in FY 2010 and is part of an integrated Deer Management Program to reduce and stabilize the white-tailed deer population in Fairfax County in efforts to minimize safety and health hazards and other impacts related to an overabundance of deer. These impacts include deer-vehicle collisions, potential spread of diseases, and environmental damage attributed to deer that can impact the ecosystem. The program was approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2000 and is recognized as a safe and efficient method of deer population control by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

Because of its track record of safety, archery is a preferred deer management method in Fairfax County. Archery is a compatible use with residential areas and community parks, allowing for deer population management in urban and suburban areas. Since Virginia began tracking hunting injuries in 1959, no bystanders have been injured by an archer hunting deer anywhere in the Commonwealth. The Fairfax County Deer Management Program is conducted on approximately 100 properties countywide. Last year, 726 deer were harvested through the use of archery by hunters in the county program. The archery program accounted for 94% of the total deer harvests in the Fairfax County Deer Management Program.

Fairfax County's Archery Program standards require that all archers meet state hunter licensing, education and safety requirements and must pass qualifications to demonstrate skill and marksmanship, in addition to carrying program identification.



Signs are posted in archery program areas, at park entrances and trailheads.



Archers are also required to have completed additional training through the International Bowhunter Education Program to participate in the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. All archers must also pass a criminal background check to be eligible for the program. Only hunters that have gone through this screening and selection process

rules.

Parks remain open to the public during the archery program. Florescent orange signs are posted in parks where hunting is authorized. Hunters can only take shots at deer from elevated tree stands; hunting from the ground level is prohibited in county parks. Tree stands must not be located closer than



Fairfax County Deer Management Archery Program begins Sept. 10, 2022, and runs through Feb. 18, 2023.

with the Fairfax County Police Department may hunt within the designated parks. All archers must comply with state and federal game laws and regulations, local ordinances, and program

100 feet from property lines or closer than 50 feet from established park trails. Archers are not allowed on private property without permission by the owner or tenant. Archers are approved to hunt at assigned sites Monday through Saturday during legal hunting hours, 30 minutes prior to sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

No hunting is allowed on Sundays in county parks.

More information about the Fairfax County Deer Management Program can be found at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/deer-management-program>.

Here Come the Senior Olympians

The opening ceremonies of the 40th Northern Virginia Senior Olympics will take place Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. 2nd St. Arlington. NVSO Chair Herb Levitan of Arlington, said, "The public is invited to attend the opening starting at 9:30 a.m. and stay for seven track events that will follow."

The annual competition is made possible by the sponsorship of eight Northern Virginia jurisdictions, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun,

The oldest participant is Vera Punke of Arlington, age 107, who is registered to play duplicate bridge.

Fauquier and Prince William. Participants in NVSO must reside in one of the jurisdictions.

Competition will take place at 25 different venues throughout Northern Virginia and continue through Saturday, Sept. 14. Levitan reported that 831 senior adults have set a new record for participation. They will be competing in 70-plus events.

Pickleball, track, field and table tennis have garnered the most registrants. The oldest participant is Vera Punke of Arlington,

age 107 who is registered to play duplicate bridge, said Levitan. The complete schedule of events is on the NVSO website, www.nvso.us. Results of each event will be posted on the website as the competition continues. All events are open to the public.

"We are also fortunate to have 15 Gold Patrons this year who have contributed \$1,000 each," said Levitan.

The Patrons are Aarondale Assisted Living, Advanced Hearing Services, Anthem Health-

Keepers Plus, Ashleigh of Lansdowne, Chesterbrook Residences, Goodwin Living, Greenspring Retirement Community, Facial Plastic Surgery Center, Heatherwood Retirement Community, The Jefferson, Koons Toyota Arlington, Paul Spring Independent and Assisted Living, The Wellington by Lake Manassas and Westminster at Lake Ridge.

NVSO is a non-profit-C-3 organization and 100% of money donated is used entirely for NVSO activities.

For more information, check the website www.nvso.us or email nvso1982@gmail.com.

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COMMUNITY



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A previous 9-11 ceremony



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

9-11 ceremony at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial (File photo)

9-11 Ceremony Planned for Great Falls

All are welcomed.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022, marks the 21st anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. A Remembrance Ceremony will be held at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, located at 9830 Georgetown Pike, behind the Great Falls Library. The event will honor and remember the six Great Falls residents who died in the attacks and others who perished or suffered. All ages, including children, are welcome.

Richard L. Haver, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Great Falls resident is the keynote speaker. The observance will feature patriotic songs performed by the U.S. Army 29th Infantry Division Band, the sounding of "Taps," and the posting of the colors by Great Falls BSA Troop 55. A candlelight vigil will conclude the event.

Since the memorial has limited seating, guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs. If it rains, the ceremony will take place in the library's meeting room. Check www.gffreedom.org for updates.

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COMMUNITY



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Grange No. 738

Community Event Friday Celebrates the Great Falls Grange

For the love of Great Falls.

The Great Falls Grange Foundation is inviting everyone to its “Gathering at the Grange” on Friday, Sept. 9, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Located at 9818 Georgetown Pike, come see the Historic Grange, Forestville School House, and the new landscaping. Meet the foundation’s board members and learn about volunteer opportunities at the new venue in the heart of Great Falls. There will be complimentary food and drinks, with a cash bar available for beer and wine. Donations accepted. Visit www.gfgrange.org for more information.



Old Forestville Schoolhouse

All Events sponsored by The Art of Great Falls

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 7 THRU SUNDAY SEPT. 11

8th Annual Paint Great Falls Plein Air Competition. Artists will be out from 10 a.m. until dark to paint “en plein air” (outside) anywhere in Great Falls, with the community welcomes to watch. Visit <https://greatfallsart.org/paint-great-falls/> to learn where the artists are painting.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 9

Quick Paint competition from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Great Falls Village Green. Watch the artists paint under the pressure of time and change of light, with one artist awarded the People’s Choice.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 9

First Fridays Monthly, Friday Art Walk from 6-8 p.m. Free and open to the public at The Artists’ Atelier, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls, see the latest artwork by 14 artists, paintings, mixed media, fiber art, jewelry, and photography.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTS OF GREAT FALLS

Paint Great Falls: 8th Annual Plein Air Competition

SUNDAY/ SEPT. 11

Join the Arts of Great Falls for the Awards Ceremony & Collectors Reception 6:30-8 p.m. with all paintings available for sale. Art School at 756 Walker Road, Great Falls.

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20th Annual

ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN ART FESTIVAL

(previously on King St.)

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PET CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM
Elsa Scherm loves sweet Thor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM
Petra Scherm cuddles her velvety-furred Mini Rex rabbit, Bucky.



COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM
Stina Scherm carries her veiled chameleon on a stick.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM
The Scherm family named their chickens after the First Ladies of the United States. Elsa embraces Roz (Carter).



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM
Stina Scherm rides her favorite horse, Dime, at Turner Farm.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM
The Scherm family named their chickens after the First Ladies of the United States. Lars has Martha (Washington) and Lucy (Hayes) in his grasp.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE CLARK PHILLIPS
The Phillips family includes the fluffiest kitty with the longest whiskers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE CLARK PHILLIPS
In the Phillips household, live lop-eared bunnies make good pets.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE CLARK PHILLIPS
In the Phillips family, a chicken in hand is worth...



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE CLARK PHILLIPS
At the Phillips home, their horse is tacked up and ready to ride.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE CLARK PHILLIPS
A lap of bunny love is commonplace for the Phillips family.



PHOTO BY HUNTER VEROCK
Goldendoodle Ellie dons Hunter's baseball cap.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY VEROCK
Jackson and Hunter with Ellie at Nike Park following a Great Falls Little League game.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOELLE PIERSON
Sutton Pierson poses with Tucker, who proudly displays its most magnificent tail.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE CLARK PHILLIPS
Nothing like a good back scratch to convey love.



SEALED BID SALE SALE OF REAL ESTATE 8846 Ox Road Lorton, VIRGINIA PMI 6798

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in the office of the Northern Virginia District Right of Way and Utilities Division located at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, until, but no later than, September 27, 2022 for the following property:

Wooded lot, located at 8846 Ox Road (Tax Map #1062-02-0001C) in the Springfield Magisterial District of Fairfax County, on the corner of Route 123 and Rommel Drive. The lot consists of 0.4484 acre, more or less, land, is relatively level at an elevated grade with a slight slope towards the rear of the property. Percs for a conventional three bedroom septic system.

The value placed on this parcel is \$298,000.00.

Employees of VDOT, their immediate families or any person employed with the valuation and/or acquisition of this property are ineligible to bid. The property is being sold "as is" with conveyance by deed without warranty. For further information and proposals, contact VDOT at the above address or call Jordan Cheresnowsky at (703) 259-2971.

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10200 Colvin Run Road | Great Falls, VA 22066 | www.BrightviewGreatFalls.com



PET CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY ZEMIL
Ben Zemil with Zeus, Buddy, and Gus



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Christie Lavin's family pets are Moose, 17 months, and his new sister, Bitsy Bella Rose, 2. Bitsy Bella Rose is one of the Envigo beagles rescued from a lab testing mass breeding facility.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY ZEMIL
Charlie Zemil with Zeus

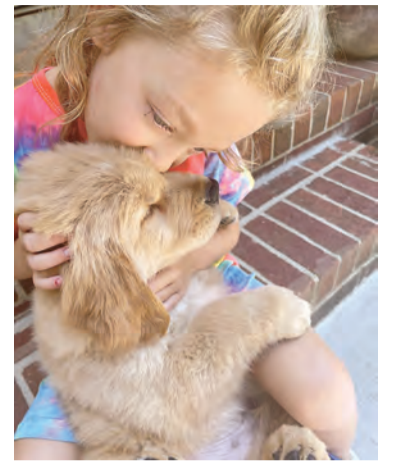


PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY ZEMIL
Lane Zemil with Zeus



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Budding veterinarian Coco Burkholder comforts Sandwich after surgery.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY THE SCOTTO FAMILY
Pooch Cassidy is a good sport, getting a makeover with play lipstick.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ELEANOR DICKERSON
Minka the cat and Max the dog, members of the Dickerson family, are seen sharing a meal.

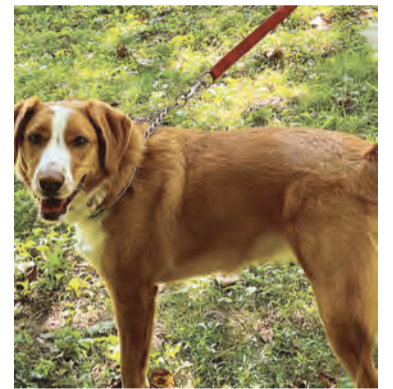


PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
Coffee and Penny, take a stroll through McLean Central Park. Coffee is named for her richly colored auburn-brown fur.



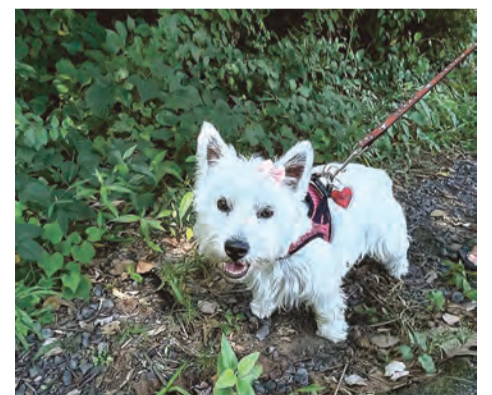
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Bear and Coco Burkholder with their baby goats Fly Trap and Pickle.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY THE SCOTTO FAMILY
India, the grey-muzzled Scotto family dog, shows her little human sibling how to relax.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY TERESA SANDSTROM
Teresa Sandstrom say, "Our pets are Tucker, the tan dog with Will, Rosabelle Pinky Pie, the pink dog with Sophia, and Purply, the purple dog with Charlotte."



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
Violet is a two-year-old West Highland White Terrier, a "Westie" who shares the home of McLean resident Caroline Weimer. Violet is a "pandemic puppy." Weimer diligently searched across multiple states before connecting with a local breeder. Her name is Violet because the interior of her ears is naturally that color



Since April, more than 160 local League volunteers have spent close to 600 hours registering over 2,300 new citizens to vote.



Many new citizens have prepared for years to meet the stringent requirements to take the oath of citizenship,

League of Women Voters Registers More Than 2,300 New Citizens in Northern Virginia

A cooperative effort by multiple local Leagues in the Northern Virginia area is underway to register new citizens at naturalization ceremonies.

Following a two-year break due to COVID-19, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) once again welcomed League of Women Voters (LWV) in-person participation at Northern Virginia's naturalization ceremonies. Since April, more than 160 local League volunteers have spent close to 600 hours registering over 2,300 new citizens.

Many of the new citizens have prepared for years to meet the stringent requirements to take the oath of citizenship, in which they commit to supporting and defending the Constitution and, when required by law, bearing arms, doing noncombatant service, and performing work of national importance under civilian direction. Before being allowed to take the oath, applicants for naturalization must have demonstrated an ability to read, write and speak basic English, good moral character and a knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government, among other requirements.

In the words of one newly minted citizen, "I have worked and waited for this day for so long. And now I can vote as an American. What an honor." Another said, "In my old country, we could not vote – we had no voice. Now I have a voice and I want to use it. This is a great country – the best country."

Members from the Leagues of Fairfax Area, Arlington-Alexandria City, Falls Church City, Prince William-Fauquier Area, and Loudoun County all participated in the voter registration effort.

As the nation's largest and longest-standing grassroots voter registration organization, LWV volunteers across the country register hundreds of thousands of voters each year. For the second year, LWV of the Fairfax Area will be hosting voter registration events at each of Fairfax County's 21 public libraries on Sept. 20 in honor of National Voter Registration Day.

LWV volunteers will also provide information about voter registration and the Nov. 8 national election at the

- ❖ Sept. 10 Burke Center Festival,
- ❖ Sept. 17 Reston Multicultural Festival,
- ❖ Sept. 24-25 Merrifield-Mosaic District Fall Festival, and the

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For the second year, LWV of the Fairfax Area will be hosting voter registration events at each of Fairfax County's 21 public libraries on Sept. 20 in honor of National Voter Registration Day.

"In my old country, we could not vote – we had no voice. Now I have a voice and I want to use it."

❖ Oct. 1 Vienna Oktoberfest.

For additional information about the LWV of the Fairfax Area, go to: www.lwv-fairfax.org.

In order to register to vote in Virginia, go to: www.elections.virginia.gov

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.

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Great Falls CONNECTION

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY/SEPT. 8

Blood Drives Return This Fall. Noon to 5 p.m. McLean Community Center is helping the American Red Cross with Diverse Blood Donations! It is urgent for donors of all ethnicities to support patients in need. Join us and support the community with your lifesaving blood donation. All donors will receive a \$10 Amazon Gift Card via email. For an appointment, click here or 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.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 17

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.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

DOGFEST Reston Town Center on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, 11-3, for DogFest Washington DC 2022 benefiting Canine Companions. Furry friends and their families are invited to join us 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. Canine Companions provides expertly trained service dogs to adults, children, and veterans with disabilities FREE of charge. Celebrate the community of people and dogs that make it possible for Canine Companions to show that the most advanced technology capable of transforming the lives of people with disabilities has a cold nose and a warm heart. www.canine.org/DogFestWashingtonDC

SATURDAY, SUNDAY SEPT. 24, 25

The Annual Civil War Books, Relics and Memorabilia Show will be held at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22031, on Saturday and Sunday Sept. 24 and 25, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. both days. Admission is \$5 per person. Vendors are welcome. For information, call Bud Mayo, 703-389-1505 or mayo5304@cox.net

FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

Wheel of Fortune Live! At Capital One Hall, Tysons Corner. Guests can audition to go on stage and feel like they stepped into the game show itself. They will have the chance to spin a replica of the Wheel and solve the puzzles on the tour's puzzle-board to win fantastic prizes including \$10,000, a trip to Paris,

Hawaii and more. Tickets start at \$51. For tickets, visit www.WheelofFortuneLive.com. Call (800) 514-ETIX (3849).

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Oktoberfest Vienna. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Church Street in Vienna. 3 Stages of Entertainment, Two Beer and Wine Gardens, Great International Food, Free Kids Activities and Games, Car Show, Business Expo, Vendor Market, Handcrafters. Visit the website: ViennaOktoberfest.org.

SATURDAY MORNINGS

Summer Programming for Kids. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Reston Museum is launching new summer programming for kids! Visit the Reston Museum to participate in fun and creative activities inspired by Reston's history. Program is free and everyone will receive an Explore Reston packet.

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

SATURDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER

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

MCLEAN FARMERS MARKET

The McLean Farmers Market opened for the 2022 season on May 6th, 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. For more information, see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.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>

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

The Great Falls Farmers Market Outdoor Market is open every Saturday, Spring and Summer, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. For vendors and weekly highlights see <https://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

budget proposals will include a review of FY2022 year-end actuals, the current year's budget (FY2023) and new proposals for FY2024. The preliminary consolidated budget will be posted on MCC's website, www.mcleancenter.org, and will be available at the center's welcome center a week prior to the public hearing.

The FY2024 Budget Public Hearing, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28, gives residents an opportunity to review and comment on the budget proposal. Residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville who wish to speak at the hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY:711, to have their names placed on a speakers list. For those who cannot attend the hearing, written comments can be sent to the MCC Governing Board by mail (address to McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101), or email to evan.braff@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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.

FY 2024 BUDGET IS THE TOPIC OF MCC GOVERNING BOARD SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

The McLean Community Center Governing Board will discuss the center's FY2024 budget at two upcoming meetings in September. Residents of Dranesville Small District 1A, who support the center, are invited to attend the meetings to share their ideas and suggestions by mail or email. All MCC Governing Board meetings are open to the public. MCC is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

The FY2024 budget year begins July 1, 2023, and ends June 30, 2024. The first meeting, the Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole, will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 7. MCC Finance Committee Chair Shivani Saboo and the full board have worked to develop the proposed FY2024 budget. The departmental and consolidated

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Mount Vernon Gazette
POTOMAC ALMANAC CENTRE VIEW

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now ominous clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

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And Now We Wait



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

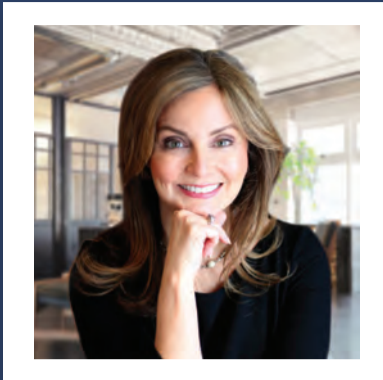
When my sister-in-law Vanessa and I were first requested to attend a "family meeting" with the chief attending physician in SICU, the surgeon originally scheduled to perform the Colo-rectal surgery on Richard, the consulting oncologist, and the head of Palliative Care at the hospital, Richard's recovery was far from certain. Still, the hospital felt it timely and prudent to get feedback from the patient's immediate family.

Basically, they wanted to know what kind of person Richard was/what mattered to him. They were trying to gain an understanding from us - since Richard was unable then to express/indicate even his wishes concerning what he was willing to endure, risk and possibly live with should he recover from the surgery, a surgery which was fraught with danger and whose success, given the size and location of the tumor was hardly guaranteed. The surgeon offered up some percentages for success, which were still an estimate given the unknown/unpredictability of what and where they'd find the mass and, if there were other organs impacted. The scans can only show so much, unfortunately. Moreover, the surgeon said she won't know definitively my brother's prospects until she has him on the operating table. Given that "chemotherapy failed," according to his longtime primary care physician, the surgery may be his only option, as risky as it is.

Now, Richard is awake and talking and very much aware of his condition and his 'failure,' and that surgery, however frightening is the next and only remaining option. And barring any unexpected setbacks from his previous septic shock, and presuming he continues to "get stronger," per his surgeon's assessment, Richard will indeed have his surgery on Tuesday, Sept. 6, two days from when I'm writing this column. When that date was first mentioned at the family meeting, it seemed like an eternity before we'd ever get there, Richard's tenuous recovery notwithstanding. Now the surgery is very nearly here. It all seemed so unrealistic six weeks ago. Then, all we were thinking about was day to day. Now, almost seven weeks have passed. We were all afraid to hope for this day thinking it was too great a leap. Nevertheless, our faith in Richard and the staff has been rewarded and here we are two days before the date. As George Allen famously said in 1971 when he became coach of The Washington Redskins: "The future is now!"

I can't imagine the excruciating time (Vanessa and I) will endure as we sit idly by at the hospital waiting for the surgeon to come out of the operating room and update the family. (Covid rules mandate only two people can be present per day and as of a recent inquiry, those two people can't be visiting the patient/hospital at the same time. We've been so preoccupied even getting to this point that we haven't yet asked if we'll both be allowed in the hospital.) Somehow, we'll get through it. It will give us time to talk about Richard's next phase. We don't know exactly what his schedule will be or his whereabouts, either. I guess he'll return to SICU after surgery and whether he returns to a regular room on a hospital floor or is immediately transferred to a Rehabilitation Hospital, we also don't know. Whatever happens, we'll be ready to accommodate the patient. For what he's accomplished these past few weeks, surviving against difficult odds, it's the least we all can do to assist him in whatever help he needs to adjust to his new normal. He's made us all extremely proud to be a part of his extraordinary recovery. We'll do whatever we can now during his rehabilitation/recuperation to support him during this next challenge. He's certainly earned it.

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



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