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J.T. Ewing and Yasmeen Saba pose with Santa after the tree-lighting Saturday evening in McLean.

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION  
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Standards for  
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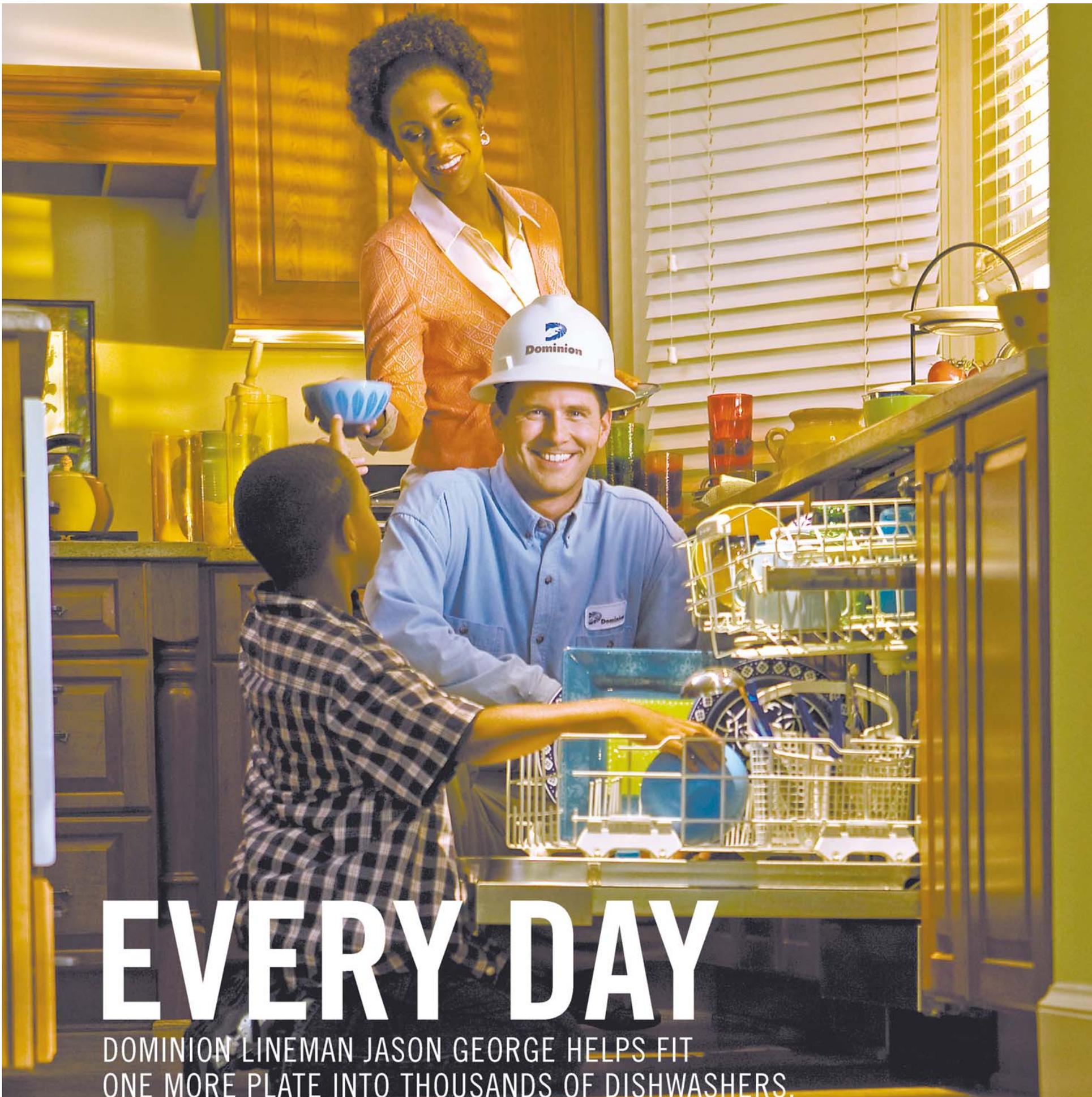
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## Santa Arrives with Fanfare

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PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

**Students from the Montessori School of McLean greet Santa with “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town.”**

**Upon the lighting of the tree, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) leads the crowd in singing “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.”**

## Santa Arrives with Fanfare

## McLean celebrates 26th tree lighting with first Holiday Parade.

**S**anta Claus came to town to light the McLean Holiday Tree Saturday evening, bringing the winter’s first snowfall with him. It was his 26th tree lighting at the corner of Chain Bridge and Old Chain Bridge roads, but it was the first time he ar-

rived with a parade. Local schools, businesses, faith communities and others participated in McLean’s first Holiday Parade.

Roads were closed off and hundreds of residents turned out to see the parade and to participate in the subsequent

tree-lighting ceremony by chanting along with the countdown and then singing “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.”

— MIKE DICICCO

## ‘Urban’ Standards for Tysons Parks

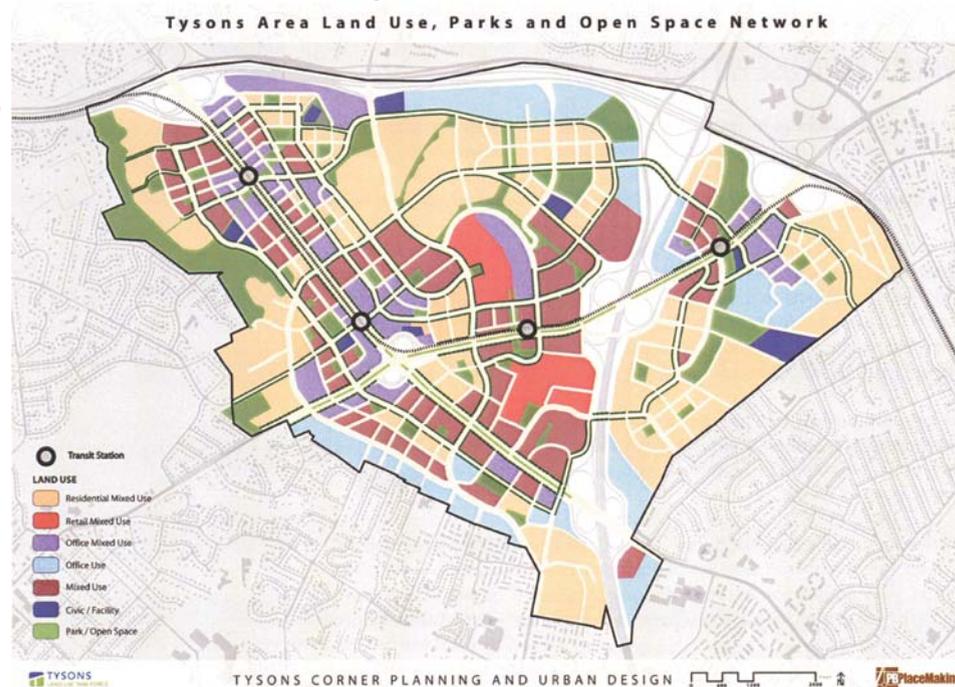
### Park Authority chairman’s letter elicits call for explanation from MCA.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

**M**embers of the board of the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) were surprised to stumble on a letter from county Park Authority chairman Hal Strickland to Tysons Task Force chairman Clark Tyler, complimenting the task force’s recommendations for parks in the redevelopment of Tysons Corner. It was an assessment that “seemed very inconsistent with what our views have been on the parks,” MCA president Rob Jackson said at the association’s board meeting last Wednesday, Dec. 3.

The group had invited Strickland and a couple of other Park Authority officials to explain how they had arrived at conclusions so different from the MCA’s.

Once the Park Authority had pushed its way into the process of planning for the redevelopment, about a year after the task force had begun its work, the authority had run some numbers based on its usual standards, which require five acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. With the residen-



**Everything in green is to be parkland, according to the recommendations of the Tysons Task Force.**

tial density that was being proposed, Park Authority officials found that, by their standards, most of the 1,700 acres in Tysons Corner might have to be parkland.

So they decided they would have to come up with a new, urban set of standards for parks.

“**THE PARK AUTHORITY** is kind of new at urban standards, urban development,” Strickland told the MCA board. So, staff had

examined park planning in other densely populated areas, such as New York City, Seattle, Chicago and Ann Arbor. What they discovered were standards of about one acre for every 1,000 residents, and that was what the Park Authority fought for and ultimately got into the plan, against “tremendous pushback” from the task force, Strickland said.

SEE MCA. PAGE 16



**Robbery at the United Bank in McLean is caught on security camera.**

### Bank Robbery In McLean Area

Police are investigating a bank robbery that occurred around 9:45 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 2. A man walked into the United Bank, located at 1320 Old Chain Bridge Road, and approached two tellers at the counter. He brandished a handgun and announced the robbery. The victims complied and the suspect fled from the bank with an undisclosed amount of money.

The suspect was described as black, 25 to 35 years old, 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 10 inches tall with a medium build. He was wearing a Halloween mask, a brown, hooded jacket, light-colored painter’s pants and dark-colored boots and gloves.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text “TIP187” plus your message to CRIMES(274637) or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

## WEEK IN McLEAN

## Suspect Charged In Galleria Shooting

A 34-year-old Damascus, Md., man was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, carrying a concealed weapon into an establishment that serves alcohol and brandishing a firearm in an officer-involved shooting at the Tysons Galleria, located in the 2000 block of International Drive. Around 12:40 p.m., Nov. 15. Police were called for a disorderly man who reportedly had a gun on the mall property. Responding officers located the man outside on the upper-level parking deck and confronted him. The man failed to comply with the officers' commands and made a movement toward a gun in his waistband. One officer discharged one round and the suspect was shot in the lower body. He was transported by ground to Inova Fairfax Hospital with non life-threatening injuries and remains hospitalized for treatment of his injuries.

## Spring Hill, Panera Sandwich Showcase

To raise money for the not-for-profit Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children, Spring Hill Elementary School students partnered with local Panera Bread cafés to create a cookbook, consisting of recipes dreamed up by the children who attend the school.

The cookbook will launch at a special morning, before school opens, event at the Tysons Corner Center Level 1 Panera Thursday, Dec. 11, at 6:15 a.m. Select students from Spring Hill Elementary will do their own cooking show, creating their sandwiches live.

Following the event, the cookbook will be available for sale in all 30 Northern Virginia Panera locations. All profits from its sale will benefit the not-for-profit Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children.

## Charity Citrus Fruit Sale

Seedless grapefruit, navel oranges and sunburst tangerines fresh from Florida will be available for charity sale at the American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean, Friday, Dec. 19, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 20, 8 a.m.-noon. Holiday gift boxes are also featured. Pure maple syrup will be available at all sales. Proceeds support local community youth, patriotic activities and veteran needs. Call 703-356-8259 for additional details.

## Winter Break Camp Offered at MCC

McLean Community Center offers a half-day camp, for 4- to 6-year-olds, from 9 a.m.-noon, and a full-day camp, for 5- to 9-year-olds, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., within its winter break camp programs, which will be held Monday, Dec. 29, through Friday, Jan. 2. The daily fee for the half-day camp is \$55 per day, \$45 for McLean district residents; full-day camp is \$85 per day, \$75 for McLean district residents. The center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

Children will have fun in a safe environment during the Fairfax County Public Schools' winter school break by signing them up for one, two or all four days of the camp. Children will enjoy supervised games, arts and crafts, music and special events. Participants enrolled in the full-day camp should bring a lunch and a drink each day; a morning snack will be provided. Athletic shoes and casual clothes are recommended.

For more information, or to register, contact the center at 703-790-0123/TTY: 711 or visit: [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

# Changing the World

## Three Marshall High students win Model UN awards in Montreal.

BY DANIELLE LANDAU  
THE CONNECTION

Three of the eight Marshall High School students who attended the Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium 2008 in Montreal, Canada, last month returned home with impressive awards in hand. More than 1,000 students from 53 high schools participated in this Model UN. Marshall seniors Samantha Plotner of Great Falls, who acted as presidential advisor Clark Clifford, and Jessica Levine of McLean who represented the Republic of Georgia, each won the Lester B. Pearson Award for Peacekeeping in their respective committees. In addition, sophomore Olivia Baskerville from Vienna embodied the Minister of Immigration in the conference's French-speaking Quebec cabinet, winning the Nellie McClung Award for Advocacy. Each recipient was involved in a different division of the Model UN, returning with fond memories of exploring the town and defending arguments to their peers.

**FIRST-TIME PARTICIPANT** and winner Baskerville summed up the experience as "unbelievable and inspiring" and plans to participate in Model UN in her next two years of high school. "The five days of meetings where everyone speaks French were difficult but fun," said Baskerville of the all French-speaking Quebec cabinet in which she was involved. Her group of students from all over the world included a large number of fluent-in-French Canadians. They worked to rewrite the party's platform acting as the Quebec cabinet running for re-election in the Model UN simulation. Baskerville recalled "focusing on sustainable development, preservation of the French language and culture and economic growth in the current financial crisis" as the party's main re-election ideas. Surprised with the award, Baskerville said, "I could not believe it; I really did not expect to win at my first conference. It was such an amazing experience and I will definitely be signing up for the next Model UN."



PHOTO BY DANIELLE LANDAU/THE CONNECTION

**Marshall High's award-winning girls — Samantha Plotner, Olivia Baskerville and Jessica Levine — see foreign relations, journalism and political science as possible career paths.**



CONTRIBUTED

**Pictured in Montreal, from left, Lauren Hahm, Samantha Plotner, Alex Blomme, Emily Moonan, Matt Martz, Jessica Levine, Olivia Baskerville and Hannah Goldberger.**

Senior Samantha Plotner is an experienced Model UN delegate. Keeping things interesting at each conference, Plotner gets involved in different elements of the Model UN. As Clark Clifford, in the recent simulation, Plotner and her fellow committee members rewrote the history from 1964-1968 in only four days. "I had to stick with my member's position, but our group was able to drastically change the outcome of the Vietnam War," Plotner said.

**"THE MODEL** really allows the students to take control and determine the outcome. We get to act in positions of power that actually do change the worlds," she said.

Plotner also attended a few of the meetings for the teachers who chaperoned the groups of students at the conference, making sure the students' unified voice was heard with regards to progress.

Jessica Levine, also a senior at Marshall, feels that "having the conference outside of the United States really ties in with Model United Nation's goal of going abroad to discuss foreign affairs."

Levine has been involved in Model UN since her freshman year, but at last month's conference she worked on the press core committee for the Montreal Symposium's newspaper, a job that she enjoyed thanks to her experience with journalism as the editor-in-chief of Marshall's school newspaper, Rank and File. Levine said, "the level of competition and respect was really high because this conference was made up of the best of the best." Hoping to revisit Canada soon Levine said that "Canadians are welcoming and kind people who are interested not only in the recent U.S. election, but also our opinions on the subject of American politics."

Influenced by the experience in Montreal, the girls see foreign relations, journalism and political science as possible career paths, noting that they all enjoy studying French and have come to understand the benefits of bilingualism. Plotner and Levine will be participating in a Model UN next week at Harvard University in Massachusetts and as the days pass they are increasingly excited for their graduations in June.

PEOPLE

# Vets Recall End of 'Navy Heaven'

Two Vinson Hall residents participate in D.C. Pearl Harbor Day talk.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

On Dec. 6, 1941, John Budzik thought he was in heaven. He had just spent three months training in San Francisco and was now stationed on Waikiki Beach in Hawaii. "The Navy heaven ended on Dec. 7, 1941," he told the crowd assembled in the Naval Heritage Center in D.C. to mark Pearl Harbor Day on Sunday.

Budzik, now a retired commander living in McLean's Vinson Hall Retirement Community, was one of three former Navy officers who shared their experiences of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor Sunday, following a ceremony and wreath-laying at the U.S. Navy Memorial outside. Fel-



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

From left, Commandant and D.W. of the Naval District of Washington Adm. Patrick Lorge, retired Cmdr. John Budzik and Capt. Steve Koehler salute the wreath laid at the U.S. Navy Memorial in D.C. Sunday afternoon.

low panelist Rear Adm. Ted Walker also lives in Vinson Hall, and almost 30 of the community's residents, along with many others,

had turned out for the event.

"I was in bed, asleep, believe it or not," Budzik said. The two other officers stationed with him had

awakened him up in short order. "I couldn't believe it. They kept saying, 'We're being attacked, we're being attacked! Get up!'" he

They kept saying, 'We're being attacked, we're being attacked! Get up!'"

— Cmdr. John Budzik (Ret.)

recalled. "We all got dressed as fast as we could and ran down the stairs."

By the time he got to his station, the initial attack was over and a second blitz was about to begin. The second wave, with about a dozen planes dropping bombs, was much smaller than the first, which had included around 100 planes using torpedoes as well as bombs, Budzik said.

One of his crewmembers was hit in the leg by shrapnel, and the crew learned later that it was from a nearby anti-aircraft battery launching rounds with an incomplete team, as many other batteries were doing at the moment. "The whole area was getting shots of shrapnel," he said.

About 30 days later, he ended up on the USS Ash with an officer who had lost his brother in the attack. A month into Budzik's stay on the ship, the brother showed up on board, nearly causing his crewmate to faint. It turned out he

SEE PEARL HARBOR, PAGE 7

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# Pearl Harbor Remembered

FROM PAGE 5

had been thrown into the water and picked up by a destroyer. "To this day, I remember that incident," Budzik said.

Walker, meanwhile, had not been involved in the fighting but had been a "peripheral observer," as he put it. He was about to turn 9 and was living five or six miles from the site of the attack because his father was the Navy's operations officer for submarines.

Another couple was living with his family, and Walker was in the yard, raking leaves with the male guest, when he heard the first explosions, he said. His father was called and left immediately, and Walker climbed onto the roof of the house, where he could see the smoke and fire and watch the planes coming in overhead. He could feel the concussion of the blasts.

"I spent most of the day on the roof, much to my mother's consternation," he recalled. "But I was on the roof and she wasn't athletic enough to come and get me."

Although the war had been raging in Europe, he said war remained a foreign concept to American children. "Our war came to us through a voice," Walker said, imitating reporter Edward R. Murrow's signature "London calling" opening line.

"I was only interested. I wanted to know what was going on," he said. "The idea that men and women were dying was pretty foreign to me."

With his father away, he became the man of the house and was taught how to handle thermite incendiary bombs with a shovel and sand, in case his area was bombed. A new daily drill was instituted in his school, he said: "Jump up, run out and dive in the slit trenches."

In April, a submarine attacked the harbor about a mile from his house. "By that time, I knew enough to be afraid," he said. "That was the fastest record for out-of-bed to under-the-bed by a 9-year-old."



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

**Capt. Steve Koehler, executive officer of the USS Vinson, makes retired Cmdr. John Budzik an honorary member of his crew.**

**"I spent most of the day on the roof, much to my mother's consternation."**

— Rear Adm. Ted Walker (Ret.)

Retired Signalman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Bert Falardeau had been having a cup of coffee with the men in his ship's radio shack, waiting for his signal to raise the colors, when the attack came, he said. The Navy's Sunday mornings in the Hawaiian harbor were "pretty laid-back" at the time, he said. "It all happened in just a few seconds, the beginning of it."

He and his crewmates heard the first explosions and looked out to see dive-bombers coming down. "My shipmate said, in so many

words, 'They ain't kidding, Bert.'" The first torpedo hit the USS California, and then a plane flew in close to Falardeau's ship, strafing it. "I could make out the pilot's face," he recalled.

While his shipmate went to man a machine gun, Falardeau ran to alert the skipper. He had just enough time to say he thought it was the Japanese who were attacking before bullets tore through the skipper's cabin, and Falardeau ran up on deck.

Before his ship departs for California, Capt. Steve Koehler, executive officer of the USS Vinson, said he wanted to "augment my crew by two," and he made Budzik and Falardeau honorary members of the aircraft carrier's crew.

The ship has had a long partnership with Vinson Hall.

"When do we set sail?" Falardeau asked.

"We sail the first week of April, and we'd love to have you with us," Koehler said.



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# OPINION

## Planning for Holiday Party Season

### Many ways to avoid drinking and driving.

**T**he season for holiday parties is upon us, and with it the increased incidence of driving under the influence.

The possible consequences of driving drunk and underage drinking are often hard to comprehend. But the stories and grief of local families who have lost loved ones to such accidents should provide enough of a cautionary tale.

William Cameron Schilfke, 22, born in Fairfax and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, less than three days after his Volkswagen Jetta was rear-ended in Newport News. Schilfke was serving as designated driver for friends in his fraternity at Christopher Newport University. The driver who crashed into him, also a student at CNU, was arrested at the scene and charged with DUI refusal, reckless driving and underage possession of alcohol, and later with involuntary manslaughter.

Earlier this fall, a young man from Fairfax was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter because of a drunk-driving accident on Dec. 3, 2007 that resulted in

### Get Involved

Join the Northern Virginia chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving for 14th Annual MADD Red Ribbon Run 5K on Wednesday, Dec. 31, at George Mason University in Fairfax. The run begins at 4 p.m., with many activities for families. See [www.maddnova.org](http://www.maddnova.org) or call 703-379-1135.

unspeakable tragedy for three families. One family lost a beloved daughter after she clung to life for five brutal days; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and “unresponsive” and living in a nursing home; the family of the defendant has also seen life as they knew it change.

**DON'T TAKE THE RISK.** Plan ahead, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home of your own, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with you when you head out, and be sure any young adults in your family are similarly armed.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-

### Safe Ride Home

From Dec. 12 through New Year's Day, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., the Washington Regional Alcohol Program offers a free cab ride home (up to \$50) to local callers who are 21 or over. Call 800-200-8294.

metropolitan area.

WRAP's 2008 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. each night from Dec. 12 to Jan. 1, 2009. To receive a free cab ride home up to a \$50 fare, call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service.

Parents are well advised to talk to their teens and let them know that if they find themselves without a safe ride home, that they can call their parents to be picked up. There are consequences of binge drinking for teens that go beyond driving under the influence. But it is also important for parents to let their teens know that whatever happens, it is not OK to drink and drive or to get into a car driven by someone who has been drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP has provided over 41,010 safe rides home. Call 800-200-8294. For more information, see [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org)

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### 'Make Sure They're Soccer Fans'

To the Editor:

*The following open letter is addressed to President-elect Obama.*

No doubt you have spent weeks and months giving serious thought about the makeup of your foreign and defense policy team. Your likely candidates will include experts and veterans of previous administrations, but for all their qualities, please see to one key criterion: make sure they're soccer fans.

Those who follow “the beautiful game” are already predisposed to be effective foreign affairs practitioners, for the same qualities of the game that endear people are also well suited to the shaping of foreign policy. Several come to mind.

❖ Patience is a virtue. Most spectator sports Americans enjoy are rife with the prospect of instant gratification. We're always one swing away from a home run, one long pass from a touchdown, or one “alley oop” away from a slam dunk. A successful soccer goal can take several minutes to set up and may only become an opportunity after seeing a narrow opening. The

same tenet can be applied to foreign policy initiatives.

❖ Most Americans like their sports to the extent to which we get to see the stuffing beat out of something. A baseball, basketball rim, visiting football quarterback and golf ball all have one thing in common: crowds go wild when they're assaulted. Soccer can have its violent moments. Last year, for example, a British match witnessed a player's shin bone sawed in half from a slide tackle with his leg nearly being amputated. This is the exception. The general rule is for the team to share passes setting up what frequently becomes a finesse shot. Appreciation of this enhances approaches to the nuances of foreign and defense policy.

❖ Concentrate. American sports fans seem plagued with ADHD. We tend to get anxious if we go more than five minutes without a timeout or commercial break. Soccer requires you to park it and focus for 45 minutes (plus stoppage time!), before you do it again in the second half. The inability to patiently focus on the big picture has led to some noteworthy foreign policy blunders.

❖ Strong bladders only, please. Attend a European soccer match, and you'll find that the quickest way to irritate those around you

is to take a comfort break before the half's end. You're there for the game, not the men's room. Squirming during the game because your mind is on a commode is a sure sign of weakness and lack of purpose.

❖ “Friendlies” aren't. In the U.S., we have exhibition games. Many view the exhibition season as tune-ups or tryouts but with relatively little relevance to the regular season. Soccer's variants are called “friendlies.” They are anything but. Friendlies can have an enormous impact on how a team is viewed on its home turf and may even lead to fans calling for a manager's ouster. In summer 2006, Scotland's Celtic played D.C. United at RFK Stadium. D.C. United won 4-0. Back in Glasgow, people stayed up until 3 a.m. to watch the game on television, and Celtic's fans both at the game and back home were literally in tears at the outcome. The D.C. Metro system that night even saw some fabled “soccer hooligans” who were more than a little distraught. Likewise, you should never treat an international gathering as a “friendly.” You are being watched and evaluated, and the outcome will shape other countries' approaches to the U.S. during your administration.

❖ Everybody else “gets it.”

American foreign policy, especially recently, has been littered with examples of how our policy-makers were both baffled and frustrated by other countries' seeming inability to understand U.S. perspectives and act accordingly. This stems in part from our own reluctance to acknowledge that other countries' views have at least some merit worthy of consideration. Trying to see the world through others' eyes can profoundly influence your own views.

❖ It brings the world together. U.S. foreign policy can either unite the world or divide it. Despite the fierceness of international rivalries (the U.S. and Mexico immediately come to mind), soccer brings people together. Every four years, the world's best national teams come together in the globe's largest sporting event in what may be politely called a “frenzy” to crown the world champion. In June and July 2010, fans will converge on South Africa for the World Cup. Almost every hotel has long since been booked in anticipation. A carefully crafted U.S. foreign policy has the potential to generate the same level of enthusiasm. How you do that, of course, is up to you.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 23

## THE CONNECTION

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# SCHOOLS

## Landscaping Project at Churchill Road School

Churchill Road School was the site of a major landscaping and ground improvement project the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving. Despite the impending rain, 28 people, mostly from Scout Troop 128, spent more than seven hours working on the school grounds. Lead by Eagle Scout candidate, and Churchill Road alumnus, Nick Pallante, the group was able to build a retaining wall, as well as spread mulch and wood chips around the school's raised planting beds and pavilion area. They also planted eight small trees on the school campus.



PHOTOS BY NICK PALLANTE

**Pictured, from left, are, Joe Pallante, Paul Young, Nick Pallante, Burk Bartow, Nathan Magner, Nadeem Bohsali, Peter Mahoney, Scott McCrery, Seth Bartow, Morgan Gillis, Dawn Dale, Principal Don Hutzel and Harrison Magner.**



**Pictured, from left, are, Paul Young, Joe Pallante and Nick Pallante, who are building a retaining wall behind the pavilion.**

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## COMMUNITY

# Share Collects for Holiday Store

Share Inc., the charitable organization that serves the needy in McLean, Great Falls and Pimmit Hills, will be taking up donations for its annual holiday store in the next couple of days. With the faltering economy, Share is seeking gifts for 30 percent more families this year than it served last year.

Clients receive a grocery card to help them buy a holiday meal and a gift or two from their wish lists before they "shop" for a few more free items.

All gifts are donated by the community, and residents are invited to drop off donations between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11 and Friday, Dec. 12 at Share's headquarters in McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road.

Share is asking for new, unwrapped items such as toys, games, house wares, small appliances, clothing ranging in size from infant to extra-large adult, and gift cards. Cards in \$25 increments are especially helpful. Gently used bikes and winter coats would also be appreciated. Warm clothes or gift cards that can be used for their purchase, for adults who work outside or wait for buses, are priorities, as are underwear, pajamas, towels and bedding.

To donate more personal gifts, e-mail [bonniewithshare@gmail.com](mailto:bonniewithshare@gmail.com). To volunteer at the holiday store on Dec. 13, e-mail [rebecca@ayresmchenry.com](mailto:rebecca@ayresmchenry.com). To learn more about the organization, visit [www.shareofmclean.org](http://www.shareofmclean.org).

— MIKE DICICCO

# Monte Carlo Night Raises \$10,000

McLean Rotary, in partnership with the Rotary Clubs of Dunn Loring, Herndon, Burke, and Tysons Corner, raised more than \$10,000 for local and international at-risk youth at the 11th Annual Rotary Monte Carlo Night held, Nov. 14, at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna.

More than 400 business, professional and civic leaders participated in this year's event, which included casino-style gaming, live and silent auctions, a \$500 cash door prize, food and dancing to one of the area's leading jazz groups, The Loudoun Jazz En-

semble. Friends, both old and new, enjoyed a fabulous night of fun playing their favorite games of chance.

"We know everyone who attended Monte Carlo Night enjoyed themselves; however, we cannot forget the purpose of the event: 'We cannot gamble with our children's future.' The proceeds from the event will help 'Make Dreams Real' for thousands of at-risk children through educational and humanitarian programs of McLean Rotary," said McLean Rotarian and McLean Monte Carlo Night chair Matthew Wallace.

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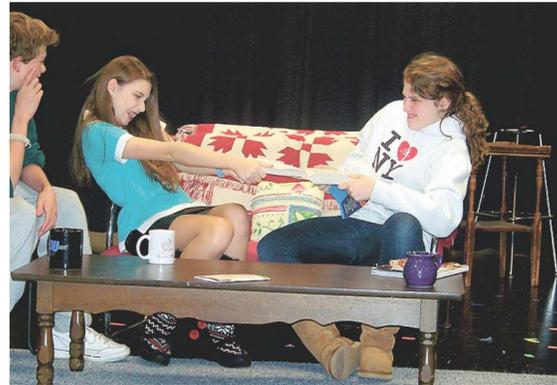
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## ON STAGE



Eighth-graders Victoria Tovig and Jenna Dean rehearse a scene from "After School Special," Friday, Dec. 5, before the One-Act Festival.



From left, eighth-graders Shy Daraeikia, Nick Pashoian, Victoria Tovig and Jenna Dean rehearse a scene from "After School Special." The one-act play takes place at a café.



Director Lindsey Perotti, eighth-grader Nick Pashoian, director Taylor Heigel, and eighth-grader Sierra Webb create posters for the coffee scene in "After School Special" before the Friday, Dec. 5, performance in the gymnasium at Cooper Middle School.

PHOTOS BY JANELLE L. PLUMMER/THE CONNECTION

# Drama Blossoms at Cooper Middle

## Langley High students direct Cooper middle-schoolers in One-Act Festival.

BY JANELLE L. PLUMMER  
THE CONNECTION

Lauren Stewart, a 15-year-old sophomore at Langley High School, holds "This is a Test" in her hand, a popular one-act comedy written by Stephen Gregg. She listens to the cast, mostly eighth-graders from Cooper Middle School, rehearsing their lines.

Stewart offers them advice. "Forget there is an audience," Stewart said, "and pretend no one is watching and have fun."

While this is Stewart's first time directing a one-act play, she said the greatest challenge was finding a play that was appropriate for middle-school students and still incorporated humor.

"It's hard sometimes to get control," she

said, referring to the eighth-graders. "They helped direct the show and they would come up with ideas."

**MEG BABER**, the drama teacher at Cooper Middle School, said bringing students from both schools helps to build on-stage theater experiences for middle- and high-school students.

Baber said she was motivated to have Langley students direct Cooper students in one-act plays, after students from both schools performed in "Children of Eden" through McLean Summer Theatre Program.

She said she saw a connection. "One of the most striking things between the middle- and high-school kids was that they already knew each other," Baber said.

During Halloween, students from both schools were actors in Spooktacular, a

haunted house, at Langley. Nonperishable items were collected and donated to Trick or Treat, so Kids Can Eat.

Baber said more students are getting involved in the performing arts. "I wouldn't do it if there wasn't so much interest,"

Baber said. "Every year it gets bigger and bigger and to have a big production has been very exciting."

Baber said doing the one-act festival allows those students who did not make the fall production, a chance to perform on-stage.

Shannon Keene, a 13-year-old eighth-grader at Cooper, said she auditioned for the fall production and did not make it. Now she's had the opportunity to be on-stage for this year's one-act festival. Keene was a part of the heavenly trio in the one-act play "This is a Test."

Keene commended the joint effort between Langley and Cooper. She said she

enjoyed working with the directors.

"They were awesome directors," Keene said. "I hope to see them next year at Langley. It's been great hanging out with them and being on stage with my friends."

While the six directors were from Langley, the stage manager was not. Sixteen-year-old Alex Heisman, who attends Cortona High School in Herndon, is a former Cooper Middle School student.

Heisman was also the stage manager for the summer and fall productions at Cooper.

"[Ms. Baber] is outstanding," he said. "She's my favorite teacher ever. She has all these kids here. There are not enough words to describe how great she is."

**IN THE END**, Baber said the students' energy keeps her enthused. She said the

one-act festival has been a good experience for the student directors.

"They have to step into an authoritative role," Baber said. "In the beginning, it's challenging for them and me."

Baber said she would love to find other ways to collaborate with Langley High School's drama department.

"I already have kids talking about wanting to do another one-act festival in the spring," she said.

However, Baber said the theater department at Cooper usually puts on a musical during the spring. "We'll see," she said, laughing.

**THE ONE-ACT PLAYS** included: "Small Actors" directed by Tess Higgins, "Oh, What a Tangled Web" directed by Emily Mannon, "This is a Test" directed by Lauren Stewart and Lena Welch, "After School Special" directed by Taylor Heigel and Lindsey Perotti.

More than 30 middle-school students performed in the One-Act Festival Friday, Dec. 3, and Saturday, Dec. 4, at Cooper Middle School.

**"I already have kids talking about wanting to do another one-act festival in the spring."**

—Meg Barber

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### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 10

**Graham Colton, Michael Tolcher, Bryan Greenberg and Tim Brantley.** Acoustic/pop/rock. 7 p.m. \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Preschool Sing-a-Long with Miss Belle.** 10:30 a.m. All ages. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

**Multiple Sclerosis Support Group.** 7 p.m. at the Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE, Vienna. A group for anyone with multiple sclerosis, their friends and family. Sponsored by the National Capital Chapter of the MS Society. The group meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Free. 703-768-4841.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 11

**VRCC Annual Holiday Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Chima-The Brazilian Steakhouse, 8010 Towers Crescent Drive, Vienna. Santa Claus, The Madison Madrigals. Bring unwrapped new toys to donate to Toys For Tots. 703-281-1333.

**Susan Mero Shelton,** author of "A Most Reluctant Caregiver," 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Rd. Vienna. [www.elcvienna.org](http://www.elcvienna.org).

**Holidays in Days Past: Traditions Retold.** The McLean Historical Society, 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-0123.

**Storytime for Tots.** 10:30 a.m. Short stories and songs. Birth-3 with adult. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 12

**Robbie Schaefer with John Jennings.** Acoustic/folk. 8 p.m. \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Terrific twos.** 10:30 a.m. at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library. Stories and activities, ages 24-35 months with adult. 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-790-8088.

**A Christmas Carol, the Musical.** 8 p.m. at the Alden Theater in the McLean Community Center. Tickets at 703-790-9223 or 703-573-SEAT.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 13

**Santa Claus at the Freeman Store and Museum.** 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. 1-3 p.m. 703-938-5187 or [fs@historicviennainc.org](mailto:fs@historicviennainc.org).

**Elizabeth, Phil, and Chris.** Acoustic trio. 6 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

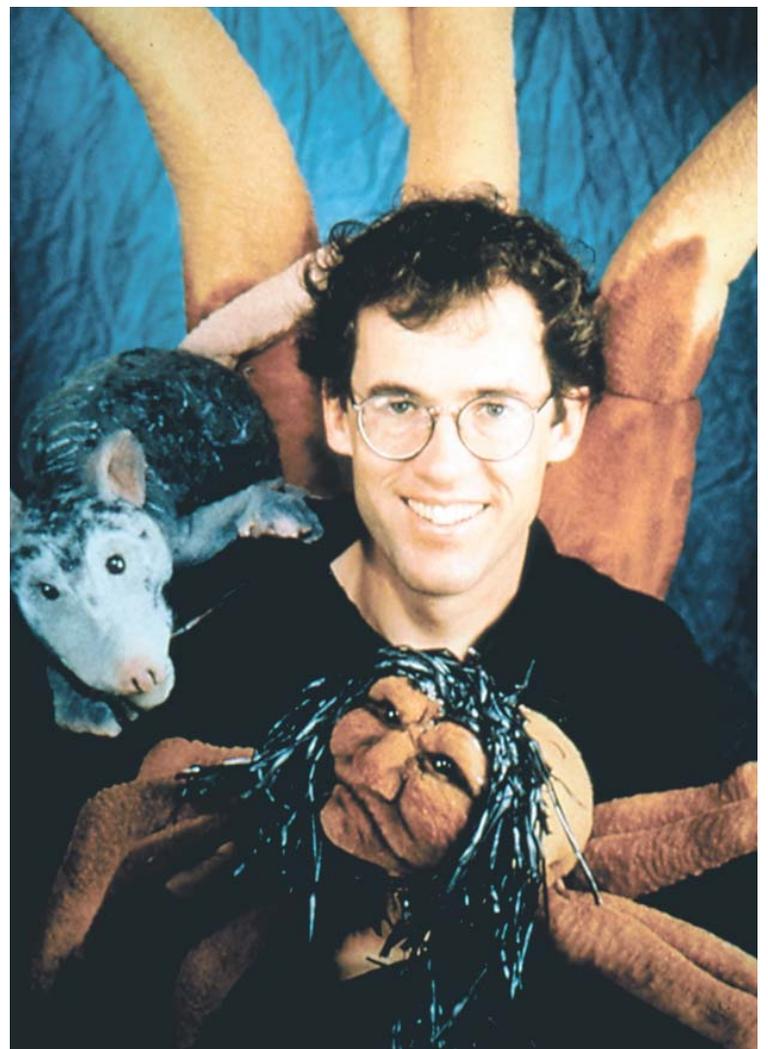
**Jeremy Enigk.** Rock. 9:30 p.m. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Mortimer's Important Job at Santa's Workshop.** 11 a.m. KayDee puppet show. All ages. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

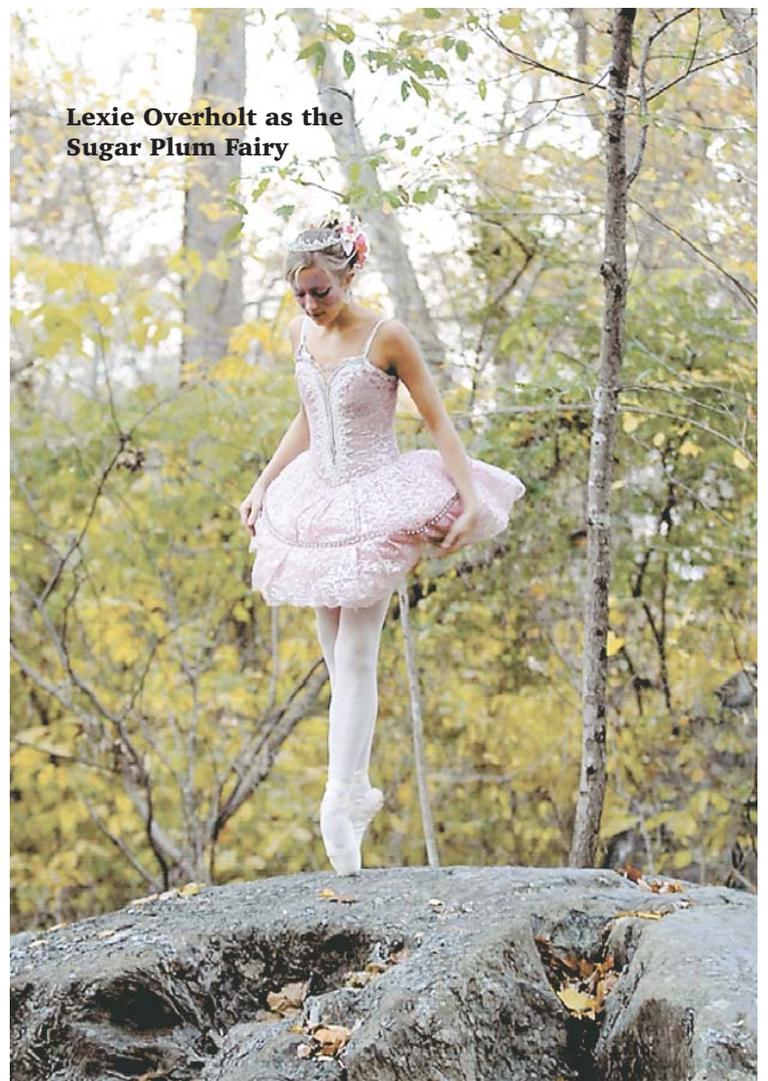
**The Biggest, Most Beautiful Christmas Tree and the Gingerbread Man.** 10:30 a.m. at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library. Interactive stories with Miss Cathy. 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-790-8088.

**Holiday Open House.** 2-4 p.m. at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15



Hobey Ford and his Golden Rod Puppets will be at the Alden Theatre in the McLean Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 13.



Lexie Overholt as the Sugar Plum Fairy

## 'The Nutcracker' at Madeira

The Conservatory Ballet presents two performances of Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker' at the Madeira School Theater on Saturday, Dec. 20. The cast of more than 125 Conservatory students ages 5 to 17 features graduating seniors Megan Kampa of Oak Hill, Kristi Liu of Reston, Lexie Overholt and Kelsy Weber, both of Oakton.

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

Music and entertainment for the holiday season. 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-790-8088.

**A Christmas Carol, the Musical.** 8 p.m. at the Alden Theater in the McLean Community Center. Tickets at 703-790-9223 or 703-573-SEAT.

**Christmas Concert with Victor Lopez and the Lopez Performing Arts Youth Choir,** 12-3 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Tickets \$30-\$75 at 703-787-0071 ext. 100. www.jamminjava.com.

**Hobey Ford and his Golden Rod Puppets** with Tales of Light, 2 p.m. at the Alden Theatre. \$12, \$8 for McLean district residents. 1234 Ingleside Ave., in the McLean Community Center. 703-744-9363 or www.mcleancenter.org.

**McLean High School Holiday Bazaar,** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Fresh poinsettias, fruit and baked goods, MHS apparel. Free admission. 703-714-7284.

**The Great Falls Studios Holiday Show and Sale,** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Colvin Run Historic Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Paintings, pottery, photography, jewelry, art quilts, and drawings created by Great Falls artists. Admission is free. 703-442-9251.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 14

**Carrie Rodriguez full band and Carsie Blanton.** Roots/country. 7 p.m. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

**A Christmas Carol, the Musical.** 2 p.m. at the Alden Theater in the McLean Community Center. Tickets at 703-790-9223 or 703-573-SEAT. Non-perishable food or toy donations accepted for SHARE.

**Kid's Cookie Class at Wildfire with Allison Seymour,** 1-2:30 p.m. at Wildfire Tysons Galleria, 3rd Floor, 1714U International Drive, McLean. \$10 for a parent and up to two

children. 703-442-9110 or wildfirerestaurant.com.

**The Great Falls Studios Holiday Show and Sale,** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Colvin Run Historic Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Paintings, pottery, photography, jewelry, art quilts, and drawings created by Great Falls artists. Admission is free. 703-442-9251.

## MONDAY/DEC. 15

**The Dog Waggers: "Wassailing With the Waggers."** 7 p.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

**Bedtime Stories.** 7 p.m. All ages. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

**Animal Survival.** 3 p.m. Hands-on exploration of skulls, bones and fur to learn how animals survive winter. Age 6-12. Great Fall Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 16

**Book Discussion.** 10:30 a.m. Call for title. Adults. Great Fall Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

**Personalized Internet Training.** 2:30 p.m. at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-790-8088.

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

**Walk Waddle and Wiggle.** 10:30 a.m. Learn about animal locomotion. Age 2-5 with adult. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

**Book discussion Group.** 7:15 p.m. Call for title. Adults. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

**Book discussion.** 7:30 p.m. Call for title. Adults. Great Fall Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

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For 5- to 9-year-olds

\$85 per day/\$75 McLean district residents

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## NEWS

# MCA Questions Tysons Parks Numbers

FROM PAGE 3

There are already 89 acres of parkland in Tysons Corner and the task force is now calling for 160 additional acres. All of the parkland is to be open space.

Strickland said the Park Authority had not changed its standards on the number of facilities — such as ball fields and gyms — that would be required per person. However, he said, “It’s going to be impossible for us to get all the facilities on-site.” In the past, developers have not necessarily had to meet all needs generated by their developments on-site and Strickland said Tysons Corner developers would be asked to fund park facilities elsewhere in the county. “Some of it’s going to be in your neighborhood,” he said. “We want to make that as compatible with the neighbors as we can. That’s going to be the challenge.”

He said the Park Authority was still in the process of developing urban standards for Fairfax County. Citizens will be asked to weigh in on those standards before they are incorporated into the

**“You should have said, ‘We are deeply disappointed.’”**

— Susan Turner,  
MCA board

county’s Comprehensive Plan and they will also be asked to voice their opinions on county staff’s recommendations for the redevelopment of Tysons Corner, Strickland said. “If we slacked off too much, we still have another opportunity.”

However, he said he was glad to have convinced the task force that parks needed to be a priority. “I feel we made a lot of progress,” he said.

MCA BOARD member Sally Horn wanted to know how much overflow facilities development would be outside of Tysons Corner and whether the Park Authority might use eminent domain to get the space.

“We’re not going to come in and

take your property,” Strickland said. “We have the authority, but we don’t use it that often.” He said he wanted to get as much facility space within Tysons as possible and that the Park Authority would push for a system whereby each unit of density would carry a parks-related responsibility and additional recreational amenities could be traded for higher density. “The problem with off-site is, you’ve got to drive there,” he said. “You’re going to have more traffic. We know that.”

Also, he said, the number of facilities the development would require would not fit into the Park Authority’s available space in the county. “We’ve got a real challenge in parks and the next phase is where we’re going to need you,” he said.

Louis Freeman said Strickland’s letter “seemed very complimentary. There was nothing in there that mentioned the concerns that you’re bringing up now.”

Strickland said he had been speaking to the acreage that had been gained for parks.

Ted Alexander, chair of the MCA’s Tysons Task Force Liaison Committee, said he was concerned that parks in McLean and Vienna would be flooded by new Tysons Corner residents.

“The bottom line is, we don’t need more traffic,” said Darren Ewing, calling the letter “Pollyannaish” and “almost apologetic.”

Susan Turner noted that the letter said the task force’s recommendations had been consistent with the Park Authority’s own suggestions, while on several points, such as the size of the development’s “central park,” there were wide disparities between what the two bodies had called for. “You should have said, ‘We are deeply disappointed,’” Turner said.

Frank Crandall said the Tysons Task Force had not taken infrastructure like parks and other necessities into account enough, making it “one of the most flawed, tragic and travesty-ridden operations I have ever seen.”

“You’ve tried too hard to be a nice guy,” he said, advising Strickland to instead be “the cranky SOB that I’ve been.”

“I feel very uncomfortable here tonight,” Strickland told the board, noting that it was one of the few occasions when he had ever been accused of not fighting for enough parks. Normally, he was the one getting angry and making demands, he said. “You’ve made me kind of ashamed tonight.”

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In execution of a Deed of Trust from George K. Green and Julie A. Dimambro, dated February 12, 2004, and recorded June 23, 2004, in Deed Book 3720 at page 115 among the Land Records of Arlington County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Court House for Arlington County, at 1425 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia, on  
**Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.**  
the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:  
Lot 7-B, as shown on the plat entitled Resubdivision of Lot Seven (7) and the Western One-Half (1/2) of Lot Eight (8), Block Three (3) Section One (1), Aurora Hills, recorded in Deed Book 839 at pages 288 and 289, among the Land Records of Arlington County, Virginia.  
Commonly known as 2507 S. Fern Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of \$35,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.375 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY  
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
David N. Prenskey  
Chasen & Chasen  
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# SPORTS

## Highlanders Edge Hawks in Girls Basketball

### McLean boys, meanwhile, lose in South Carolina.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

In an exciting early season girls basketball game, the McLean Highlanders edged Hayfield, 41-38, in overtime in a contest at the first annual Langley High Tip-off Tournament last Saturday night.

McLean, which improved to 2-1 with the win, got double-digit scoring from junior forward Melissa Wilson (14 points) and senior guard Caity Flint (12).

A day earlier, the Highlanders, coached by Mike O'Brien, lost in a lopsided game to South County, 46-19, in first-night action of the Tip-off tourney. The Stallions led 19-9 at halftime before pulling away in the second half. Wilson scored six points and junior guard Caitlin Baker added five for McLean.

On Dec. 2, McLean opened its season with a 47-33 win over visiting non-district opponent Stuart. The Highlanders will be at Centreville this Friday night.

For the McLean High boys team, it has been a rough start to the season. The Highlanders (0-3) opened with a 48-32 non-district road loss at Stuart Dec. 2. Last weekend, coach Kevin Roller's squad traveled to South Carolina to participate in the North Myrtle Beach Tip-off tournament, where it lost on both Friday and Saturday.

In Saturday's second night of



**McLean coach Kevin Roller and his boys basketball team will host Centreville this Friday night.**

tournament action, McLean played North Myrtle Beach High tough in a 69-61 loss. The Highlanders received a balanced scoring attack from senior guard Matt Baruch (15 points), junior guard Sean Fitzgerald (13) and senior point guard Peter Brosnan (12). Senior forward Grayson Dahl added seven points.

McLean will look to get into the win column when its hosts Centreville this Friday night.

**THE MARSHALL HIGH** girls basketball team, under coach Noel Klippenstein, is off to an outstanding 3-0 start this season. The Statesmen wins have come over Lake Braddock, George Mason and Wakefield. Marshall, which hosted its own Tip-off Tournament last weekend, will be at home this Friday night at 7:30 p.m. against Fairfax.



**Langley High boys basketball coach Travis Hess and the Saxons will visit rival McLean Friday, Dec. 19. The boys' game will follow the Highlander-Saxons' girls contest in an exciting night of cross-town, double-header hoops action.**

Meanwhile, the Langley High girls basketball team, with three returning starters from last year's squad that finished third in the Liberty District's regular season standings, has gotten off to a bit of a slow start. But the Saxons are a good enough team this winter that it is just a matter of time before they begin to get things going.

"We're still trying to put it together," said Langley coach Cheryl Buffo, whose team was 1-2 following last Saturday's 50-44 loss to South County at the Saxons' own first annual Tip-off Tournament.

Langley, in the setback, received

**"It's an unbelievable environment."**

— Cheryl Buffo, Langley High girls basketball coach

a game high 19 points from sophomore center Audrey Dotson, who a year ago earned First Team All-Liberty District honors. Senior forward Rachel Warrick added eight points for Langley.

The Saxons, the night before on Friday, won their first game at the Tip-off, defeating Hayfield 53-40. Warrick led Langley with 18 points in that contest, while Dotson netted 11. It was the first win of the season for the Saxons, who had lost their season opener to Northern Region power Oakton.

Langley has a solid nucleus back from last year's region tournament-qualifying team in returning starters Dotson, Warrick and junior guard Kristen Kody.

Dotson, a 6-foot-1-inch center, is one of the region's top all-around players.

"She anticipates extremely well and is good at blocking shots," Buffo said of Dotson, who averaged 13 points, seven rebounds and three blocked shots last year as a ninth-grader. "She started every game for us and basically didn't leave the floor. She's a player I felt very confident in. At the end of a game, we wanted to get the ball in her hands."

Dotson worked hard during the offseason to improve her game. She scored most of her points from inside the paint last year, but has improved her outside shooting touch, which should make it even more difficult this season for opponents to guard her.

"She's just an all-around fantastic player," Buffo said. "She hits the boards extremely well and is quick to get the ball out on the outlet."

**IN THE BACKCOURT**, Kody, who is 5 feet 10 inches, will see action at either the point guard position or at shooting guard. A year ago she earned Second Team All-District accolades.

"She's such a tall, athletic guard," Buffo said. "She can cause a lot of trouble defensively because of her quickness and long arms. She sees the floor very well."

Warrick, meanwhile, plays small forward position. She has worked hard on and improved her outside shooting touch.

"She has really become a good outside threat for us," said the coach of Warrick. "Her shot has looked real good."

This week, Langley was scheduled to play non-district road games at Yorktown on Tuesday and at Annandale this Friday night. The contest versus the Atoms will be part of a girls-boys doubleheader at Annandale.

Next week, the Saxons begin play in the Liberty District with games against Stone Bridge Tuesday, Dec. 16, and cross-town rival McLean Friday, Dec. 19. Both contests will be at Langley and the meeting against the Highlanders will be part of a girls-boys doubleheader.

"It's an unbelievable environment," Buffo said of the electricity in the gymnasium when Langley and McLean meet in hoops.

Over the Christmas holidays, the Langley girls will travel to Miami, Dec. 26-31, to take part in the eight-team Junior Orange Bowl Tournament.

### SPORTS ROUNDUPS

**McLean, Oakton, Madison and Marshall High** had place finishers (top eight) at last Saturday's Northern Region Wrestling Classic. The annual, early season event took place at Fairfax High School. Thirty-two teams participated.

Robinson High was the team champion with 222 points, while Westfield was second with 194.5.

Oakton (17th overall) received second-place finishes from Ethan Doyle (140-weight class) and Matt Patinos (160). Also for the Cougars, Chris Butters finished sixth at 125-weight class.

From Madison, Sahand Dilmaghani (160) and Albert Schultz (112) both earned fifth-place overall finishes.

From McLean High, Palmer Dickson (119) finished seventh, while Marshall was well represented by Mark Bergenholtz (seventh at 189) and Collin Newcomb (eighth at 171).

**The Madeira Swim & Dive** team opened the winter season with a 122-64 home win over Holy Child. The private high-school competition took place Dec. 5. Event winners for Madeira were Alex Psaris (200 freestyle and 500 freestyle); Renee Mattox (50 and

100 free); Melissa Berkowitz (100 breaststroke); Whitney Chronister (200 individual medley); and Christa Ann Saunders (100 fly).

"The squad looks good for early season," said Madeira coach Rod Montrie.

Madeira received excellent swims from senior captain Justine Davenport in the 200 freestyle and 100 fly events. Megan Basel also had great swims, taking third and second in the 50 and 100 freestyle, respectively. Sophomore Rachael Tang had good swims in the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly.

Madeira's next meet is home against Georgetown Visitation this Friday, Dec. 12, beginning at

5:30 p.m.

**The Marshall High Boosters** will be selling Christmas Trees once again this holiday season. Every year the Booster Club runs a tree lot to raise much-needed capital to keep the Statesmen's sports and activities programs funded. All the monies raised will go right back to the school's athletic/activities programs.

**Langley High senior Maggie Kovacs** of McLean recently signed a national letter of intent to play college women's lacrosse next school year at the University of Oregon (Eugene, Ore.).

The Ducks are under the direction of head coach Jen Larsen. Kovacs, a midfielder/attacker, was born in Oregon and later moved to Virginia. She is set to graduate from Langley this spring. She has put together a distinguished high-school career as a member of the Saxon's lacrosse program. As a freshman starter three years ago, she earned Liberty District championship MVP honors as well as being named to the U.S. Lacrosse All-American Honorable Mention team. She is currently a Langley team captain and will be a key member of the Saxons' squad this upcoming spring season.

# SCHOOLS

## Area Schools Make Top 100 in Nation

Four Fairfax County high schools have been named to the list of top-100 high schools in the United States by U.S. News and World Report. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) was named the top high school in the country for the second consecutive year.

Ranked 55th on the list of America's Best High Schools is McLean High School. Langley

High School was ranked 76th, and Woodson High School was ranked at 90. U.S. News and World Report uses a methodology developed by School Evaluation Services to assess more than 1,900 schools in 48 states. Criteria include college readiness, proficiency on standardized state tests and student participation in and performance on Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams.

Schools recognized for meeting specific criteria were designated as Silver high schools and additional schools were identified as Bronze schools based on their performance on state tests. Seven Fairfax County high schools received Silver recognition: Chantilly High School, Lake Braddock Secondary School, Madison High School, Marshall High School, Oakton High School, Robinson Secondary School and Stuart High School.

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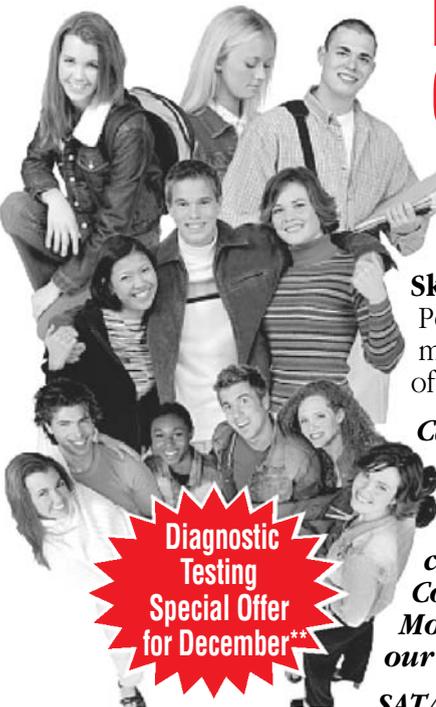
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## FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

**Western Fairfax Christian Ministries is looking for volunteers to provide food baskets** at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Western Fairfax Ministries will provide information about a family in need, and the volunteer will deliver the basket(s) directly to the sponsored family. Contact Pam Ryan at 703-988-9656 or volunteer@wfcma.org.

**Messiah Sing**, with soloists and orchestra, Saint Luke Festival Choir and chamber orchestra, Paul Skevington, artistic Director, and Cheryl Branham, conductor. 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14. Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Adults \$15, seniors and students \$12. 703-356-0670 or www.musicmclean.org.

**Vienna Assemblies of God**, located at 100 Ayr Hill Ave. N.E., Vienna, have several events scheduled in December. 703-938-7736 or www.viennaag.com.

♦ **Motion for Missions Banquet**, following services on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

♦ **'The Last Straw' Children's Christmas Play**, based on the book by Frederick H. Thury. Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m.

♦ **A Blue Christmas**, services for those who have lost a loved one or have family deployed. Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. Not a celebratory service: where those who are mourning can experience comfort.

♦ **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**, celebratory service for the whole family. Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

**Chanukah Wonderland at Tysons Corner**, 8100 Oak St., just off Gallows Road in Vienna, from Sunday, Dec. 14 through Friday, Dec. 26. Sunday-Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Free admission. Meet Judah Maccabee, tour the Chanukah House, make candles, build a giant Lego menorah, design cards for Israeli soldiers. Arts and crafts, games, olive oil show and olive press, Chanukah Superstore and café, Chanukah Mad Science, Katie Balloons and comedy and magic shows. 703-821-7770 or www.chabadtysons.com.

**Christ the King Lutheran Church Annual Christmas Program** on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. Seasonal music by the King's Chimers, classic Christmas songs by grades PK-2, and an original play, "The Activity Scene," by grades 3-6. Potluck dinner in the church fellowship hall following the Christmas Program. 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. ChristTheKing.greatfalls@verizon.net.

**Choralis Presents A Classic Brass Christmas**, featuring seasonal music including Rutter's Gloria, candlelight processional, and audience carol sing, with The Classical Brass Quintet and youth choirs. Sat., Dec. 13, 7 p.m., at Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Rd., Centreville, and Sun., Dec. 14, 7 p.m., at Falls Church Presbyterian Church, 225 E. Broad St., Falls Church. Adults \$25-35, students 13-22 with ID \$5, children 12 and under free. www.choralis.org or 703-237-2499.

**Hugh Taft Morales will discuss moral roll models and "Feet of Clay,"** at the Northern Virginia Ethical Society. Sunday, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m. Free. 225 Nutley St. NW, Vienna, VA 22180. www.esnv.org or 703 437 3161.

## Visit These Houses of Worship

Join A Club, Make New Friends, or Expand Your Horizons...

**Assemblies of God**  
Arlington Assembly of God...703-524-1667  
Calvary Gospel Church...703-525-6636

**Buddhism**  
The Vajrayogini Buddhist Center...202-331-2122

**Churches - Catholic**  
St. Agnes Catholic Church...703-525-1166  
Cathedral of St. Thomas More...703-525-1300  
Our Lady of Lourdes ...703-684-9261  
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic  
703-979-5580  
St Ann Catholic Church...703-528-6276  
St. Charles Catholic Church...703-527-5500

**Church of Christ**  
Arlington Church of Christ...703-528-0535

**Church of God - Anderson, Indiana**  
Church of God...703-671-6726

**Churches-Episcopal**  
St Andrew Episcopal Church...703-522-1600  
St George Episcopal Church...703-525-8286  
St Johns Episcopal Church...703-671-6834  
St Mary Episcopal Church...703-527-6800

**Churches Lutheran (ELCA)**  
Advent Lutheran Church...703-521-7010  
Faith Lutheran Church...703-525-9283  
German Lutheran Church...703-276-8952  
Resurrection Lutheran Church...703-532-5991  
Trinity Episcopal Church...703-920-7077

**Churches Lutheran (Missouri, Synod)**  
Our Savior Lutheran Church...703-892-4846

**Churches-Nazarene**  
Arlington First Church of the Nazarene...703-525-2516

**Church - Brethren**  
Church of The Brethren...703-524-4100

**Churches-Baptist**  
Arlington Baptist Church...703-979-7344  
Cherrydale Baptist Church...703-525-8210  
First Baptist of Ballston...703-525-7824  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church...703-979-7411

**Churches -Baptist-Free Will**  
Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church...703-527-7040

**Churches -Presbyterian**  
Arlington Presbyterian Church...703-920-5660  
Church of Covenant ...703-524-4115  
Clarendon Presbyterian Church...703-527-9513  
Little Falls Presbyterian Church...703-538-5230  
Trinity Presbyterian Church...703-536-5600  
Westminster Presbyterian ...703-549-4766

**Churches- Unitarian Universalist**  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington...703-892-2565

**Churches-United Methodist**  
Calvary United Methodist...703-892-5185  
Cherrydale United Methodist...703-527-2621  
Chesterbrook United Methodist...703-356-7100  
Clarendon United Methodist...703-527-1085  
Community United Methodist...703-527-3934  
Mt. Olivet United Methodist...703-527-3934  
Trinity United Methodist...703-356-3312  
Walker Chapel United Methodist...703-538-5200

**Churches- United Church of Christ**  
Bethel United Church of Christ...703-528-0937

### Saint Ann Catholic Church

**SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:**

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM  
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM  
1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy  
5312 North 10th Street  
Arlington Virginia 22205  
Parish Office: (703) 528-6276

**DAILY EUCHARIST:**

Weekdays  
Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM  
Saturday, 8:30 AM

All Are Welcome!



**PARISH WEBSITE:**  
www.rc.net/arlington/stann

### Westover Baptist Church

**Wednesday** Prayer Service 2:00 PM  
**Sunday** 9:30 AM Sunday School  
& 11:00 AM Worship

1125 N. Patrick Henry Drive  
703-237-8292

www.westoverbaptist.org



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Rev. Nancy Fitzgerald

Rock Spring Congregational  
United Church of Christ...703-538-4886

**Metaphysical**  
Arlington Metaphysical Chapel...703-276-8738  
**Presbyterian Church in America Churches**  
Christ Church of Arlington...703-527-0420

**Synagogues - Conservative**  
Congregation Etz Hayim...703-979-4466  
**Synagogues - Orthodox**  
Fort Myer Minyan...703-863-4520  
Chabad Livavitch of Alexandria-Arlington ...703-370-2774  
**Synagogue - Reconstructionist**  
Kol Ami, the North Virginia  
Reconstructionist Community ...571-271-8387

# SCHOOLS

Send School Notes to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Mary Ellen McCormick**, who teaches entrepreneurship at Marshall Academy, recently attended the 26th annual Entrepreneurship Education Forum in Austin, Texas where she received the Entrepreneurship 101 Award from the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education. McCormick was selected for the award based on her leadership and creativity in bringing entrepreneurship education to students. She previously worked as a marketing teacher at Langley High and has also worked in the marketing departments of several national advertising agencies.

**Navy Reserve Seaman Recruit Leslie A. Rouse**, son of Leslie A. Rouse of McLean, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

**Patrick J. Doherty** has graduated from the Army ROTC Leader's Training Course at Fort Knox, Ky. Doherty is a student at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, and is the son of Brian and Adrienne Doherty of Merrimac Drive, McLean.

**Abbie Macatuno Elliott** has received a full scholarship towards a masters in business administration at East Carolina University. Elliott, the daughter of Alexander Macatuno of McLean and Leslie Dasch, was a 1999 graduate of McLean High School and 2003 graduate of Mary Washington College.

**John Frederick Spalding** has been inducted into the Alpha Zeta Rho

Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Northern Virginia Community College. Spalding, the son of Sidney and Nancy Spalding of Great Falls, is majoring in Theatre/Music/Dance.

**Members of the Marshall High Percussion Ensemble** will perform at the Music for All National Concert Festival in Indianapolis in March 2009. The ensemble was selected from a by blind audition and was judged by percussion professionals and university percussion directors.

Four Falls Church seniors, **Claudia Aranibar**, majoring in biology, **Angelica Quant**, majoring in psychology, **Mary Seidel**, majoring in psychology, and **Alexandra Vera**, majoring in psychology, are among the Marymount University students who have been named to the 2008 "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities."

**Chester Edward Markwalter**, a chemical engineering major from Vienna, won the 1743 Distinguished Scholars award at the University of Delaware.

Markwalter is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

**Ann Marie Cerutti**, a freshman photojournalism student at West Potomac High, won second place in the Washington Post and FotoWeek DC Youth Photo Contest. More than 2,000 students from area entered the contest and 37 were chosen as finalists. Cerutti was one of four winners in the high school division. Her entry will be included in an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution.

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

I wish you all the best during the next four years. On Jan. 20, you'll kick off. Will you immediately charge the goal, or take time to set something up? Both have been successful, and both have led to disappointment.

**Jerry E. Sullivan**  
Vienna

*Retired Army colonel, and the director of Intra-governmental Affairs for the Africa Center for Strategic Studies on Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the National Defense University, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.*

# Write

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
7913 Westpark Drive  
McLean, Va. 22102  
Call: 703-917-6444.  
By fax: 703-917-0991.  
By e-mail:  
[vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com)

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**Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.**

Great Falls					
812 Olde Georgetown Ct	\$1,650,000	Sat 11-2	Janel Hansen	Weichert	703-753-3828
721 Ellsworth Ave	\$1,921,000	Sun 1-4	Karen Martins	McEneaney	703-790-9090
Falls Church					
2589 Holly Manor Dr	\$699,000	Sun 1-4	An Nguyen	Westgate	571-436-1786
McLean					
7349 Hooking Rd	\$1,200,000	Sun 1-4	Lori Wertz	Century 21	703-201-6523
838 Alvermar Ridge Dr	\$3,531,000	Sun 1-4	Jeffrey Stein	Tranzon Fox	703-626-7407
Vienna					
9490 Virginia Center Blvd #130	\$364,900	Sun 1-4	Donna Leeds-Shipe	Long & Foster	703-851-7015
2791 Centerboro Dr #371	\$374,900	Sun 1-4	Donna Leeds-Shipe	Long & Foster	703-851-7015
9203 Talisman Dr	\$615,000	Sun 1-4	Donna Leeds-Shipe	Long & Foster	703-851-7015
8513 Westown Way	\$699,900	Sun 10-3	Lauren Herberghs	Weichert	703-893-1500
LATER THIS MONTH					
Great Falls					
721 Ellsworth Ave	\$1,921,000	12/21 1-4	Karen Martins	McEneaney	703-790-9090

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact:  
In Great Falls, Salome, 703-917-6467, or [salome@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:salome@connectionnewspapers.com)  
In Vienna, Don, 703-917-6466, or [donpark@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:donpark@connectionnewspapers.com)  
In McLean, Lauri, 703-917-6460, or [lauri@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:lauri@connectionnewspapers.com)

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**NEW LISTING**

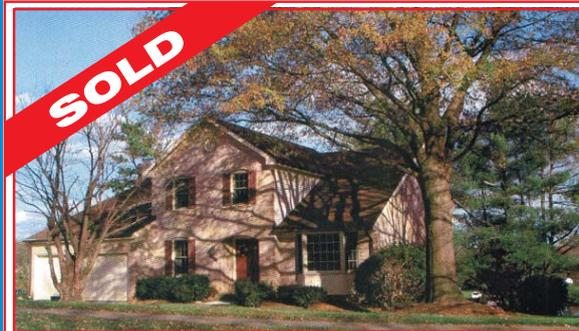
948 Towlston Road, McLean \$1,399,000



2022 Leonard Road, Falls Church \$1,350,000



1952 Kirby Road, McLean \$1,075,000



**SOLD**

1003 Heather Hill Court, McLean \$1,075,000

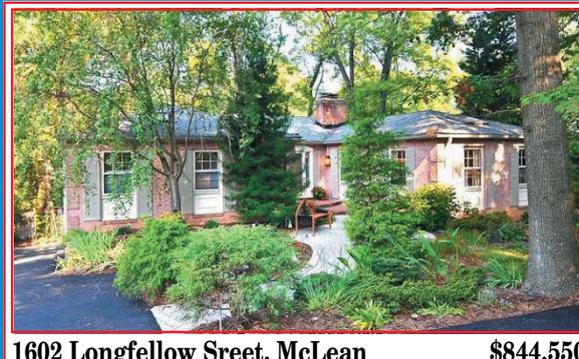


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