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Helene Albouy of McLean, Georgia Corey of Great Falls and Muriel Peake of McLean attended the art show titled "Cellular Perspectives," sponsored by the McLean Project for the Arts on Jan. 23.

Attracted By Art

NEWS, PAGE 12

**McLean Man Wins
Lottery ... Again**

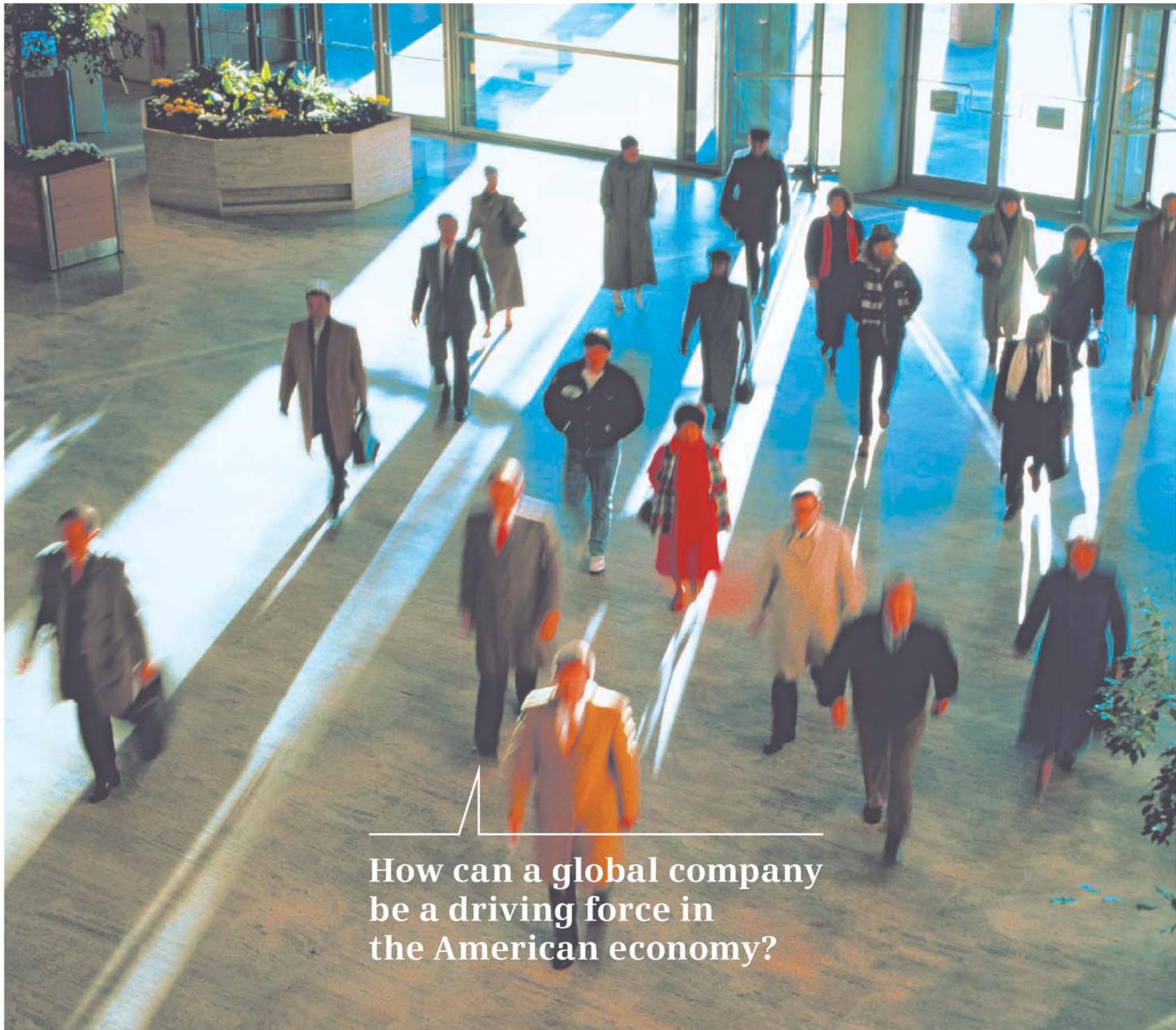
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**Tunnel Supporters
Argue Their Case**

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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

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PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Residents of the neighborhoods just beyond the walls of McLean Professional Park opposed the idea of allowing some retail uses in the business park.

No New Retail for Professional Park

Task Force recommends continuing ban on retail in McLean Professional Park; Vinson Hall withdraws proposal.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Peter Lunt, one of the owners of McLean Professional Park, said he envisioned a day when designers with offices on the property could sell some of their products on-site or an art dealer could take cash to frame a picture and not just bill clients by mail.

“There has been demand, that approached the owners over the last two years, of people wanting to occupy space and the question was, ‘Do you have a cash register?’” said Keith Martin, an agent to the property owners. If the answer was yes, he said, the business was considered a retail operation and the potential tenant could not lease space on the property due to a clause in the Comprehensive Plan specifying that “no new retail” is to be allowed in the business park.

And, after residents living near the property and representatives from several local groups spoke out against opening up the business park to some “limited retail” at the Dranesville District Area Plan Review (APR)

“We think it sets a precedent for disregarding the concept that’s laid out in the plan.”

— Clara Quintero Johnson, county planner

Task Force’s meeting last Wednesday, Jan. 21, the task force voted unanimously to recommend that the ban on new retail be retained.

Also scheduled for the meeting was a plan amendment proposed by Vinson Hall Retirement Community that would have allowed the facility to expand its independent living quarters from the 169 dwelling units to 350 units. Vinson Hall, however, withdrew its proposal before the meeting.

MARTIN SAID the owners of McLean Professional Park, located near the intersection of Chain Bridge Road and Ingleside Avenue, wanted to allow low-traffic retail only on the first floor of the four buildings closest to Chain Bridge Road and farthest from the surrounding neighborhoods. That space would eventually be filled by businesses like art galleries, boutiques, jewelry studios and small cafés, he said.

But county planner Clara Quintero Johnson said planning staff worried that the

SEE NEIGHBORS, PAGE 12



Congressman Jim Moran (D-8) visits with attendees of the Virginia Inaugural Black Tie and Blue Dominion Ball at the National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center.

Area Inaugural Ball Attracts Local, National Crowd

PHOTOS BY
ROBBIE HAMMER
THE CONNECTION



Valarae Williams of Reston watches artist Michael Israel create several pieces of art during the Virginia Inaugural Black Tie and Blue Dominion Ball.



People from all over the country including area dignitaries and national and local celebrities attend the Virginia Inaugural Black Tie and Blue Dominion Ball Monday night, Jan. 19, at the National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center.

Dell Keynotes NVTC Event

The Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC), the largest technology council in the nation, announced that Michael Dell, chairman of the board and chief executive officer, Dell Inc. will be the keynote speaker at the Tuesday, Feb. 3, Premier Titans Series luncheon.

Dell will discuss emerging green technology, critical investments in infrastructure and steps to stay liquid in these challenging economic times. This session will be moderated by Gary Shapiro, president and CEO of the Consumer Electronics Association, who will lead the conversation followed by an interactive question-and-answer session with attendees.

After founding the company in 1984 with \$1,000 and the idea to have direct relationships with customers, Michael Dell became the youngest CEO to earn a Fortune 500 ranking in 1992.

The registration and networking begin at 11 a.m. and the lunch and program, at 11:45 a.m., at the Hilton McLean, 7920 Jones Branch Drive.

Man Robbed in Falls Church Area

A 38-year-old Falls Church-area man was robbed as he entered 7348 Lee Highway Saturday, Jan. 24, at 12:40 a.m., according to police. The victim was at the door when the suspect came out of the building. The suspect displayed a handgun and demanded money. The victim relinquished his wallet and the suspect fled. There were no injuries.

The suspect was described as black, approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall with an average build. He was wearing all black clothing and a black ski mask.

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

Robbery, Abduction Attempt

A woman and her 2-year-old daughter were robbed on their way home from church Tuesday, Jan. 20, around 9 p.m., according to the police. The 27-year-old mother pulled into a parking lot at 7481 Lee Highway when two men emerged from the bushes and approached her car. One man walked up to the driver's door, while another approached the passenger's side, opened the rear door and grabbed the baby. One of the suspects then produced a knife, threatened the driver and her child and demanded money. The victim handed over her belongings and the suspects fled on foot. There were no injuries.

One suspect was described as around 5 feet 9 inches tall and 150 pounds. The other was described as around 6 feet 1 inch tall and 175 pounds. Both men wore black ski masks, black jackets, blue jeans and black gloves.

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

Wolf Trap Hiring

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts hires many temporary summer employees to assist with the annual performance season that runs from late-May to mid-September.

For the 2009 performance season, job announcements will be posted on www.usajobs.gov in February and March. Applicants should read the vacancy announcements closely for directions on how to apply for a federal position.

To learn more about employment opportunities, stop by a Job Fair, Feb. 19, 1-7 p.m., March 7, 12-4 p.m. or March 11, 1-7 p.m. For additional information about job fairs, job announcements, and federal resumes call Lela Sandoval at 703-255-1814. For additional information about jobs with the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts e-mail HR@wolftrap.org or call 703-255-1906.



Theodore "Tony" Townes holds the novelty-sized check representing his latest win in the Virginia Lottery.

McLean Man Wins Lottery ... Again

Townes gets second big win in less than two years.

Earlier this month, Theodore "Tony" Townes won \$500,000 with a Colossal Cash Scratcher lottery ticket he bought at the 7-Eleven on Chain Bridge Road in McLean. It was his second big win in just less than two years.

In March of 2007, the McLean resident won \$777,777 in the lottery's Super Lucky 7's game.

Townes bought the first of four top prize-winning tickets in the Colossal Cash game.

"It's not unprecedented. We've had some very big winners in the

past who have won a second time," Virginia Lottery spokesman John Hagerty said, although he added that two-time big winners were "very rare."

— MIKE DiCICCO

Girl Scouts Protect Neighboring Stream

Four Churchill Road School Girl Scouts from Troop 3377 received a Johnnie Forte Jr. Memorial Grant for their upcoming project to reduce erosion and prevent litter from entering the stream in Churchill Road park directly behind the school. The four sixth-graders — Julia Casazza, Maya Chung, Natalie Diaz and Billie Malès — wanted to carry out a Bronze Award service project that would help make a difference for the environment near the school. After observing water flow patterns, stream bank erosion and litter entering the stream, they decided upon a project that would help reduce human impacts on the stream. The girls tested the stream water quality last year as part of Churchill Road's environmental stewardship program, Outdoor Odyssey. They submitted planting plans to the Fairfax County Park Authority this month for their Clean Green Stream project.

The project includes constructing two small log and stone berms to slow runoff and reduce erosion, adding native plants to prevent



Pictured, from left, are Natalie Diaz, Billie Malès, Maya Chung and Julia Casazza.

erosion near the footbridge and increasing student awareness of litter prevention. The Scouts' ultimate goal is to apply for certification of the CRS gardens and grounds and park area as a certified wildlife habitat.

Scout Maya Chung, 11, said, "We wanted to do something that would make a real difference for the stream. Many people don't realize that this is their drinking

water."

For additional information on the project, contact project co-leader Sun Hur Diaz at rsnl.diaz@gmail.com.

The Johnnie Forte Jr. Memorial Grant is made possible by Clean Fairfax Council, Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program, Fairfax County Wastewater Management and Vantria Federal Credit Union.

NEWS

Tunnel Supporters Argue Their Case

For group's members, tunnel is an election priority in Chairman race.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Tysonstunnel.org wants to hear plans for burying the coming Rail to Dulles under Tysons Corner, and the group will encourage its members to vote accordingly in the upcoming election for county chairman, said Scott Monett, the organization's president.

Though the crowd at a press conference at Habatat Gallery in Tysons Corner Monday afternoon was not large enough to fill a room, the people present represented tens of thousands of potential voters.

Tysonstunnel claims membership of 96 civic organizations, comprising more than 300,000 voters, as well as almost 1,000 businesses, and it is ready to throw its weight around during the lead-up to the Feb. 3 special election between Democrat Sharon Bulova, Republican Pat Herrity, and independent candidates Carey Campbell and Christopher De Carlo, Monett said.

Any communications from candidates on the topic will be broadcast to all members, he promised.

Rob Jackson, president of the McLean Citizens Association (MCA), which represents about 26,000 households in the greater McLean area, said the people he represented supported the idea of a rail to Dulles but preferred by a two-to-one margin to see no rail than the elevated rail that is currently planned.

Businesses in the area are already suffering, as utility relocation projects making way for the rail and the construction of HOT lanes on the Beltway have caused traffic difficulties, he said. "What's going to happen to businesses and residents of this area if you're building an elevated line for years?" Jackson asked. "It's like reconstructing the Berlin Wall. You're splitting communities instead of bringing them together."

Jackson said the push to have the contract put back out to bid with a tunnel option had received enthusiastic support from Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) and even Del. Dave Marsden (D-41), although his constituents do not live near Tysons Corner. He said he wanted to hear each of the current candidates' plans for the rail, rather than claims that it was



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

From left, Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce President Diane Poldy, Westbriar Civic Association President Jack Mitchell and Roger Diedrich, chair of Smart Growth and Transportation for the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, listen to Tysonstunnel.org President Scott Monett discuss the organization's scrutiny of the current chairman's race.

"Why use horse-and-buggy technology in the 21st century?"

— Irv Auerbach, Lewinsville Coalition president

too late to re-plan the project.

With federal funding already secured for the rail, a presidential administration that is "focused on infrastructure and transportation," and a new county chairman coming in, the time is right to take another look at the possibility of burying the rail, said Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce (VTRCC) President Diane Poldy. "What we want is a chance for a tunnel to stand side-by-side with elevated rail to get a fair look," she said.

Westbriar Civic Association President Jack Mitchell said the Vienna-area residents he represented "overwhelmingly" supported the "minimal visual impact" of an underground rail through Tysons Corner, as opposed to the "noisy, dirty eyesore" that an elevated rail would present.

Representing the Lewinsville Coalition, an alliance of 12 McLean neighborhood associations, Irv Auerbach said his neighbors looked forward to the rail being built. "What we do not look forward to is having the Metrorail built on stilts," he said, adding that this was how rails were built generations ago. "Why use horse-and-buggy technology in the 21st cen-

ture?" he asked.

"Our community almost unanimously voted for the tunnel option," said Melissa Dabney, vice president of Vienna's Tysons Green Civic Association.

Roger Diedrich, chair of Smart Growth and Transportation for the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, said he did not believe that burying the rail would cause the project to be postponed, lose federal funding or cost more. He said the Sierra Club had already endorsed Bulova for county chair but hoped she would take a stand on the tunnel issue.

"We don't just want promises, we want action when they do get elected," cautioned past VTRCC Chairman Billy Thompson. He said he wanted the rail built as part of a vision that would serve future generations. "We need to get it right, and get it right the first time, because there is no second chance," he said.

Following the press conference, Monett dismissed the oft-repeated concerns that re-planning the project could cost its federal funding and cause years of delays. "We don't need fearful leaders," he said.

Monett said he had spoken with officials in the Federal Transit Administration and U.S. Department of Transportation, as well as lawyers, lobbyists and elected officials at all levels of government. "They've all said, 'It can be done. All you have to do is ask.'"

"Nobody's been able to give me a good reason why this can't be done. It's just that the people who can do it aren't doing it."



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OPINION

Major Party Candidates Plea Their Cases

Why Vote for Bulova?

BY SHARON BULOVA
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



Bulova

In my years as a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many people from all parts of Fairfax. I am gratified that people tell me that they have chosen to live here because they enjoy the excellent schools, exceptional public safety, and first rate business climate. They tell me that realize that is a good place to live, work, raise a family and grow old.

In the upcoming Feb. 3 election for the Chairman of the Board, the most important message that I hear from voters is that they realize the good things about Fairfax County haven't happened by accident. Voters know that we are one of the best managed jurisdictions of our size in the country because we have had public leaders who have paid attention, set priorities, made the tough decisions, and demanded quality in all that we do.

In the 21 years, I have served on the Board, I have chaired the budget committee for 17 of those years. I know that our budget is our most important statement of our values. We can say we are for something, but it we aren't willing to put resources there, we are misleading. I know that building the annual budget is a constant quest for the best balance between revenue and expenses. We have a AAA bond rating, and we also have schools that rank among the very best in the United States. We have welcomed diversity as a great asset, even though that same diversity has challenged us and some-time cost us more to provide the services people here need and de-

IN HER
OWN
WORDS

mand. We have worked hard to find the right balance.

Voters know that our Board works best when we work together. I have a long record of reaching "across the aisle" and working with people from all parts of the county to build consensus about priorities. Voters know that I have been a leader in developing new ways to get public input, connect public and private resources, and improve the quality of life for everybody.

Voters know that in the past I was one of the most consistent advocates for mass transit to help relieve our traffic mess. I was one of the early sponsors of the Virginia Railway Express (the VRE) and have spent the last ten years as an advocate for rail to Dulles.

Voters know that as Chairman of the Board, I will continue that civil consensus-building open and honest approach. I won't walk away from a problem because it is hard or because I didn't get my way. I will be the leader of the Board and will set the agenda, but I will always respect those who disagree.

Respectfully, I ask the citizens of Fairfax County for your vote on Feb. 3. I pledge that I will always work to keep Fairfax the place where people will want to choose to live, work, and play.

Vote Feb. 3

All Fairfax County polling places will be open on Tuesday Feb. 3 for the special election for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to replace Gerry Connolly.

Why Vote for Herrity?

BY PAT HERRITY
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



Herrity

Campaigns are about highlighting differences, but I am confident we can agree on one thing: Fairfax County is a great place to live. For decades we have had the best schools and beautiful parks. We've had a Triple-A bond rating since 1975, and we have been the economic engine for the state.

Yet our future success is not pre-ordained. We currently face significant challenges. Most pressing is our \$650 million shortfall, the largest in our history and larger than all of our surrounding jurisdictions combined. We face this shortfall despite the fact that taxes on homeowners have doubled in the past seven years. County spending has exploded, growing the budget by a billion dollars beyond inflation and population growth, squandering the good times on misplaced priorities.

We've spent \$200 million in the past two years to buy government housing and have built a large housing bureaucracy that makes us among the largest landlords in the County. We're subsidizing housing for those making \$99,000 a year.

At the same time, our schools are in dire need of renovations and class sizes continue to increase. Teacher pay has dropped from highest in the region to sixth highest. Despite this, the School Board, with my opponent's support, wants to spend \$130 million on a fancy administration building.

Fairfax County needs a leader with tested financial skills, who knows how to read a balance sheet, how to say "no," and who will focus spending on priorities. I am a chief financial officer with an award-winning financial track record of turning around troubled companies. I am the only candidate for Chairman with the financial experience necessary to lead us out of this financial train wreck.

I am also a recognized leader in transportation. I sit on the operations board for VRE, and was leading the effort for telecommuting with the Northern Virginia Technology Council before telecommuting was an accepted concept. On the Board, I have led

IN HIS
OWN
WORDS

the efforts for both short-term and long-term improvements to the I-66 corridor.

Contrary to my opponent's accusations, I did not attempt to block the Dulles Rail project. In 2002, I filed suit against the project in order to ensure it was competitively bid, in an effort to save taxpayer money. To date, the project has never been competitively bid. I believe if it had, we would have been able to build a tunnel, the best option for Tyson's Corner, and still have met federal cost standards.

We can't afford to wait for Richmond to solve our problems. Thirty years ago when my father, Jack Herrity, was chairman of the Board, private-sector funding for transportation outweighed federal, state and local funding combined. Developers were held accountable for infrastructure improvements. We need to return to this kind of responsible leadership and creative solutions.

We also need to make our commercial tax base a priority. The commercial tax base was 27 percent but has now fallen to 17 percent, shifting the tax burden onto homeowners. It is important now more than ever for government to be responsive to the need for tax relief for residents. That is why last year I proposed a balanced budget that included an actual tax cut for homeowners. My budget also included an increase in education spending and more money for public safety programs than the budget passed by the Board.

I want my children to raise their children in a Fairfax County that is the best place to live, work, and play. I ask for your vote on Feb. 3.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
7913 Westpark Drive
McLean, Va. 22102
Call: 703-917-6444.
By fax: 703-917-0991.
By e-mail:
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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-917-6444
Fax: 703-917-0991
e-mail:
mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-917-6428
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike DiCicco
Community Reporter
703-917-6438
mdicicco@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics
703-917-6433
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Courts & Projects
703-917-6417
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

Rich Sanders
Sports Editor ♦ 703-917-6439
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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-917-6416
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editors
Steve Hibbard, Michael O'Connell,
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Robbie Hammer, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Zohra Aslami, Geovani Flores,
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
John Smith, Stu Moll,
Wayne Shipp
Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-917-6480
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,
L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-917-6416
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Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
703-917-6404
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Wesley DeBrosse
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WEDNESDAY/JAN. 28

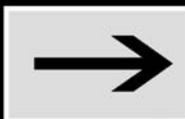
Governing Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. If you would like to speak during the "Citizen Comment" portion of the meeting, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the agenda.

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

10-Minute Play Contest Deadline. Today is the deadline for submissions to the McLean Drama Company's 10-minute play contest for adults. The manuscript must have only the title, but the play is to be accompanied by a resume and cover letter. It cannot be submitted under a pseudonym and must not have been performed. Multiple submissions will be accepted. Entry fees: \$15/McLean residents, \$20/Fairfax County residents, \$25/residents of Washington, D. C., Montgomery County and surrounding areas. Send submissions to: McLean Drama Company, P.O. Box 1103, 6841 Elm St. McLean, Va. 22101. The winning play will be presented at the Alden Theatre.

THURSDAY/FEB. 5

The Business Bank 2009 Power Networking Luncheon, with speaker Bobbie Kilberg, President and CEO of the Northern Virginia Technology Council. 11:30 a.m. at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar at 1960-A Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Reservations are \$25 at www.mcleanchamber.org or 703-356-5424.



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A Time To Sleep?

Parents share some of the challenges of getting students up before dawn to go to school.

The Fairfax County School Board is considering changing school start and dismissal times, in part to streamline transportation schedules and costs, and in part to consider a later start time for high school students.

No decision has been made on changing the bell schedule. The School Board will seek input from parents, staff and community members through six community dialogues in planning stages for the last week in February plus a survey that will be posted on the schools Web site the first week of February.

Members of a grass-roots parent organization, SLEEP (Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal) have been advocating for a later high-school start time for years, arguing that scientific research shows that early start times are unhealthy for most teens. SLEEP organizers asked some of their supporters to share their experiences with the current high school start times; here are some excerpts. For many more submissions from parents, see www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

For more on start times, see www.sleepinfairfax.org and www.fcps.edu.

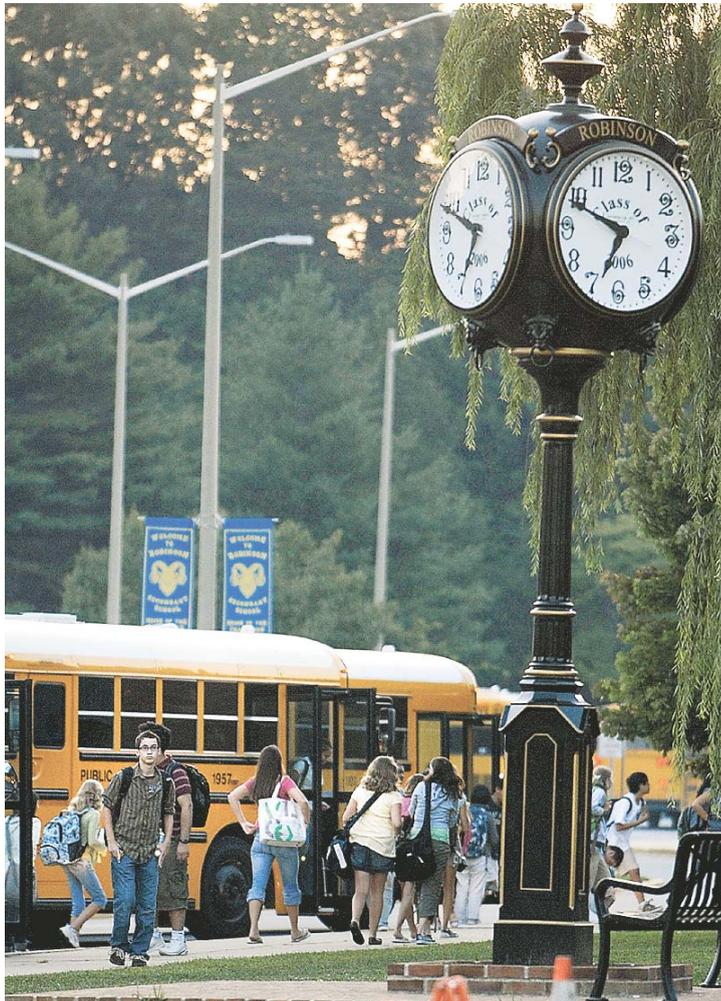
MARSHALL

Our daughter graduated in 2003 with a full IB diploma from George Marshall High School. She also participated in their theater program and loved to dance at a private studio, although the time devoted to that was cut back to almost nothing by the end of high school. She loved freshman year, but her enthusiasm for school went steadily down as she gradually became more and more tired.

She did get through but decided to postpone college for a year because she just couldn't face the thought of four more years like the previous ones. She had trouble believing us that college would be easier ... 15 hours of class a week, not the 30 hours that high school is.

She usually left the house before 7 a.m. and got home at 7 p.m. after theater practice, had dinner, and then had three-to-four hours of homework. It was a grueling schedule. Several years after graduation, she was going through papers that she had saved and spent some time re-reading them. She was amazed and disappointed to realize that the quality of her work declined during the four years. The papers she had written freshman and sophomore years were much better than the work from the last two.

— **Carol Powell**, Marshall Parent



Robinson students on the school bus before 7 a.m. in this undated file photo.

SLEEP AND MY FAMILY

At the beginning of the new school year, my son (who is a total night owl) caught the flu. We battled that flu for over eight weeks because his body was so stressed from having to get up at 6 a.m. to catch the bus. More than once, I sent him out the door crying and begging to be allowed to get more sleep. He was going to bed at 8 p.m. to try to get enough rest, but his body ... would not fall asleep until 10 or 11. We were both miserable. Finally, I decided to just drive him in to Longfellow every day so he could sleep until 6:45. He still can't handle food at that hour, so he drinks a large cup of milk. Since I have been driving him he has not been ill, his mood has lightened. ... I want to emphasize that he really tried to get to bed early enough, to the point of getting anxious about every minute he was awake. He would get completely stressed out about not sleeping and not having any time to relax because he was too tired to do his homework efficiently.

Allowing him to sleep in would make a huge difference in our lives.

— **Lucy Cliburn**, Longfellow parent

SLEEP DEPRIVATION AND MY DAUGHTER

There is absolutely no question that my daughter, a junior at McLean High, is prevented from achieving her scholastic best

with the lack of sleep she receives Monday through Friday. Particularly as a young lady, she needs one hour to shower, dress and eat breakfast. To catch the morning bus, including the 5-minute walk to the bus stop, requires her to be awakened at 5:35 a.m. Her growing body, based on all I've read and feedback from physicians, needs more sleep to develop properly and be awake and ready to face her first class. The volume of homework has her working until 10 p.m. at a minimum, with 11 p.m. being more typical. Taken with the time it takes to fall asleep, she receives, perhaps, 6.5 hours of sleep per night. This is much too little. ... My son starts high school next year. Let's give all the students a chance to do their best during these most important years.

— **Bill Dunn**, McLean

ELEMENTARY CHILDREN WAKING EARLIER

I have a story regarding the school time conflict. Perhaps it is the opposite of most stories you are hearing. My children are in elementary school. They are 7 and 9-years-old. They awaken every single morning

before 6:30 a.m. This is a problem for my husband and me. But, the more significant problem is the fact that their bus does not come to pick them up until 8:45. They have more than two hours in the morning to play, watch a little TV, eat breakfast and get dressed. In the afternoon, my young children come home from school at 4:30 p.m. It is practically dark out when they get home so there is no time for playing outside. I would love for them to be on the bus at 7:30 and home before 3:30.

— **Melissa Sporn**, McLean, parent of a Franklin Sherman (first grader) and Haycock (third grader)

COUNTING ON FLEXIBILITY

Our older son, now 16, has been tired and often sick since he was 11-years-old and his junior high bus started coming at 5:58 a.m. I'm astounded that in an intelligent, well-educated community like Northern Virginia, people can't see how very early school start times put our students at a terrible disadvantage at a critical time in history. The excuses given for not making the changes to get our kids more sleep are pitiful. If we set junior high and high school start times later, people will adapt. Give us a little credit for that best human quality — flexibility!

— **Ella Wilcox**, McLean High School

WALK IN THE DARK

Our daughter is an eighth grader at

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS. EMAIL MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Kilmer Middle school (GT Center), and this year her bus arrives at 6:40 a.m., a far cry better than last year's 6:14 a.m. As the first pick up for both years (and the only pick up at that stop), we have to walk in the dark about a quarter of a mile to the bus stop. While this year's time is much more manageable, there are only four kids who ride this bus (full-size), making me question the cost and environmental efficiency of this plan. Last year, we were up at 5:30 a.m. to make the 6:14 bus, which meant that if she wasn't in bed by 9:30 p.m., she was exhausted (as were we) the next day. These times are compounded by two things. One is the time that school starts (7:25 a.m.) and two is the area for the GT Center. One of the reasons that her bus has only four students on it this year is that we were grandfathered into Kilmer last year, while beginning this year Vienna GT seventh graders are assigned to the Luther Jackson GT Center. Our son (currently in fifth grade) will go there and the bus issues will be the same, given that Luther Jackson is even further away than Kilmer.

The other issue we deal with is that our son's elementary school (Sunrise Valley Elementary — again, our GT center), begins school at 9:10 a.m., meaning that he doesn't even need to get up until 7:30 or later even though he is generally up before that time. If elementary schools generally started earlier, it would lessen the need for split before/after school care.

— **Barbara Rudin**, Kilmer, Sunrise

FALLING ASLEEP IN CLASS

As a mom of a sophomore at Annandale High School, I have seen the difficulty that early morning starts have on teenagers. There have been numerous times that my daughter has reported falling asleep in class and somehow she has managed to maintain good grades in spite of the lack of sleep. It makes more sense to have the younger children catch the bus earlier and let the older teens catch the bus later.

— **Sallie Williams**, Annandale High School

TOO EARLY

I'm writing to express my family's support for later start times for high school students. I was aware of this task force when my daughter was in elementary school and was hoping the times would have changed by the time she got to high school. She's now a ninth grader at Edison High School.

The bottom line is the school day starts way too early for high school students. My daughter, as well as my husband and I all struggle to get up early — me at 5:30 a.m., my daughter and husband shortly thereafter. ... We all suffer from sleep deprivation during the week, which is unhealthy.

— **Tricia Selby**, Edison parent

Chinese New Year Celebrated



The customers enjoy traditional Chinese Lion Dance.

David Lo, co-owner of the Peking Imperial Restaurant in McLean, spreads the green around for good luck during Chinese New Year activities at the restaurant on Sunday evening. The "Eating of the Green [lettuce]" symbolizes money and is chewed by the lion to remove the bad luck then is spit out, spreading good luck all around.



The traditional Chinese Lion Dance is performed as part of Chinese New Year activities for customers at the Peking Imperial Restaurant on Sunday night in McLean.

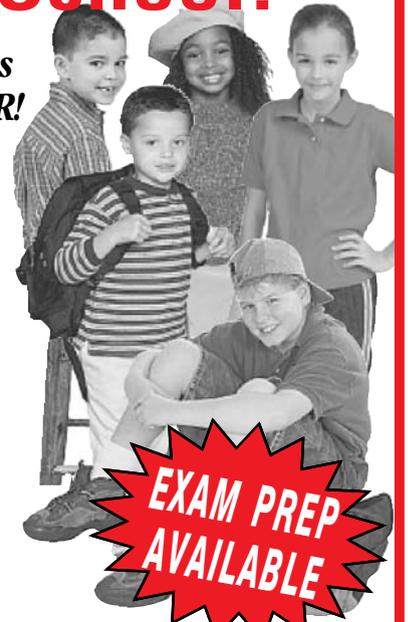
PHOTOS BY
ROBBIE HAMMER
THE CONNECTION

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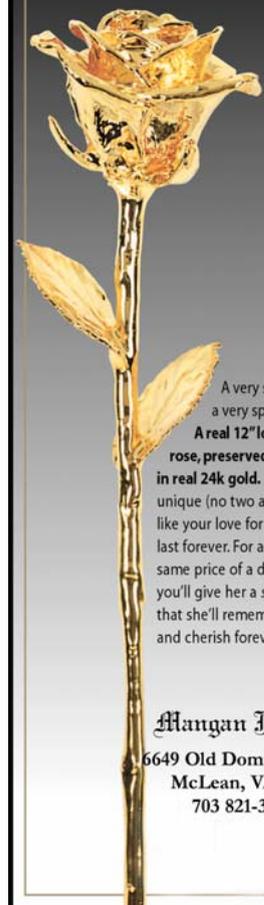
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101 WAYS TO HAVE FUN

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CENTERS FOR RECREATION

Dance the Night Away

McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean
703-790-0123

Jazz and introduction to flamenco are both offered this spring. To see schedule, pricing and requirements, visit www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips/adultdance.asp.

En Garde!

McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean
703-790-0123

Learn the fundamentals of fencing, including footwork, handwork and strategy. Fencing is open to both teens and adults this spring. For schedules and pricing, visit www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips/adult-fencing.asp.

Sculpt Your Body

McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean
703-790-0123

Sign up for several different yoga, pilates and other fitness classes that are designed to streamline your body. For schedules and pricing, visit www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips/adultfitness.asp.

Feng Shui Your Home

McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean
703-790-0123

Learn to create comfortable living space in your home that will spur positive energy and remove the imprints of previous owners. For schedules and pricing, visit www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips/adultpersonal.asp.

Light Up the Stage, Literally

McLean Community Center

vided. There is no fee. Bring a toy to share. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

No Toll for this Bridge

McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean
703-790-0123

Each week, bridge games are open to McLean Community Center district residents and their guests. There is no fee, but residents will be required to sign in each time they participate, providing their names and addresses and the names of any guests. Room location and availability are subject to change without notification. Call to check with center staff each week before coming to participate. **Senior bridge** meets Mondays. Participants should arrive by 9:45 a.m. to be included in the rotation for games, which begin promptly at 10 a.m. Play will go for six, 30-minute rounds, with a lunch break. **Party bridge** meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. **Community bridge** meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Take a Little Trip

McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean
703-790-0123

The McLean Community Center offers regular day trips and overnight tours to a wide variety of areas and cultural and recreational events. Prices vary and residents of the community center's special tax district get a discount. The next day trip is a personal tour of the studios of Arlington artists **David Carlson and Lynn Schmidt** Tuesday, Feb. 17. Following the tour, the artists will join participants for lunch at Restaurant Vero. The cost is \$50 per person, \$40 McLean district residents and includes transportation and lunch. The trip is limited to 12 participants. The next overnight tour will be a full experience of Manhattan, including orchestra seats to "A Tale of Two Cities," the must-see show on Broadway, Sunday, March 22, to Tuesday, March 24. Enjoy deluxe motor coach transportation from the community center to the heart of Manhattan. Participants will enjoy club-level service at the Sheraton New York Hotel in the heart of the theatre district. The trip also includes a tour of ethnic eateries and neighborhoods in lower Manhattan and a tour of the United Nations, with a delicious lunch in the Delegates Dining Room that overlooks the East River. Capping off the trip will be a London Symphony Orchestra performance at Lincoln Center. The cost is \$1,195 per person, \$1,095 for McLean district residents, based on

1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean
703-790-0123

Alden Theatre is always looking for volunteers to help out with the "behind-the-scenes" side of their productions. Those who are interested in doing technical work on the productions must take one of two sessions on set construction, lighting and sound offered at the community center. For pricing and schedules, visit www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips/adulttheater.asp.

Hang Out at the Old Firehouse

Old Firehouse Teen Center
1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean
703-448-8336

The Old Firehouse Teen Center, located next to the Giant Shopping Center, provides many activities to help guide teenagers away from trouble, providing a safe, alcohol-free atmosphere. Dances are held every Friday night. Party packages are also available. A membership fee is only \$25 per year for those who live in the district. Teens have access to table tennis, volleyball, pool and musical instruments.

Running for Fun

703-790-9223
Participate in the Old Firehouse Teen Center's 8K Fun Run held during McLean Day each year.

Take the Kids to Play Group

Children's Play Group at the McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean
703-790-0123

Preschool children and their parents and/or guardians are invited to participate in the McLean Community Center's Co-op Play Group. The center provides a free space for you and your preschooler to interact with other parents and children in the area on every Tuesday and Friday, from 9 to 11 a.m. Caregivers must accompany children, as no staff supervision is pro-



Table tennis, volleyball, pool, musical instruments and weekly dances are among the attractions at the Old Firehouse Teen Center.

double occupancy. Single-occupancy supplement is \$350. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Check Out Vienna's Offerings

Vienna Community Center
120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna
703-255-6360

See what classes and trips are offered by the Vienna Community Center. Drop-in programs include basketball, volleyball, roller skating, pickleball, table tennis and tot play. A variety of classes and other activities are offered. Registration for spring activities begins Feb. 9 for out-of-town residents, who will also pay a bit more. Visit www.viennava.gov/Town_Departments/comctr.htm.

CATCH SOME TUNES

Listen to the Classics

McLean Orchestra/McLean Youth Orchestra
703-893-8646

The McLean Orchestra began with 15 musicians in 1971 and now there are more than 80 members from the Greater Washington, D.C., area. The performers present live orchestral performances throughout the year at several set locations, along with community outreach programs and services. The McLean Youth Orchestra offers serious music students, ages 12-18 years old, the opportunity to engage in cultural exchanges with other young musicians while developing their musical skills. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Hear Children Lift Their Voices

6723 Whittier Ave., Suite 404, McLean
703-734-0621

The World Children's Choir was founded in 1990. The choir features children, ages 4-18 years old. Exclusive performances have been before Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, the United States Supreme Court and on several international and national television broadcasts. Visit www.worldchildrenschoir.org.

Rockin' on the Green

Concerts on the Green
Great Falls
703-759-2485

Concerts on the Green is held Sunday evenings, from 6-8 p.m., at the Great Falls Village Centre, June through July. The concerts are sponsored by local merchants and admission is free. Feel free to bring a picnic basket and a bottle of wine. The series features a range of acts, including pop/rock, country jazz and more.

Hoedown!

Optimist Club Annual Barn Dance

Every fall, the Great Falls Optimist Club throws a barn dance in a refurbished barn on Walker Road. The event includes live music, food and a cash bar. Cowboy boots are optional. Cost of admission is a \$50, tax-deductible donation to the club.

Lounge at Jammin' Java

227 Maple Ave., Vienna
703-255-1566

What started off as a simple coffee shop slowly budded into a hot music venue, drawing music lovers from all over the metropolitan

area. Jammin' Java features live entertainment ranging from rock to soul. All types of music are welcomed. On Mondays, customers are given the opportunity to perform "stand-up style." Open mic night starts at 8 p.m. Shows of all genres start at 8 p.m., from Monday through Saturday, and on Sundays, shows start at 7 p.m. Visit www.jamminjava.com.

Stay up Nights at Nottoway Park

Nottoway Nights Concert Series
9601 Courthouse Road S.W., Vienna
703-324-7469

The Nottoway Nights concert series, presented by the county Park Authority and the Board of Supervisors, brings music of all different genres and ethnicities on a weekly basis all summer long. Bring a picnic dinner, blankets and lawn chairs and get experienced.

Listen to the Vienna Community Band

Vienna Community Center

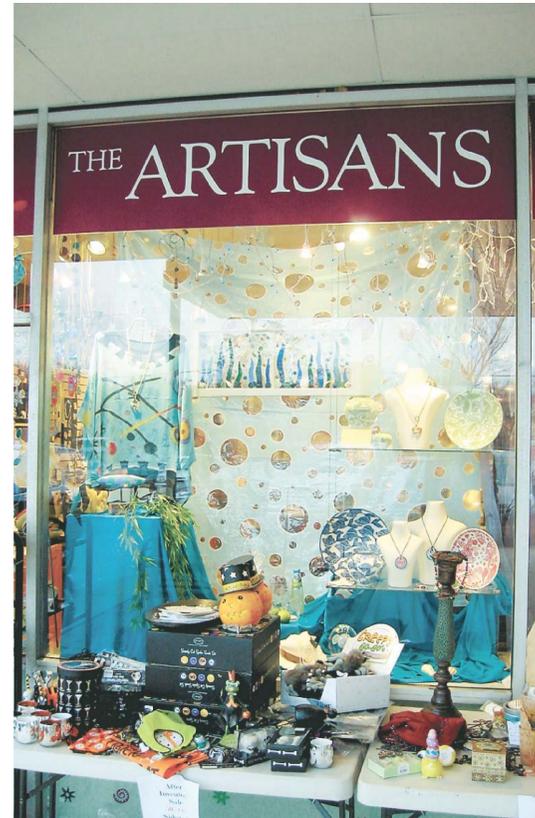


PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Artisans in McLean offers a contemporary mix of crafts, jewelry, gifts and fashion accessories.

120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna
703-255-6360

After about three decades of performing, the Vienna Community Band is made up of almost 80 volunteer musicians and performs in several of Vienna's town celebrations including Independence Day and ViVa! Vienna! The band performs a variety of music ranging from rock to jazz.

Live It up Friday Nights

Friday Night Live
777 Lynn St., Herndon

From the beginning of May until the end of August, Friday nights

in Herndon are the place to see free live music as the town green, located behind the Herndon Municipal Center on Lynn Street is converted to an outdoor concert hall for the Herndon-Dulles Chamber of Commerce's concert series "Friday Night Live." Never a cover and always entertaining, the chamber and other local sponsors, including D.C.'s radio station, DC101, bring together some of the region's most promising young acts. Vendors provide the food and beer and the bands provide the music for this family-oriented local music event. For band lineups and more information, visit www.herndonrocks.com.

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Neighbors Reject New Retail

FROM PAGE 3

expansion of retail into the area might be inconsistent with plans for redeveloping downtown McLean. “We think it sets a precedent for disregarding the concept that’s laid out in the plan,” she said.

Plans to turn the area around Redmond Drive into a “Main Street” development are still in their early stages, but have already designated McLean Business Park as an “area of minimal change.”

Martin said allowing low-traffic retail in less than 10 percent of the business park’s floor space would constitute a “minimal change,” but task force members wondered whether other property owners surrounding the downtown redevelopment area might then begin asking to convert to retail space and also how the county would control what sort of retail went into McLean Professional Park if the property changed hands.

“How do we reconcile the setting of precedent and disregarding the plan? The rest of this I buy into,” Darren Ewing, task force member, said.

Rich Bliss wanted to know if the amendment might allow someone to set up an “exotic lingerie shop” in the center.

Martin said the specifics as to what sort of retail would be allowed would be worked out by the county and the property owners following public hearings.

Jim Peoples, president of the Bryn Mawr Citizens Association, said the existing clause banning new retail was added specifically to address neighbors’ opposition to the

property being rezoned for commercial use in the 1970s. He said he and his neighbors did not want the additional noise, traffic, odors and lights that retail business would bring or the extension of the business park’s operating hours into nights and weekends. Even if the activities were in the buildings farthest from residents, he said, “Noise and light at night don’t stop at the property line.”

REPRESENTATIVES from the McLean Citizens Association, McLean Revitalization Corporation and McLean Planning Committee also spoke against the proposal, as did some other neighboring residents.

Task force member Jack Wilbern said it was normal for Comprehensive Plan language to be kept somewhat vague to allow wiggle room for the details to be worked out during the rezoning process. While he understood that people worried about what might happen under a rezoning, Wilbern said, “The Comprehensive Plan is not well understood, so people come out in opposition to ideas that are just being broached.” However, in this case, he said, the plan language was clear.

Task force chair John Ulfelder said the idea of placing retail on the outskirts of the revitalization area might be worth exploring as redevelopment takes place, but he said it seemed premature to consider altering the plan now, with a detailed plan for downtown still a long way off.

Following the task force meeting, the professional park’s owners formally withdrew their plan nomination.

“Noise and light at night don’t stop at the property line.”

— **Jim Peoples,**
Bryn Mawr Citizens Association president



The McLean Project for the Arts held an art show at its McLean location on Jan. 23, titled “Cellular Perspectives,” with art by Betsy Stewart, Patrick Craig and Tom Wagner.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

MPA Presents ‘Cellular Perspectives’



Angela Santini and Bill Sullivan, both of McLean, appreciate a piece of art by Patrick Craig while mingling at an art show at the McLean Project for the Arts on Jan. 23.



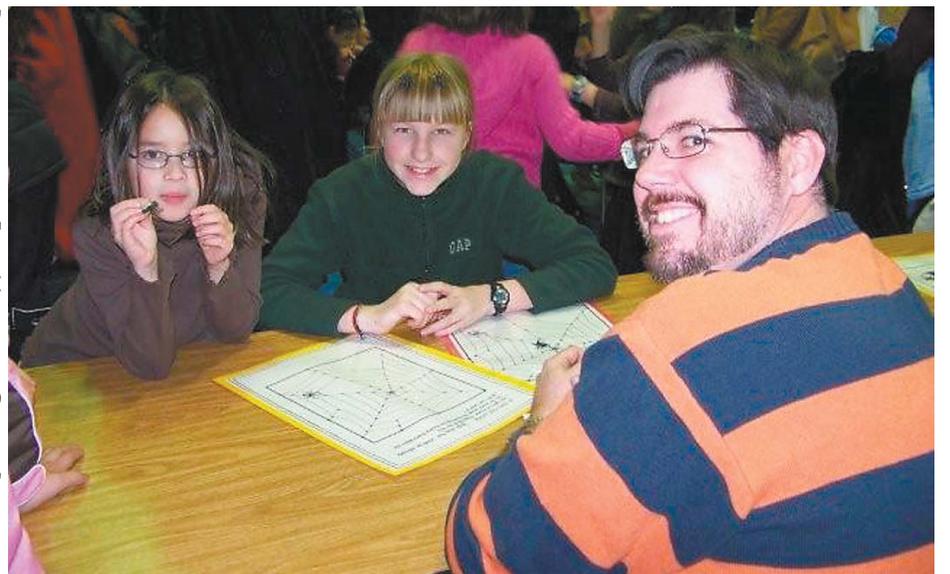
Pictured from left are Jinhai “Chinese wise man” He, Erik “Japanese warrior” Dahlin, Kathy “Cleopatra, the Clever” Manoatl, assistant principal, Jordan “Strategenie” Craig-Kuhn, Jill “Colonial Woman in Charge” Hamlin, Cheryl “Queen Elizabeth I” Bamdad, Claire “African genius” McHale and Ouida “Chinese scholar” Garvin.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIC MALES AND CHERYL BAMDAD

Math Night at Churchill Road

Churchill Road Elementary School students and their families stepped back in time Thursday, Jan. 15, with “Strategenie: Back in Time.” This family

math night utilized ancient math games from many different cultures, including Egyptian, Chinese, Japanese, Incan, Colonial American, Greek, medieval European



Sixth-graders Kiley Jarymiszyn and Billie Males enjoy an Egyptian strategy game with their teacher, Stuart Baumgardner.

and more.

CRS teachers dressed to fit the time periods and helped man the games along with a cadre of eighth-grade CRS alumni looking for community service.

Students and parents came to play with

the 20 different strategy games, puzzles and activities. This is the 15th year that Churchill Road teachers have organized a family math night to encourage parents and children to have fun while working together on math.

FAITH

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

A **BlankDay of Prayer** on "With the Dawn Rejoicing: A Christian Perspective on Pain and Joy" will be held Monday, **Feb. 9** at the Dominican Retreat, 7103 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Call 703-356-4243 or visit www.dominicanretreat.org.

McLean Women's Bible Study Thursday Bible Study, at 9:15 a.m. The Book of Proverbs will be the focus for the next 12 weeks. All are welcome. Contact Martha Wiles at 703-448-2020 or MarthaWiles@msn.com.

Great Falls United Methodist Church is at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-759-3705.

❖ **All Things New**, an ecumenical worship service every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Based on the Beatitudes of Jesus, for people affected by anger, fear, stress, dealing with rejection, credit abuse, drug/alcohol abuse, physical/sexual addiction or eating disorders.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed, strength is gained, and friendships are formed. Mondays 9:15 a.m. and Fridays 9:45 a.m. Childcare is free for registered students. E-mail bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org for more information.

Vienna Assembly of God has a ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on Sundays also available. 703-938-7736 or www.ViennaAG.com.

CORINTHIANS 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a childish. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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OPINION

Pace Picks Up in Richmond

BY MARGI VANDERHYE
 STATE DELEGATE (D-34)

After two weeks, the Virginia General Assembly has completed nearly one-third of its 46-day "short session." Well over 2,000 bills have been introduced in the House of Delegates. Committees have hefty agendas at each hearing so that members can vote to "report" bills to the full House or to reject them. Sadly, a well-publicized proposal to adopt nonpartisan redistricting of legislative districts was an early victim of such committee action, so once again the full House will not have a chance to vote on this sensible and popular bill.

MY OWN BILLS will be heard this week and next. They include proposals on energy efficiency and development of renewable fuels; on treatment for breast and cervical cancer for underserved women; and on streamlining our technology boards to provide better advice on state technology policies. Decisions on all bills in the House and Senate must be re-

solved by Feb. 9 when they "crossover" to be considered by the other legislative body.

The agenda this session will be dominated by budget amendments to address the state's \$3 billion shortfall and by environmental and energy bills. Discussions on these issues are already contentious, because legislators have very different priorities about what to protect and what to cut in the budget. I believe we must protect, to the fullest extent possible, funding to educate our public-school students. Cuts to education, wherever possible, should be temporary, based on year-to-year budget conditions. I also believe that we can and should ask smokers to pay a portion of the \$400 million annual health cost of smoking-related illnesses by adding 30 cents to the cigarette tax, raising it to 60 cents per pack, about half the national average. The responses I have received to my constituent survey support these views. If you would like to share your own thoughts, please see my Web site at



VANDERHYE
 REPORT

www.vanderhye.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION can and should address critical priorities like our budget shortfall and future energy policies that will lead to job creation. Your views are very important to me — and very helpful — as we debate these

issues, many of which have no easy answers. I continue to support measures to close the gun-show loophole, to protect our state employees from discrimination and to extend to our veterans the support and thanks they deserve for their service. I do not favor using constitutional amendments to embellish laws that already exist, nor do I embrace narrow social agendas that distract from the essential task of providing good government to all the people in the commonwealth.

We legislators should make our decisions according to the values we cherish on behalf of the people we serve. Ultimately, that is what "politics" must be about.

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 28

Band-aids and Boo-Boos, 10:30 a.m. Stories and activities to keep you well. Age 2-5 with adult. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

Clergy Abuse Peer Support Group, 7-8:30 p.m., Tysons-Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7684 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The monthly peer support group for survivors of clergy abuse and others affected by the abuse meets on the last Wednesday of every month. Free. Confidential. No registration required. Contact Ellen Radday at 703-538-6128.

THURSDAY/JAN. 29

Sonny Landreth, slide guitarist. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$24. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

FRIDAY/JAN. 30

Miró Quartet. 8 p.m. Chamber Music at The Barns. Tickets \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Paul Green School of Rock, at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

❖ The Greatest Hits of the Who, 6 p.m.
❖ Pink Floyd's The Wall, 7 p.m.

The Blackjacks and U.S. Royalty. Rock. 9 p.m. \$10 advance/ \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Vagina Monologues. 8 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax presents a production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues." Tickets are available by mail in advance (\$15) or (\$20) at the door. Call 703-281-4230 or visit www.uucf.org. All proceeds benefit Artemis House and the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

Family Bingo Night. 7-8:30 p.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Prizes, guessing games, snacks, drinks and more. \$15/person, \$10/district residents. Advance registration required; call 703-790-0123.

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

John Eaton. 7:30 p.m. Classic songs at

The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Paul Green School of Rock, at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

❖ The Greatest Hits of the Who, 6 p.m.
❖ Pink Floyd's The Wall, 7 p.m.

Kitten and Cat Adoption Extravaganza, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. All of the cats and kittens are fully socialized, vaccinated and de-wormed. All of the kittens and cats can be selected on the adoption site, and many may be able to be taken home the same day. Chris C. Haslam, Commonwealth Cat Rescue, Inc. 703-568-3600.

Watery Worlds Workshop, 10-11:30 a.m. for ages 4-8. Use watercolors and inks to draw and paint close-up views of underwater pond creatures. Bring a book of underwater creatures to share. \$10 per family. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

Philadelphia Dance Company, 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Free pre-performance discussion begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$21-\$42, age 12 and under half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or at www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Vagina Monologues. 8 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax presents a production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues." Tickets are available by mail in advance (\$15) or (\$20) at the door. Call 703-281-4230 or visit www.uucf.org. All proceeds benefit Artemis House and the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

Country Western Dance, 7:30-11 p.m., Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. The Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association will hold its smoke-free, alcohol-free dance. Lessons at 7:30 p.m.; dance starts at 8:30 p.m. \$12/person. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

The Odyssey, 7:30 p.m., Great Falls Grange, 9812 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Local students will perform a musical drama based on Homer's "The Odyssey." Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/ages 1-18. Reserve seats by e-mailing Patricia Budwig at starshinetheater@aol.com.

Stone Soup. 2 p.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside

Ave., McLean. The company brings to a blend of folktales from around the world. \$12/person, \$8/residents. Call 703-573-SEAT for tickets.

SUNDAY/FEB. 1

National Symphony Orchestra Ensemble at the Alden Theatre at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean at 3 p.m. Free.

Celtic Concerts, 4,6, and 8 p.m., The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Pavilion 3 will play Celtic, Belgian and French music. \$15/ticket. Call 703-759-3309.

MONDAY/FEB. 2

Used Book Sale. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. The book sale will run through Saturday, Feb. 28. Call 703-356-0770.

TUESDAY/FEB. 3

The Guggenheim Grotto. Acoustic. 8 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 4

Sonya Kitchell, "Burn Brightly" and Residency. Acoustic/indie. 8 p.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Sealed With a Kiss. Get ready for Valentine's Day with stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult. 10:30 a.m. at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

Susan Crites, 10:30 a.m., Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Special story time with Susan Crites, local children's author of "I Love You More Than Rainbows." Recommended for ages 2-5.

THURSDAY/FEB. 5

Greg Howard and Harper. 7 p.m. \$25. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Lizz Wright, jazz singer. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Tiny Tot Tales. Stories and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult. 10:30 a.m. at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

Italian Love Affair. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. This course features an oenological tour from the northern regions to the southern provinces.

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Public Hearings Offer Platform

Fairfax County athletic community voices displeasure with proposed cuts.

BY JASON MACKAY
THE CONNECTION

In both gymnastics and track and field, three minutes can represent a variety of things. On the uneven bars, three minutes could cause excruciating pain in even the most accomplished gymnast's arms and those 180 seconds would turn every head in America if displayed next to the 1,600-meter run.

"It is our hope as athletic supporters that no sports be cut and that if economic needs dictate that athletics be affected, such cuts would include small, incremental cuts across the board, rather than targeting individual programs"

— Matt Gilchrist,
Chantilly cross country
and track and field
coach

with one supporting the former and four lobbying for the latter.

Another set of hearings were scheduled for Tuesday night — after this edition went to press — where more three-minute speeches were expected to occur.

"Elimination of indoor track and field would be penny-wise and pound-foolish," argued McLean High School parent William Shapiro, whose three children graduated from the school. "If savings must be found, surely there are bet-

ter ways of doing so. Wouldn't it make sense for modest reductions in all team sports?"

But last Wednesday night at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church, three minutes represented something completely new for the two sports in Fairfax County: a platform.

Supporters of both sports were finally given a chance to voice their opinions over the proposed elimination of gymnastics and indoor track and field from the fiscal year 2009-10 budget. Five people spoke in favor of keeping gymnastics and indoor track and field,

with one supporting the former and four lobbying for the latter.

Another set of hearings were scheduled for Tuesday night — after this edition went to press — where more three-minute speeches were expected to occur.

"Elimination of indoor track and field would be penny-wise and pound-foolish," argued McLean High School parent William Shapiro, whose three children graduated from the school. "If savings must be found, surely there are bet-



Herndon High's Maria Hayden, a two-time defending Northern Region All-Around champion, competes here in a competition at Chantilly High earlier this winter season.

ter ways of doing so. Wouldn't it make sense for modest reductions in all team sports?"

A BUDGET PROPOSAL comprised of three scenarios was unveiled at a Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting back in November, with gymnastics listed on all three levels and indoor track and field only on the most severe.

The budget alterations were brought forth to close what was expected to be around a \$170 million-\$180 million shortfall for the school district. Cutting gymnastics would cut around \$221,000 and indoor track and field would save \$250,000.

But the shortfall has since ballooned to around \$215 million, depending on whether or not the Board of Supervisors accepts Schools Superintendent Jack D. Dale's latest budget, which requires a 3.5 percent funding increase.

"It is entirely dependent on what the Board of Supervisors gives us," Dale said. "If there is no additional money, we will face a \$215 million shortfall."

School Board member Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence) started the hearing Wednesday night by reaffirming that none of the decisions were final. Dale recommended his \$2.2 million budget Jan. 8, and now the School Board will listen to these public hearings, formulate its own budget and submit that to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

THAT DIDN'T HELP quell the fears of

parents and coaches who spoke out against the proposed measures. Matt Gilchrist, Chantilly's cross country and track and field coach, kicked off the community's reaction by acknowledging the difficult task ahead, but continued to express a desire that no sport be eliminated.

"It is our hope as athletic supporters that no sports be cut and that if economic needs dictate that athletics be affected, such cuts would include small, incremental cuts across the board, rather than targeting individual programs," Gilchrist said.

Janelyn Price, a Lake Braddock gymnastics parent and a former collegiate gymnast and coach, was the gymnastics community's lone representative Wednesday. Price argued that the Lake Braddock team had to cut perspective team members for the first time in a long time this season, while also pointing out that club gymnastics might not be a viable options.

"Many gymnasts were never club gymnasts to begin with and would not even make a club team," Price said. "Club gymnastics is also a very time consuming sport and is very, very expensive."

Wearing his jacket from the 1992 Barcelona Games, former Olympic decathlete Rob Muzzio, a Robinson and George Mason University graduate and now a Robinson parent, stated that indoor track and field involved nearly 2,800 high-school athletes last season at a relatively low cost.

"In these times of budget crisis, I understand that everyone must sacrifice. All pro-

Notable and Quotable

"I'm hopeful that such a program [indoor track and field] will still be in existence when my children reach high school."

— Mike Mangan, Lake Braddock cross country and track and field coach

"Elimination of indoor track and field would be penny-wise and pound-foolish. If savings must be found, surely there are better ways of doing so."

—William Shapiro, McLean parent

"Indoor track and field is not just a key part of the general athletic program, but also of the physical, social and emotional development of thousands of young athletes each year."

—Matt Gilchrist, Chantilly cross country and track and field coach

"I understand that everyone must sacrifice, but to eliminate the most cost-effective athletic program in all of Fairfax County doesn't make sense."

— Rob Muzzio, Robinson graduate and parent

"Many gymnasts were never club gymnasts to begin with and would not even make a club team. Club gymnastics is also a very time consuming sport and is very, very expensive."

— Janelyn Price, Lake Braddock parent

grams should be under scrutiny and subject to reductions across the board. But to eliminate the most cost-effective athletic program in all of Fairfax County doesn't make sense."

Herndon High girls gymnastics coach Keith Naquin has been at the helm of the Hornets for the past 18 years and was head coach at South Lakes for 12 years prior to that. He recently recalled the heartbreak that resulted when boys high-school gymnastics was cut from the sports Fairfax County curriculum in the late 1980s.

"I was there when the boys program got cut and that was sad," said Naquin, who has led the Herndon girls to consecutive Northern Region titles the past two years. "I don't know how this will pan out [in regard to the girls]. These kids work hard."

Naquin prefers to take an optimistic outlook on the future of the sport in Fairfax County.

"Anything can happen and I'm very hopeful," he said. "You want [the students] to enjoy the moment."

Lauren Sullivan, a Herndon High senior and one of the Hornets' top scorers, said her four years as a member of her school's gymnastics program has been a blast. The Herndon and Chantilly High teams practice with one another several times a week. Sullivan has always loved the social and competitive aspects of high-school gymnastics.

"I'm really, really bummed even though it wouldn't effect me that much," said Sullivan, who will likely be off and competing

collegiately over the next four years. "We've always looked forward to gymnastics in the winter and have had so much fun. I'm really hoping they won't [cut the sport]. We're really trying hard to keeping it in there."

PHOTO BY JASON MACKAY/THE CONNECTION

EMPLOYMENT

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ZONE 6 AD DEADLINE:
TUESDAY 11 A.M.

Buy Low, Drive High



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I did something with my wife, Dina, the other day that I haven't done in a very long time. I filled up her car with gasoline for under \$25, and that's with the reserve fuel light on!. Meaning her car wasn't merely low on gas, it was be-low, with very few miles to spare before low was empty and the side of the road was in our sites. A sight that, due to the reduction in the price of a gallon of gasoline (regular was \$1.79 at my local service station this morning), I won't be seeing anytime soon since I can afford to buy before the fuel light illuminates.

However, if I am to stop — and then write — outside my own selfish joy, I suppose I must be concerned about why the price of gasoline is so low; concerned that business is so challenged, shall we say, nation and worldwide; worried that unemployment is increasing, nation and worldwide; and understanding that the declining consumption of fossil fuels are all less than encouraging signs. Signs that the economic bottom has still not been reached and that consumers can't even tolerate the current price (presuming of course, that if the oil companies could charge more and still sell more, they would). I guess, if I understand correctly, if I was paying more, it would be because consumers/businesses are consuming more (and presumably can afford to pay more) and consuming more means the economy is growing and the price would likely increase to reflect the increasing demand (Capitalism at work). And increased demand is a good thing, right?

The cumulative effect for me though, at this moment in time, seems to be new-found money. Money that is now available after gassing and heating up that only a few short months ago was not available. This change gives me more money to spend, but not money to spend on necessities, rather money to spend on "discretionaries." And the more money consumers have to spend on "discretionaries," the more money is spread around and it's that spreading around that makes the world go 'round (at least in my house).

Still, I can't hide my glee at the notion of cheap — relatively and comparatively — gasoline even though intellectually I have come to understand that if "things" weren't so bad economically-speaking, gasoline and to a lesser financial degree, home heating oil, wouldn't have to be so low in order to find buyers for the oil from which these products are refined.

Nevertheless, as bad as those "things" are, I can't imagine how much worse it would be for consumers if the price of gasoline and/or home heating oil were to return anywhere near their '08 peak. But I suppose that couldn't happen unless there were actual buyers increasing their demand which, with a slowing, maybe even contracting world economy, there simply doesn't appear to be. As such, since many consumers/businesses can't afford the price of gasoline/home heating oil at its present level, it seems unlikely to rise appreciably so I suppose I can keep smiling, especially so if I still have a job.

However, if something dramatic were to happen to the supply, then that would be another story, literally, and probably another column or two as well.

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

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Counselor (Position FA292)
Student Services, Woodbridge Campus. Full-time, 12 month faculty position; Starting salary range: \$60,161-\$64,069 + benefits
Position will provide general academic and career counseling to current and prospective students, including program and course selection, transfer planning, new student orientation, high school outreach and career planning. Master's degree in counseling or related with a minimum of 18 graduate semester hours in counseling required. Experience counseling at college/university level and with program development desired. Fluency in Spanish a plus. Some evening and weekend hours required.
For more information about Northern Virginia Community College and to apply, visit our website at www.nvcc.edu and choose the link for "Jobs at NOVA." Positions will remain open until filled.
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that
an addition on the
the school the community
and more

21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 101 Computers

TRUSTEE'S SALE

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In execution of a Deed of Trust from Jairo O. Solano and Lina V. Rincon, dated August 10, 2007, and recorded August 20, 2007, in Deed Book 4127 at page 2597 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 Judicial Center for Arlington County, at 1425 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia, on

Monday, February 2, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Unit 2, Fairfax North Arms Condominium, in accordance with the declaration and exhibits attached thereto recorded in Deed Book 4120 at page 334, among the Land Records of Arlington County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 1735 Fairfax Drive #2, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$40,000.00 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 6.50 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
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

Obituary



WALTER RUDOLPH WENK SR.

Col. Walter R. Wenk Sr. USAF, 89 died at Wuestoff Hospital, Melbourne, Florida on Sunday, November 16, 2008, with his family by his side.

Col. Wenk, A graduate of Texas A & M, enlisted in the military on November 25, 1940 and was commissioned a 2nd Lt and assigned to the 22nd Bombardment Group flying Martin B-26 aircraft.

During World War II, he served as a bomber pilot in the southwest Pacific Combat Theater. Col. Wenk has three tours of duty at the Pentagon, as well as stations in Wiesbaden, Germany, Wright-Patterson AFB, Patrick AFB and the Air War College in Montgomery Alabama. He retired from the Air Force in 1968 after 28 years of service to his country.

Col. Wenk was predeceased by his first wife, Beatrice Giraud, a daughter, Jean Marie Wenk, and his sister, Eleanor Wenk Welsh.

Col. Wenk is survived by his wife, Helen Puzak Wenk Melbourne, FL; son, Walter Jr. and his wife, Mary Kay, of Arlington, VA; son John David of Leesburg, VA; four grandsons, Dr. Scott Wenk or Orlando, FL, Kevin Wenk of New York City, Matthew and Andrew Wenk of Irving, Texas; and his niece, Karen Klusendorf of Chicago, Illinois.

A memorial service will be held at Ft Myer Chapel with full military honors on Friday, February 6th at 10:45am.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Association.

Arrangements were made by South Brevard Funeral Home, Melbourne, FL. Sign the family guestbook at www.affuneral.com 1-800-329-2232

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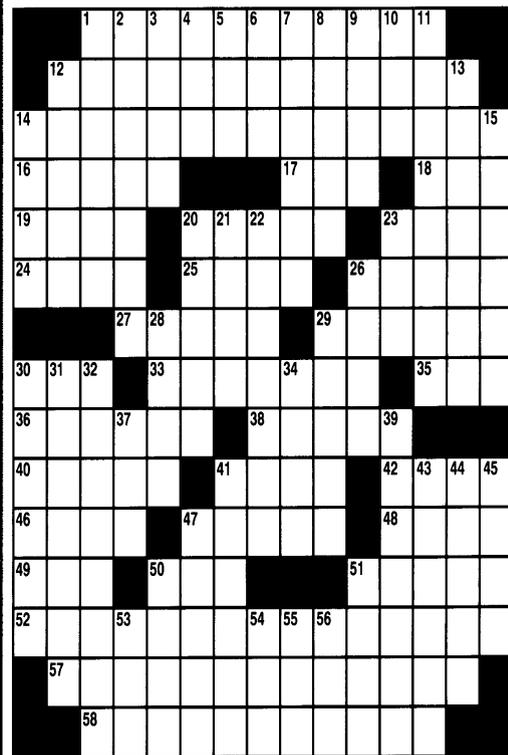
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NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0416-6



Puzzle by John Wolting

ACROSS

- 1 Court systems
- 12 Bailed out, in a manner of speaking
- 14 Principle of economy
- 16 Individual shares
- 17 It may be red or black
- 18 Salutory site
- 19 Move
- 20 Influences
- 23 Otter and others
- 24 In bridge, the player on the dealer's right
- 25 Fuse sound
- 26 Depth charge target
- 27 Cow
- 29 Like the Godhead
- 30 14-Across, e.g.
- 33 Hit, as a Texas leaguer
- 35 Early Plains building material
- 36 Bonds after splitting
- 38 Amass
- 40 Scrub
- 41 Engender

- 42 Top-selling pop group of the 70's
- 46 Tanning need
- 47 Works with visual effects
- 48 Park place?
- 49 Singer DiFranco
- 50 Flight datum: Abbr.
- 51 Like some statistics
- 52 Become livid
- 57 Commit oneself, in a way
- 58 Leads

- 13 One who gets high?
- 14 Mud dauber, e.g.
- 15 Experienced
- 20 Cantors' places
- 21 Dipsomaniac
- 22 Port in Oregon
- 23 Justice Dept. division
- 26 Literary variant of Hindustani
- 28 Be an accessory to
- 29 Position
- 30 Popeye's female foe in early comics

- 31 White elephants, e.g.
- 32 Stork with a featherless head
- 34 Persian output
- 37 Grand — ("Evangeline" setting)
- 39 Untroubled
- 41 Track event
- 43 Lighter fill
- 44 Uncomfortable neckwear
- 45 Not impotent
- 47 Two-tone treats
- 50 Great—
- 51 Curtainlike partitions, biologically
- 53 T-shirt size: Abbr.
- 54 Highest
- 55 Café alternative
- 56 Like some cats

DOWN

- 1 Like a news bulletin
- 2 Pronounced
- 3 Buck passers?
- 4 Motor —
- 5 Capt. of industry
- 6 Left end?
- 7 1990's Coca-Cola slogan
- 8 Some stallions
- 9 Has no life
- 10 Mass. setting
- 11 Deeply felt
- 12 Poetic chapter

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

D	I	S	C	S	D	R	O	S	S	I	M	P		
O	N	E	U	P	D	E	P	O	T	N	O	R		
S	C	A	R	L	E	T	F	A	C	E	D	O	E	
T	A	T	T	E	D	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	Y	
R	O	U	N	D	T	R	I	P	L	E	T			
A	R	P	I	S	A	L	L	R	E	P	O			
S	C	O	L	D	V	E	E	N	I	X	E	D		
P	A	N	E		E	N	A	T	E	I	T	O		
S	T	O	G	I	E		S	I	T	E				
T	O	M	O	R	R	O	W		G	R	I	E	G	S
U	T	A		B	A	K	E	D	H	A	M	L	E	T
D	U	H		A	T	R	I	A		L	A	I	N	E
S	P	A		G	E	A	R	S		S	N	E	E	R

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Be the first person to fax in the correct crossword puzzle answers, and we'll put your name here! Fax the completed puzzle, with your name, the puzzle number, and the time and date of the fax, to the Crossword Puzzle Desk, fax #703-917-0998.

The winner of puzzle #0415-6 is:

Frank Weinstein

Note: Due to space limitations, in some weeks the crossword may not appear. The next time it appears, it will be the next one in order, with the answers and winner for this puzzle.

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SPECTACULAR 6br/3.55ba home nestled on .75 acre lot! Sought-after Chesterbrook location!



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Reduced! BEAUTIFUL 4br/3.5 ba home w/ stunning updated kitchen in Chesterbrook Woods!



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851 Glebe Road #804
\$482,000

CALL JD TODAY TO SCHEDULE A PRIVATE SHOWING OR FOR A FREE ANALYSIS OF YOUR HOME'S VALUE! (703) 606-7901

