

On Election Day, the Marketos family of McLean all help to feed the ballots into the voting machine.

McLean Turns Out To Vote

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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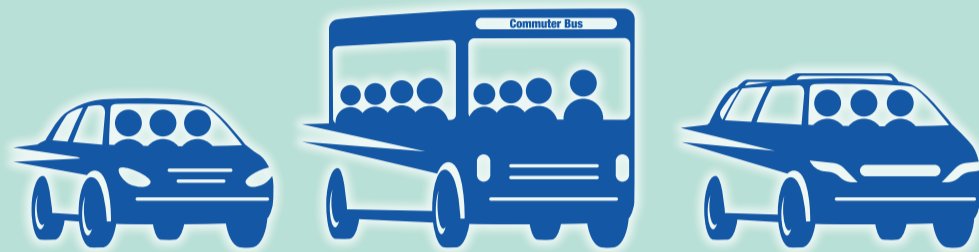
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The Marketos family of McLean all help to feed the ballots into the voting machine.



Political signs in front of Precinct 310 Kirby in McLean.



Voters have assured privacy as their ballots enter the voting machine.

McLean Voters Come Out on Election Day

Voters make quick time at Precinct 310 Kirby in McLean.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Voters in McLean were up early to quickly cast their ballots in the 2022 midterm elections. Only one race appeared on the official ballot. At precinct 310 Kirby at McLean High School, the US House of Representatives election for the 11th Congressional District was on the ballot. James (Jim) Myles (R) challenged incumbent Gerald E. (Gerry) Connolly (D).

The elections for the Virginia State Senate (District 38) and the Virginia House of Delegates (District 6) will take place on Nov. 7, 2023.

Virginia did not have any ballot initiatives in 2022 comparable to Maryland's Question 4, "Legalize marijuana in Maryland," or California's Proposition 1, "Provide a state constitutional right to reproductive freedom, defined to include abortion and contraceptives."

Outside the polling location, political signs sprouted, and arrows marked the walking route inside the school to the voting location. Inside, voting appeared light



It takes a team of dedicated Fairfax County Election Officers and pages to provide a smooth-running voter experience.

around 8:30 a.m. Only a couple of non-election officials could be seen in the room.

Mason Williams was the Fairfax County chief election officer. He said they planned the polling site's general layout for an orderly flow producing a quick voting experience. A separate entrance and separate exit, single-direction traffic, and a focus on arranging the polling place so voters could mark and cast their ballots privately and

quickly mattered.

"Our rover said this is the best set location that he's seen all day," Mason said. "People come in. They go to the next table. They go there. Vote. It's been quite a lot of people, but it just goes quickly."

The Marketos family from McLean, a family of five, arrived a few minutes later. The parents enthusiastically showed their ballots to their children, huddled them close as they

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Voting is a family affair for the Marketos family.

voted, and then let them feed the ballots into the machines.

Asked what mattered to them, young Kosta spoke up immediately to explain why they had come, "It is Election Day." And as Peter, the father, put it so plainly: "It is our civic duty."

By 10 a.m., Williams reported that 291 voters in Precinct 310 Kirby cast ballots on election day.

Bats Should Be Better Loved

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE CONNECTION

Bats get a bad rap, from their association with witchcraft to blood-sucking vampires to rabies spreaders. But “We could not survive without bats,” Deborah Hammer, a bat educator told the Friends of Dyke Marsh (FODM) on Oct. 26. Hammer is a board member of both FODM and Bat Conservation and Rescue of Virginia.

Over 500 plant species rely on bats to pollinate their flowers, including species of mango, banana, durian, guava and agave. Some plants are partially pollinated by bats, including coffee, chocolate and sugar.

“If you like to eat, think of bats,” she said. Also, bats disperse seeds.

Bats are the only mammal capable of true flight, said Hammer, adding, “Their acrobatics are quite extraordinary.” They have elongated forelimbs and wing membranes connected to their long fingers, so basically, they “fly with their hands and have same dexterity as humans,” she said.

Like all mammals, bats have hair, their young are born live and mothers feed young with their milk, she explained. They have keen hearing and are most active at night. Bats have an adaptation called “echolocation” to find insects and dodge obstacles in the dark. They are not rodents. Their next closest relatives are canines.

Many species make a high-pitched, twittering sound inaudible to people. After daylight, most bats roost throughout the day, hanging from tree hollows, caves or other homes by their hind feet, usually upside down, with their wings draped around their bodies.

In temperate regions like Virginia, in the winter, bats hibernate or migrate south. In summer, they often roost in trees.

Hammer unreeled even more bat facts: Worldwide, there are around 1,400 bat species on every continent except the polar regions and some deserts. The smallest bat is the bumblebee bat, weighing about two grams. The largest is the giant golden-crowned flying fox bat with a six-foot wingspan. Virginia has at least 17 bat species and observers have seen at least seven bat species in Dyke Marsh. A 2013 survey identified three bat species on Fort Belvoir: the tri-colored bat, big brown bat and the red bat. “Little brown bats have been previously recorded from Fort Belvoir,” the study stated, attributing their absence to possibly the harm-



Deborah Hammer giving water to a red bat being cared for by Bat Conservation and Rescue of Virginia.



Hoary bat smiling for the camera.

How to Help Bats

“Simply left alone, bats are harmless and highly beneficial,” says Bat Conservation International. Like most wild animals, they want to avoid human contact.

Leave dead trees if they don’t pose a hazard because many bats roost in tree cavities and the spaces between the bark and wood.

Put up a bat house, see <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/bats/bat-houses/>.

- Reduce outdoor lighting.
- Avoid insecticides.
- Stay out of caves and places where bats hibernate.
- Keep cats indoors.

ful fungus, white-nose syndrome.

“Almost all bats in Northern Virginia are insect eaters,” Hammer said. A big brown bat can consume 3,000 mosquitoes a night, she remarked. “One little brown bat has been documented eating upwards of 600 mosquitoes in one hour,” reports the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

Threats

The world’s bat populations are declining. A major cause is loss of feeding or roosting habitat, usually wooded areas near water sources.

Since its 2006 discovery, white-nose syndrome has afflicted bats in at least 35 states and Canada and killed millions. A white fungus appears on the nose, ears and wings of infected bats. Some infected bats have atypical behavior, like



Deborah Hammer.

flying outside during the day.

Other threats include outdoor cats, night lighting, pesticides, herbicides, noise and collisions with power lines, vehicles and wind turbines.

Myths

Ever heard the expressions “dingbat,” “going batty” or “blind as a bat”? People have coined several derogatory and misleading colloquialisms for bats. “Bats see perfectly well,” says DWR’s website. Bats are no more likely to have rabies than other rabies vector species, DWR also notes.

So, about vampire bats, of the 1,400 species, only three drink blood, Hammer explained. They are found in Central and South America.

The program was sponsored by FODM, the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and the Friends of Accotink Creek

More Information

Virginia Bat Guide,
<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/bats/>
Bat Conservation,
<https://www.virginiabats.org/> and
<https://www.batcon.org/about-bats/bats-101/>



Big brown bat being shy.

NEWS

Shepherd's Center Seeking Volunteer Drivers

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church (SCMAFC), an all-volunteer organization, is seeking additional volunteers to support its mission of providing free transportation to seniors for medical and dental appointments or run errands to grocery stores and pharmacies.

The Center is an all-volunteer non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] that has been operating since 2006.

The total number of rides provided in 2022 is expected to exceed 2,500, but to fully respond to recent increases in the number of requests, there is a

need for more volunteers to join the current team of 60 volunteer drivers. "Of the rides provided, roughly 75% are medically related, 25% grocery, and 1% for handy helper needs," said Tom Callanen, Board Chair.

For volunteers there is no minimum commitment. Volunteers are free to choose how often and when they drive.

For detailed information or to apply, please visit the Center's website <https://scmafc.org/volunteer> or call (703) 506-2199 and leave a message.

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.

ADOPT A WARRIOR FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

So many of our Military families today find themselves in financial crisis, now more than ever. This will be especially true during this Holiday Season. To give back, Able Forces Foundation (AFF) is once again sponsoring the Adopt-A-Warrior Family Christmas program. As in years past, Able Forces Foundation will adopt families from each of the five Military Service branches. All adopted families are identified by mili-

tary Advocates on military bases or military Recovery programs in the Washington, DC Metro area. These families have been vetted and referred to AFF. Based on need, financial support will ensure each family will have: • A Christmas Tree • Complete Christmas Dinner (for up to 8) • Stocking Stuffers • the ability to provide up to 5 gifts per child 100% of all donations go directly to support this program. There are no administrative or overhead fees taken out of donations. All donations contributed

between Oct. 25 and Christmas will go directly to support this program. If you can help, go to: www.ableforces.org/adopt to make a contribution.

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

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mcleancenter.org

1234 Ingleside Ave.
McLean, Va. 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711

All Aboard Metro Silver Line Phase II

DELEGATE KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

On Tuesday of next week commuters in the region will realize a long-promised and anticipated opening of the Silver Line. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA, commonly referred to as Metro) current ending at Reston Station just east of Reston will be extended to six more stations past Reston and Herndon to Dulles Airport and two stations in Loudoun County.

While many have commented on the rail extension easing trips to the airport, the persons on those trips will constitute only ten to fifteen percent of persons using the line. Most of the riders will be commuters going to and from work from Loudoun County through the District of Columbia to Largo, Maryland or vice versa and any of the stops in between while remaining in the same seat.

The Silver Line will tie Northern Virginia into the Metropolitan region as nothing has before.

Certainly there will be workers in Loudoun and Fairfax who will take the train downtown to the District of Columbia saving them time and gas and parking money. At the same time there will be workers in Arlington who will commute to western Fairfax on the Silver Line, and there will be airport workers up and down the line who will get to work by train. You can substitute tourist for worker in any of these scenarios for those visiting the region will realize the value of this new artery in the area.

I have been involved in Dulles Metro Rail issues since the late 1980s for I was convinced that heavy rail was the best option to serve our region. Washington, D.C. up until this time was the only major capital city in the world that did not have a rail connection to its major airport. Beyond the airport traffic demands was the commuter traffic that jammed our roads even as we added and then expanded toll lanes to the Dulles Access Road. While the extension is now complete, it is over-budget and past deadline, it is miraculous to those of us working on it daily

over the decades that it has now been finished.

There was a debate that went on for years as to whether heavy rail was the best option over bus rapid transit or light rail. Each year we will learn that heavy rail was the best option to carry the increasing ridership that will develop. There was a strong debate over whether the line should be built over or under Tysons Corner. Costs made that decision for us as the above ground option was less expensive except for the short tunnel that goes under the hill at Tysons Corner. Many of us wanted the station at Dulles Airport to be under the terminal, but again the issue of cost won out.

In 1998 I founded the Dulles Corridor Rail Association (DCRA) to advocate for the rail extension along with many business and community leaders. We breathed life back into the project the many times it seemed doomed. I know the people who worked with me on DCRA share the pride I feel in this important infrastructure addition that will enhance the quality of life in our communities.

Meet Tempestt Ware Harmon

General manager of The Closet of Greater Herndon shares information on voucher program.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area hosted an open house for representatives of local social service agencies. The event allowed the store's new manager, Tempestt Ware Harmon, to introduce herself and speak about updates to the voucher program.

The Closet's authorized referring agencies, including LINK, Herndon-Reston FISH, Ayuda, and others, can provide vouchers up to two times per year to their clients who need assistance to meet their basic needs. Harmon said that the clients could visit The Closet and based on their needs, select household items, toys, clothing, and most any type of knickknacks to decorate their new home or shelter space. They are responsible for determining what shoes, clothing, blankets, and bed sheets they require.

"It is entirely up to them," said Harmon. "Only glass case items, including jewelry and the more expensive knickknacks, are exempt." According to Harmon, vouchers have range from \$60 per person to \$380 per family.

Gene Wiley, president of the executive committee of The Closet said the organization donated over \$100,000 worth of free merchandise to the voucher program the

year prior and over \$1 million in goods since 2007.

Harmon said, "My number one goal was to make sure that I got familiar with the staff and the volunteers to build a good rapport with everybody. But then also making sure that I put the customer first and the clients participating in the voucher program." Harmon said that with her background in fashion merchandising, she is maximizing The Closet's square footage and efficiency. In addition, The Closet provides free bakery items donated by local grocery stores.

The Closet at 845 Station Street, Herndon, is accessible via public transportation, including the Fairfax Connector buses 937 and 950, and RIBS 5. For the Metro trip planner, visit <http://www.wmata.com>.

The Closet's Annual Everything Christmas Sale

The Closet's Annual Everything Christmas Sale will be held on Friday, Nov. 11 (3 - 7 p.m.) and Saturday, Nov. 12 (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) at the Herndon Moose Lodge, 779 Center Street, Herndon. This is just around the corner from The Closet and should be your first stop for Christmas and seasonal items for holiday decor, gifts, toys, and entertaining.

Besides shopping at the sale, please consider helping The Closet make the sale a tremendous suc-

PHOTOS BY
MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Tempestt Ware Harmon, general manager of The Closet of Greater Herndon, Inc.

cess by volunteering. Volunteers are needed on Nov. 11 and 12 during and after the sale. Go to our SignUpGenius link to see the volunteer opportunities: Volunteer for Everything Christmas Sale. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45aba62ba6f4c61-theclosets>



Representatives of six agencies, Hunters Wood Fellowship House, LINK, Martin Luther King Jr. Christian Church, Fellowship Square Foundation, Ayuda, and Herndon-Reston FISH, along with Gene Wiley, president of The Closet of Greater Herndon, Inc. (front), listen to Tempestt Ware Harmon introduce herself as general manager of The Closet.

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Fairfax County Fire and Rescue To Collect for Toys for Tots

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD) will participate in the Annual National Capital Region Fire and EMS Departments' 2022 TOYS FOR TOTS Campaign. The intent of the campaign is to bring holiday joy and deliver a message of hope to children. Stations will accept donations now through Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Collection boxes will be placed outside the front door of each fire and rescue station every morning. Residents will be able to drop off toys until 8:00 p.m., each evening.

Please help us to help those less fortunate this holi-

day season. Thanks to the generosity of those who live and work in Fairfax County, FCFRD was able to provide the Marines with approximately 25,000 toys last year!

Children who are served by this campaign include toddlers and youths through age 17. The campaign will only accept new, unwrapped toys. Toys used as weapons or considered to be weapons (i.e., toy guns or knives of any kind) will not be accepted. Checks or money orders for donations must be made payable to TOYS FOR TOTS.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will accept donations through Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022.

Impact Award for Susan Sanow

Susan Sanow, CVA, Senior Manager, Special Programs and Training at Volunteer Fairfax has received national recognition for exemplary leadership in volunteer engagement. Susan Sanow earned the Impact Award, presented in October of 2022 by the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement (ALIVE) in the Exemplary Leader category, for her efforts to provide a quality volunteer engagement program at Volunteer Fairfax, willingness to network, mentor or collaborate with their peers, advocate for the profession, and involvement at the national and/or local level with volunteer engagement professionals.

"When thinking of who made an impact for the field of volunteer engagement, I chose to nominate Susan for this recognition because of her integrity, honesty and dedication to this important work," said Corina Sadler, CVA, National Service Commissioner and Volunteer Resources Supervisor, City of Plano, Texas. "All the way from Texas I saw Susan's beacon of light as a trainer and leader during 2020 and she didn't stop

there. She brought her expertise and humor to national conference stages and created safe spaces for professionals to gather and express what their challenges have been through Volunteer Fairfax programs."

ALIVE will provide a cash award to Susan Sanow that she may use for professional development expenses, such as continuing education, books, resources, or to pursue an international professional credential for those who manage volunteers and/or programs.

ALIVE is the national professional association for those who manage or lead volunteer engagement programs. ALIVE serves to enhance and sustain the spirit of volunteering by fostering collaboration and networking, promoting professional development, and providing advocacy for leaders in community engagement. For more information and a complete listing of all of this year's winners visit www.volunteeralive.org.

For more than 47 years, Volunteer Fairfax continues to mobilize people and resources to meet regional community needs. www.volunteerfairfax.org

American Disposal Services Plan for Better Service

In response to a significant drop-off in reliable trash collection service, the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) and American Disposal Services, Inc., (ADS) have established a plan to resolve the significant volume of complaints DPWES has received from ADS customers. Complaints of missed collections have been received from individual homeowners and from homeowner associations representing thousands of residents. ADS acknowledges it has been unable to consistently meet the weekly collection requirement largely due to problems with hiring and retaining operations personnel.

Since the number of complaints began to surge earlier this year, DPWES and ADS have discussed the service reliability and quality issues, and ADS' plans to recover and restore service to the minimum requirements of County Code, a minimum of once-weekly collection of refuse, recyclables, and yard waste.

Effective Oct. 4, DPWES and ADS entered into a Consent Agreement that, among other things, set forth a legally-enforceable recovery plan that includes:

Posting job advertisements at a minimum of 50 relevant outlets, including social media, and staging quarterly local job fairs.

Offering pre-paid tuition for CDL training (driver www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

shortages are a significant factor in ADS' hiring struggles).

Hiring additional drivers every week until the service problems are resolved, providing monthly written reports to DPWES on progress.

Increasing the starting wage of drivers by at least 20 percent and collection crews by at least 10 percent.

Retaining seven additional customer service personnel.

Establishing a service quality goal and lead measures/metrics to demonstrate and maintain progress.

Establishing a defined credit process for residential customers to cover all missed collections, effective January 1, 2023.

ADS must also provide DPWES with written daily, weekly, and monthly status reports on missed and rescheduled collections, and the firm's management is required to attend weekly meetings with DPWES enforcement personnel to review progress on the Recovery Plan.

Residents wishing to know more about the ADS Recovery Plan change (or about any other aspect of the County's solid waste management system) should contact DPWES' Solid Waste Management Program at (703) 324-5230 or via email to trash-mail@fairfaxcounty.gov

BULLETIN BOARD

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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.

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean

continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmaf.org. The Center's website is www.scmaf.org.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: prsync.org/caring-volunteering/. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsync.org.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin Martin at fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean needs a Certified Arthritis Exercise Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Volunteers for Change. A program for adults which offers more than 50 weekend and evening volunteer opportunities per month. www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Great Falls Hike or Bike Volunteers. Bike or Hike Patrol volunteers assist park rangers by riding on accessible trails in Great Falls Park. To assist park staff in providing info and services to park visitors, maintain good public relations as a representative of the National Park Service, and monitor park resources, visitor usage, and emergency needs. Skills and Experience Desired: Excellent communication skills. Ability to work with cultural-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Starry Nights

Waterfront Cabin on 3 Acre Spring Fed Lake



Enjoy the quiet from the dock or from the Old Town kayak in the spring fed water

at this serene lakefront cabin during the day or under starry skies on clear nights

Even throw a line for catch and release fishing

Vacation property borders Blue Ridge Parkway, Milepost 180, southwest Virginia, six hours from DC. Less than hour from Andy Griffin's Mayberry in Mount Airy, NC and Virginia Tech in Blacksburg.

Option for Larger Farmhouse Sleeps 10
Smaller and Cozy Lakefront Cabin Sleeps 5

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

From left, Everett George at Cornerstones and Meridith Hovan, vice president of resource development at Cornerstones, accept \$1,000 of Target and Mobile gas gift cards from Michael Broyles, president of the Rotary Club of Great Falls, and Bob Dinkel, Rotary's Cornerstones point person outside of the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston.

Rotary Club of Great Falls Provides \$2,000 in Gift Cards to Cornerstones Support for Embry Rucker Shelter & Cards for Kids.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

"Double your pleasure, double your fun" is how the Rotary Club of Great Falls supports the community needs of Cornerstones. Michael Broyles, president of the Rotary Club of Great Falls, and Bob Dinkel, Rotary's Cornerstones point person, presented \$1,000 in \$25 gift cards to Cornerstones at Reston's Embry Rucker Shelter on Tuesday, Oct. 23.

Rotary had previously provided 75 to 100 clients at the shelter with a boxed restaurant meal each quarter. Volunteering was hardest when locating restaurants that catered with discounted boxed meals. Dinkel named four local restaurants that, knowing the cause Rotary was addressing, stepped up to the plate, literally; Canteen D'Italia in Herndon (Jason), Mookie's BBQ in Great Falls (Brian), Gregorio's Trattoria at North Point in Reston (Christopher), and Brx American Bistro in Great Falls (Ash). Rotary bought the food, served the clients, and helped in the kitchen.

For the third quarter, Rotary asked Cornerstones what they needed most. The Wishlist? Cornerstone said gift cards were appreciated. Dinkel approached the Great Falls Rotary Board, which granted \$1,000. Rotary bought \$25 Target and gas gift cards to distribute.

"You would think it would be easy to obtain gas cards, but many gas stations don't offer them. You

have to go high and low for gas cards," Dinkel said. He found them at a Chantilly Mobile station, 20 in total. "It was as if it were meant to be," Dinkel said.

Broyles recommends gift cards because they let displaced individuals buy food, toiletries, and gas to get back on their feet and then cover other costs. Everyone's needs vary. In comparison to quarterly meals, gift cards fulfill a broader need. Dinkel and Broyles were thrilled with the idea. They gave the gift cards to Meridith Hovan, vice president of resource development at Cornerstones outside of the Embry Rucker Shelter on Oct. 25. She lauded Rotary's quick project turnaround.

Hovan said Cornerstones knew of the many needs in the community before the pandemic but did not realize their depth or breadth. Food insecurity, affordable housing, and family and individual stability remain priorities. Gift cards help shelter residents cope with unexpected crises we all experience, but people who are financially on the edge are hit the hardest.

Rotary announced a surprise on Monday, Nov. 7. It is nearing the next quarter. Rotary Club of Great Falls is also giving Cornerstones \$1,000 in gift cards for its "Cards for Kids" holiday campaign, from Amazon, Dick's, Kohl's, and Walmart.

"We plan to stop by and meet with Meredith at Cornerstones at the Sunset Hills Road offices on Wednesday to deliver the cards, as we did at the shelter. I'm glad to see that Rotary is able to support Cornerstones and the local community they serve," Dinkel said.

CALENDAR

2022 MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND FRUIT SALE

Help support the McLean High School Band programs by purchasing fresh fruit from Florida. For over 40 years, the MHS Band Fruit Sale has offered high quality citrus from the Florida groves. This year you can purchase Navel Oranges, Mandarin Oranges, Grapefruit or a Fruit Sampler. Place your order online through November 9th at <http://www.floridafruitstore.com/McLeanHSBand>. Fruit is for pick-up only on Saturday, December 10th at McLean HS, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. E-mail fruitsale@mcleanband.org

OCT. 21 - NOV. 13

"Frankenstein." At NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Dr., Herndon. By Nick Dear, adapted from the novel by Mary Shelley. Celebrate Halloween season with this thrilling stage adaptation of Mary Shelley's science fiction masterpiece. Enter the dark world of Victor Frankenstein, as he attempts to decipher the secret of life by creating a childlike, but grotesque shadow of a human. Recommended for mature audiences. Visit www.nextstoptheatre.org

Illnesses. 5:30 p.m. At Greenfare Restaurant, 408 Elden Street, Herndon. What is the incidence and prevalence in our area? How do you prevent bites? How do you remove a tick? What are the signs and symptoms of Lyme? Is labwork accurate? What is the status of a vaccine? Come hear answers to these questions and more from a Lyme survivor, advocate, and health coach. RSVP: mveiga@mylymeguide.com

Link to event: <https://greenfare.com/event/the-latest-on-lyme-disease/>

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 9

Talk on Lyme and Vector Borne

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10



"Blue Stockings" will be performed at Marshall High School on Nov. 10-12, 2022.

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FROM PAGE 9

NOV 10-12

"Blue Stockings." At Marshall High School. Marshall High School's Statesmen Theatre kicks off their 2022-23 season with the play Blue Stockings by Jessica Swale. For more tickets and information, visit their website at www.statesmentheatre.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 10

Albert Castiglia Band. At JVs Live Music Room in Falls Church. Albert won the Best Blues Rock Artist award from The Blues Foundation in Memphis, toured on his own and with friend and label-mate Mike Zito, on their Blood Brothers Tour and recorded a Blood Brothers album with Zito that Joe Bonamassa and Josh Smith produced.

FRIDAY/NOV. 11

Veterans Day Ceremony. 11 a.m. at Great Falls Freedom Memorial, behind Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The ceremony will honor all who have served our country in the Armed Forces. The event will include a color guard, patriotic songs by the Langley Madrigals, and remarks by retired Army Command Sergeant Major Howard E. Urban. Updates to the schedule will be posted at www.gffreedom.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 12

Gin Dance Company Presents 'I Am Here.' At the Capital One Hall, Tysons. 7:30 p.m. "I Am Here" will be comprised of three World Premier pieces choreographed by GDC Artistic Director, Shu-Chen Cuff. Visit www.gindance.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 12

Fall Bazaar and Craft Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street, South Vienna. Offered for sale will be crafts, holiday decorations, items for your home, clothing and gifts for that special someone. A delicious lunch menu is planned, as well as a bountiful homemade baked goods table. Looking for a unique find? Come shop at Vera's Attic table. Fire Department T-shirts will be available for purchase. Proceeds from the rental of the table spaces and raffles benefit the fire department in their effort to raise funds for life saving fire and rescue equipment. For information, or to reserve a space and request an application, please call Carol at 703-309-3468 or email Dancers1023@aol.com, or Lisa at 703-981-4504 or email lisaemerson3@verizon.net. Admission is free.

SATURDAY/NOV. 12

NVMM 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.nvmm.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 12

Dark Sky Celebration. 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The Fairfax

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The McLean Antiques Show and Sale will take place Nov. 12-13 at the McLean Community Center.

County Park Authority is partnering with the McLean Citizens Association, Dark Sky Friends and the Analemma Society to host a celebration of the importance of dark skies. The free event will have hands-on activities and educational opportunities about how to protect the night sky. Learn about night time wildlife and constellations. Come experience the night with us and enjoy a small campfire and cocoa. Call 703-324-8671.

SATURDAY/NOV 12

Second Saturday at Reston Town Center. 1-6 pm. The streets of Town Center will come alive with a Kids' Zone, Game Zone, Pet Zone, musical entertainment, and much more! Free and open to the public. Second Saturdays: October 8, 3-8 p.m.; November 12, 1-6 p.m.; and December 10, 1-6 p.m.). Sip & Stroll will be allowed on Market and Library Streets between the red lines (barricades), with alcohol available for purchase from and at the starred establishments on the map. For November and December, alcohol must be cleared from the footprint by 6:30 p.m.

NOV 12-13

McLean Antiques Show and Sale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The McLean Antiques Show and Sale will feature an exciting selection of designer vintage clothing and American Folk Art as well as well-known traditional show offerings. The show brings together a fine selection of antiques dealers from eight states from New England to North Carolina. Admission is \$10 per person for both days of the show. Children and teens under age 18 will be admitted free of charge. For a list of dealers, visit www.dfshows.com.

SUNDAY/NOV. 13.

Explore the War of 1812. Noon to 3 p.m. At Historic Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Visit Colvin Run Mill to discover how communities, such as Colvin Run, supported the young U.S. Navy during the War of 1812. Government procurement was different in the 19th century; learn how women made uniforms, while grist mills, such as Colvin Run, helped feed sailors. Come hear

members of the Ship's Company and the War of 1812 reenactors describe life at sea. Call 703-759-2771.

UNDAY/NOV. 13

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Pub in Great Falls. Featuring The Sean Heely Celtic Trio which features U.S. National Scottish Fiddle champion, singer and harper Seán Heely, bouzouki genius, singer and bass guitarist Beth Patterson, and dancer Agi Kovacs who accompanies their innovative repertoire of tunes, ballads, sea shanties, and songs in the Irish and Scottish folk traditions. Visit seanheely.com/sen-heely-celtic-trio

TUESDAY/NOV 15

Five Hills Garden Club welcomes all to join us as they enhance their knowledge and skills in gardening, floral design, landscape design, garden therapy, beautification, and preservation. Club highlights include new friendships, local field trips, community service, monthly guest speakers, and educational opportunities through National Garden Clubs. Meetings held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Vienna Presbyterian Church, Vienna. Visit: www.https://fivehillsgarden-club.org

THURSDAY/NOV. 17

Performing Arts Documentaries. 1 p.m. At the Alden Theater, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Learn a little about the performing arts through these one-hour (or so) documentaries. Join Performing Arts Director Sarah Schallern Treff for a discussion after.

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. The market will continue until December. 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/>

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

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

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

ly, socially, and economically diversified people. Knowledge of the park and local resources, or the desire to learn. Knowledge of basic bike maintenance or willingness to learn. Willingness to provide basic first aid. Ability to demonstrate skill in basic operation of a bicycle. Call Volunteer Coordinator 703-285-2965 ext. 225 Potomac Paddlers Volunteer Corps. The Potomac Paddlers Corps is a volunteer

group with the National Park Service under shared management between Great Falls Park and the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The primary mission of the Corps is to have trained, uniformed park volunteers on the Potomac River to assist the park in identifying and reporting incidents, watch out for risky park visitor behavior, and to deliver safety messages to the public about the dangers of the Potomac River in the Potomac Gorge. Contact: Volunteer Coordinator 703-285-2965 ext. 225 or visit www.nps.gov

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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 hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

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Give Me Some Credit, Will You?



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

As a former C.F.P. (Certified Financial Planner) and insurance broker prior to joining Connection Newspapers as an advertising representative in late February 1997, I have an above-average familiarity with stocks, bonds, mutual funds, insurance, annuities, and money matters in general. It's not as if I could teach a class on any of these topics, but I'd likely have a pretty good understanding of what I was being taught. Moreover, debt consolidation, mortgage refinancing and the use and abuse of credit was similarly familiar to me. I understood their pros and cons, and their dos and don'ts. They were not exactly products I could sell. Rather they were situations I could possibly discuss/utilize to provide clients some unexpected financial relief/assistance.

Speaking of credit cards: I got my first credit card in 1977. How do I know that year? Because that was the year I got engaged and I used my brand new "Central Charge" card (a credit card local to the DMV) to pay for the dinner the night I surprised my wife, Dina with the engagement ring that I had laid away. Once I experienced the convenience of using a credit card to pay for something I couldn't readily afford, I was hooked, like so many of us; and I've been on a slippery slope ever since. Over the ensuing years, I've cash-advanced and consolidated mountains of debt enabling me to navigate the many cross currents of familial and financial ups and downs. And from my perspective, I should receive a lifetime achievement award for keeping our credit history as clean as it still is. Unfortunately, my wife, Dina has never agreed with this assessment. Not that the mundane world of income and outflow ever interested her; nevertheless, she expected results.

So here we are, almost 45 years since that engagement still having differences of opinions concerning money; made even more significant now that we're both over age 65 and I'm only working part time and Dina is, as she's fond of saying: "Presently not working." There's enough money to go around but after it has completed its journey, it's kind of tucked out and the few dollars remaining make very little sense.

Consolidating credit card debt into one lower monthly payment at a lower interest rate is on paper a reasonable and mostly prudent action. However, as a practical matter, I don't see how, given today's online lifestyle and new consuming patterns, it could work, especially if the goal is to have fewer monthly payments; not the same number, just with different lenders/cards. Albeit at a lower rate - for a while. Still, fewer monthly obligations are the goal, not having the same amount. Consolidate doesn't mean differentiate.

As a few examples of my dilemma: Many of us shop at Costco. A membership is required to shop there. A membership card, with your picture on it is also required. For convenience, and miscellaneous other benefits, it makes sense to use a Costco Visa credit card as your method of payment. Not using their card wouldn't be a hardship per se, but it would minimize the gains realized shopping there. Since it serves its own unique purpose, I feel compelled to keep it.

Many of us also shop online with Amazon. To facilitate your online transactions, using their Amazon-brand Visa makes an otherwise arduous process, simpler. If I consolidate it elsewhere, that next Amazon purchase won't be as easy or as beneficial. Again, that card is a keeper.

Our everyday Visa is a United Miles Visa. We've used it for over 20 years. Fortunately, or not, due to years of accumulating debt, we've earned multiple airline trips for free to California, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana, expensive trips, especially to Bozeman in Montana. The West is amazing, but it usually requires an airline flight to get there. If we have to carry/accrue debt, I'd rather there be some benefit to it, considering the interest isn't as deductible as it used to be.

Lastly, my wife has her own American Express card. It provides her independence - from me. If we consolidate, it must go. Do I really want to sacrifice her independence for my financial gain. As you can see, there are other consequences/extenuating circumstances, to consolidating. It's not always about the money.

If I were to consolidate, it seems to me, given the consuming world in which many of us live, I'd be stuck with more cards, more payments, less convenience, and more aggravation. The exact opposite of what I intended. "Too much for anybody's nerves," to quote my late mother.

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



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401 Meadow Lane, Falls Church City
 SPECTACULAR 5BR/4.5 BA Craftsman-style home built in 2014 in sought-after FCC location! This like-new custom luxury home features sparkling hdwd floors throughout the main level; stylish plantation shutters; modern gourmet island kitchen w/ granite countertops; fam room off the kit includes gas frpl w/ walkout to large screened-in porch. This gorgeous home is situated on a lovely, level, .27/acre lot. **Falls Church City Schools!**

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19058 Coton Farm Court, Leesburg
 FABULOUS 5BR/4.5 BA colonial home on 3 expansive levels in sought-after **Lansdowne on the Potomac!** Over 5500 finished square feet; brand new Mirage hardwood flooring throughout the main level; inviting family room with coffered ceiling and fireplace off kitchen w/ breakfast bar and breakfast room; main level office/den; wonderful primary suite w/ luxury bath & walk-in; finished walkout LL with 5th BR and full bath!

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