

## Recruiting Drivers is Fun at the Falls Church Festival



Shepherd's Center's success depends on maintaining a team of active drivers to meet the growing demand for rides, so recruiting new drivers is a high priority. We have a regular presence at local farmers' markets, advertise in local papers and ask churches to make our needs for drivers known to their congregants.

On September 14, our Center recruited drivers at the Falls Church Festival, and it was a huge success! Located just behind the Falls Church Community Center, the festival was packed with local merchants, civic groups and 60 crafters, as well as 15 restaurants offering "tastes." There was music for all, and horseback rides and a variety of amusements for the children.

The beautiful weather brought out crowds of families, many of whom stopped by our booth to learn more about what we do and why we need volunteers. Our booth was manned by many of our own volunteers including (pictured from left) new driver Bob Kravinsky, Carrie Le, Betty Douglass, Dave Hagigh and Connie Van Zandt.

We enjoyed being "neighbors" with the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce and got to know their staff and some other members as well. And the very best part of it all is that we got 5 potential new volunteers! Fingers crossed they will sign up.

- Carol Edelstein

## Election Day is coming up!

**Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th.**

For rides to the polls **either for early voting or Election Day voting**, clients can call:

Fairfax and Falls Church Democrats: RideShare2Vote at 888-977-2250  
Fairfax and Falls Church Republicans: Fairfax Republicans at 703-677-8217  
Arlington Democrats: 703-528-8588  
Arlington Republicans: 703-677-8217



**Curbside Voting:** To make it even easier, both Fairfax and Arlington Counties also have curbside voting, which is available for people 65 or older or with a disability.

## Client Profile - Mark Rhoads

Mark Rhoads is a proud son of Illinois. He authored 'Land of Lincoln, Thy Wondrous Story' and continues as an active member of the Illinois State Society of Washington, DC which he joined in 1967 and where he served on the Board for 27 years. Through this organization, he was very involved in the annual Cherry Blossom Festival and the Lantern Ceremony.

Mark first became active in politics when he was in high school in Illinois. While attending George Washington University as an undergrad Mark got exposed to Washington politics by working as an office aide for Illinois Senator Everett Dirksen. Following college, he did a stint in the Army Reserves and then served as the youngest member of Illinois State Senate from 1977 to 1985. Turning to journalism, Mark then became an editorial writer for the Chicago Sun-Times where he wrote over 300 editorials, many from his vantage point here in DC. Mark has held many other positions too numerous to mention here.

One of six children, Mark and his sister Cheryl live independently in nearby apartments in Falls Church and support each other as they participate in their continuing activities and interests. Mark continues to stay engaged with his extensive network and is a lively raconteur of tales of his times interacting with leading figures over the decades.



--Ed Groark

### SCMAFC Ride Coordinators

Mary Highsmith  
Michael Lerner  
Jan Gordon  
Jan Auerbach  
Irv Auerbach  
Mark Turco  
Peter Boynton

### New Drivers added from July to September 2024 Quarter

Sean Keane	Chunyang Liu
Robin Hoehn	Lori Kravchick
Grace Verma	Laura Jones
Fran McHatton	Bob Kravinsky
Bill McCarron	Nicole Arnold
Rebecca Poe	

### RIDE STATISTICS FOR THE JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2024 QUARTER

From July through September, rides were provided by 90 unique drivers to 85 unique riders. A total of 1,079 rides were provided, a 16% increase over last year. Taxis were used 58 times.

Our volunteer drivers drove a total of 9,379 miles.

77% of the rides were for medical related visits, 19% for grocery shopping, and 4% for other purposes.

## Annual Medicare Open Enrollment Period Ends 7 December

Every year from October 15th to December 7th, Medicare-eligible individuals can join, switch, or drop their Medicare and Prescription Drug Plans.

This is the only opportunity during the year to add, switch, or remove a Medicare Advantage Plan or a Medicare drug plan so it is important to review your coverage and make any changes during this period.

If you need help reviewing and considering changes, free help is available from the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP).

Call the numbers below to speak with a certified Medicare counselor.

Arlington residents: 703-228-1725

Falls Church and McLean residents: 703-324-5851

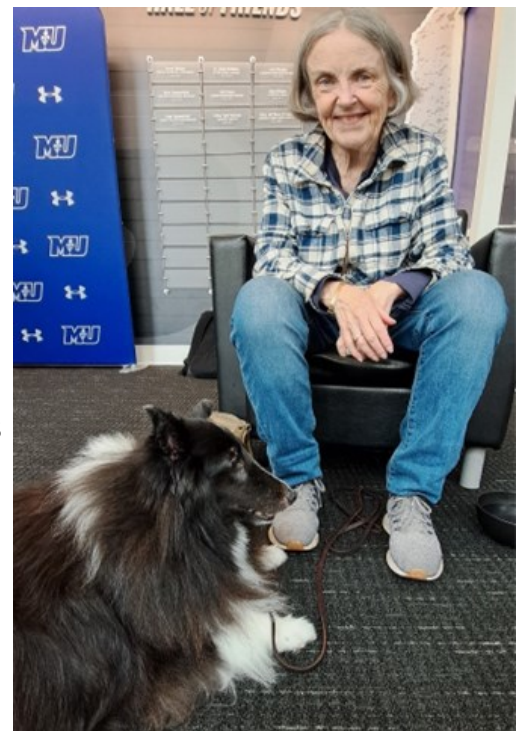
### FORMER DRIVER NANCY MURRAY AND RAVEN

Nancy Murray started driving for Shepherd's Center over 10 years ago and served on its Board of Directors for three years. Today she's become much more active in a 40-year-old local organization called People.Animals.Love (PAL) where owners and their dogs enrich people's lives by making visits to local organizations so their dogs can connect with the people there.

Nancy and her dog Raven have made over 275 visits together to local public libraries, high schools and senior centers. Raven has benefited from the social contact while providing a connection and a bond to countless children and adults on these visits. Raven is registered as a therapy dog with the American Kennel Club and has earned medals for her service.

To help at a public library, Raven comes to a Children's Hour and is read to by young readers who aren't ready to read aloud to people. At a high school, Raven gets to meet teens who find meeting her relieves some of the stress and anxieties of school life. And of course, meeting seniors at an assisted living center or nursing home provides a connection for residents who are warmed by her friendly company.

Owners bring their dogs to PAL for an orientation and training program where the obedience and sociability of the dog are evaluated for suitability for the program to ensure that visits are always positive experiences. Today, over 100 dogs participate in the program in the DC, Maryland and Virginia metropolitan area.



--Ed Groark



**shepherd's center**

OF MCLEAN-ARLINGTON-FALLS CHURCH

1205 Dolley Madison Boulevard

McLean, VA 22101-3109

## **SHEPHERD'S HERALD: Volume 10, Issue 4**

The Shepherd's Center invites you to follow our Facebook page by "liking" <https://www.facebook.com/SCMAFC> as well as visiting our website <http://scmafc.org/>

### **SCMAFC Board of Directors**

**Carrie Le** *Chair & acting Communications Chair*

**Carolyn Jeskey** *Vice Chair*

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**Jay Clevenson** *Treasurer*

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**Vickie Marx** *Client Assessment & Advocacy Chair*

**Mark Turco** *Audit Chair*

*Vacant Volunteer Outreach Chair*

**Carol Edelstein** *Member-At-Large*

**Michael Lerner** *Member At-Large*

**Ed Groark** — *Newsletter Editor*

Special thanks to **Suellen Skocki** of the McLean Baptist Church for formatting and printing the newsletters.

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church is a nonprofit 501c(3), licensed in Virginia. Donations may be mailed to SCMAFC, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd, McLean, VA 22101. Contact the Center by phone at 703-506-2199, through its Website <http://scmafc.org/>, by email to [contact@scmafc.org](mailto:contact@scmafc.org), or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SCMAFC>.