

Ashley Mehra, 12, helps her mother Ann shovel their driveway in McLean. The seventh-grader at National Cathedral School for Girls said she wanted to make sure she would be able to get to school the next day.



No Major Incidents

NEWS, PAGE 3

'Stuart Little' At Oakcrest School

SCHOOLS, PAGE 10

'Labor of Love' Meets Success

NEWS, PAGE 4

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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 10 ♦ FAITH, PAGE 12 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 17



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NEWS



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Monday evening, some streets in downtown McLean were still treacherous.

No Major Incidents

Winter's only major snowfall brings slipping and sliding but "nothing serious."

Between midnight and 2 p.m. Monday, 100 accidents and a total of 138 traffic-related incidents were reported in Fairfax County, said police spokesman Don Gotthardt. "There were minor injuries reported, but nothing

serious," he said, noting that air transport had not been used once. Most accidents, he said, involved cars sliding into each other or sliding off the road, possibly into stationary objects.

The longest road closure, due to a multicar pileup at the intersection of Route 28 and McLearn Road, south of the Town of Herndon, lasted about an hour. Only a couple of lanes were closed down and police were able to route traffic around the accident, Gotthardt said. "There were numerous temporary road closures, but our officers, along with towing companies,

worked to keep the roads open as much as possible."

Joanna Fazio, director of communications at Reston Hospital Center, said the hospital had seen a spike in incoming patients since the snow began accumulating on roads, but she said complaints were limited to the usual, minor snow-related injuries — "car accidents, whiplash, some people falling down." She said the heightened intake was steady until about 3:30 p.m., and she was expecting it to pick up again shortly, as commuters made their ways home.

— MIKE DICICCO

First Stations Approved

Supervisors approve design of two Tysons Metrorail stations.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the design and plans for two of the four new Metrorail stations anticipated in Tysons Corner and another stop set for Wiehle Avenue in Reston at their Feb. 23 meeting.

The stations, set to open in 2013, would be part of the Metrorail's new "silver line," an extension of the mass transit system from the West Falls Church stop to Dulles International Airport and beyond.

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) voted against the approval of the two Tysons Corner stations. Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) was not present for any of the three station votes.

THE SUPERVISORS rescheduled the hearings and deliberation on the other two Tysons stops for March 9 because information about possible conflicts of interest was not available in a timely manner. It is expected that the supervisors will easily approve the final two stations for the first phase of the project, which terminates at the Wiehle Avenue station.

"We have been in discussion about these for years. I think we have vetted a great deal about what the designs should be," said Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), who has at least two stations in her district.

Still Supervisors Foust and Linda Smyth (D-Providence) remained concerned that they could be cut out of discussions about future design changes to the two Tysons stations if they supported the plans without any strings attached.

The two Tysons Corner stations approved, one planned for Route 123 at Tysons Boulevard and the other on Route 7 just north of Route 123, would be in Smyth's magisterial district and located very near Foust's constituents.

Smyth, with cooperation from the other supervisors, attached an amendment to the stations approval that

SEE STATIONS, PAGE 9

Spring Hill Elementary Students Take First Place In Science Olympiad Regional Competition

Congratulations to the Science Olympiad team from Spring Hill Elementary School in McLean for their First Place finish at the first of two regional Science Olympiad tournaments. The Spring Hill team of fifth and sixth-graders competed against nine other Virginia elementary and middle schools. The Spring Hill team placed in the top-five spots in 17 of the 19 events run.

The competition was held on February 21st at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg.

The State Director of the Virginia Science Olympiad, Scott VanBenschoten, said "[The team's] outstanding achievement and excellent conduct are a true testament to the wonderful program you maintain at Spring Hill Elementary. Congratulations to the students, the teachers and the parent coaches of the team who dedicated so much time."

The team thanks Spring Hill Principal Roger Vanderhye, Teacher Sponsor Alison Bauer, and Parent Coordinator Sarah Rogers for their support.



The Spring Hill Science Olympiad Team, from left, Jake Baker, Parker Kaplan, Ananya Suri, Matt Fox, Shirali Nigam, Kerry McConnaughay, Roger Vanderhye, Steven Rosen, Reed Koser, Clark Baranoski, Quinn Baranoski, Sarah Rogers, Cole Stinger, Marie Baranoski, Tommy Rogers, and Noah Flaxman. Not pictured Julian Villacorta.

Parenting the Adolescent

Using STEP/TEEN and other materials, the Parenting the Adolescent class will be offered for parents of rising seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders in the Langley/McLean pyramids. This six-session class starts Thursday, March 5, and will continue on the following five Thursday evenings: March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 16.

This class will be held at Longfellow Middle School, 2000 Westmoreland St., Falls Church, from 7-9 p.m. in the library.

The parenting group will be facilitated by retired Longfellow counselor Estelle Brauer, former Longfellow counselor and current SDFY conflict resolution specialist Joan Packer, and former Churchill Road counselor and retired SDFY conflict resolution specialist Marge Bleiweis. Register by calling Estelle Brauer at 571-313-0116. The fee of \$25 covers the cost of the text, Step Teen, and the additional course materials.

MPAartfest Volunteer Drive

Bring a friend to McLean Project for the Arts Wednesday night, March 11, between 8-8:30 p.m. Meet MPAartfest committee chairs, other volunteers and learn about the wide variety of opportunities to become a part of MPAartfest and the McLean Project for the Arts Volunteer Team. Although MPAartfest isn't until Oct. 4, some volunteer opportunities start now. Presented by McLean Project for the Arts, MPAartfest is a volunteer-driven arts festival for the community held in McLean Central Park in the Fall. For information on volunteering for MPAartfest, e-mail info@mpaart.org.

McLean Project for the Arts is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

For more information visit www.mpaart.org or call 703-790-1953.

Food Drive at Coldwell Banker

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage agents in McLean host their annual "Harvest for the Hungry" food drive to help the Capital Area Food Bank serve families in the DC metropolitan area. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the Coldwell Banker McLean office until March 14, seven days a week from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The office is located on 6832 Old Dominion Drive, Suite 300 in McLean.

The Capital Area Food Bank is primarily in need of canned foods, including fish, chicken, fruit (in its own juices or light syrup) and vegetables (low or no sodium); jars of peanut butter; 100% fruit juices; pasta, rice and macaroni and cheese; condiments; soups; snacks such as apple sauce, graham crackers and granola bars; and multi-grain cereal. Also in demand are hygiene products, diapers, toilet and tissue paper, and plasticware.

"We had tremendous community response to last year's food drive, and the amount of donations has increased each year," said Kendra Wright, Branch Vice President of Coldwell Banker in McLean. In 2008, Coldwell Banker in McLean donated 56 pounds of food. For more information about donating to the "Harvest for the Hungry" food drive, contact Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in McLean at 703-734-7020, or visit <http://www.cbmove.com/harvest>.

Colshire Drive Safeway Reopens

Safeway's Eastern Division is celebrating the grand opening of its redeveloped Colshire Drive store on Thursday, March 12 with a grand opening preview party beginning at 4 p.m. The new store replaces the previous facility which closed on July 19, 2008 after 38 years of continuous operation, and joins a new fuel center which the company opened in December 2008.

The new 58,000 square-foot facility, which is one-and-on-half times the size of the old store, will utilize Safeway's new lifestyle format and feature eye-catching elements such as an open-flame hearth oven and ice seafood case.

Customers will also be able to enjoy some of the standard convenience amenities found in many Safeway stores such as a Starbucks Coffee bar and Bergmann's Dry Cleaners, along with the more traditional offerings of a pharmacy, in-store scratch bakery, full-service deli, service meat and seafood departments which features an ice seafood case and floral shop.

Vanderhaye's 'Labor of Love' Meets Success in Richmond

Bill will expand screening and treatment of breast and cervical cancer under Medicaid.

By MIKE DiCICCO
THE CONNECTION

Del. Margi Vanderhaye (D-34) said House Bill 2200, signed into law on Feb. 23, was the most dramatic accomplishment of her first term in the House, if not the most important. "I'm pleased with my legislative accomplishments, but this was really a labor of love," she said.

The bill is expected to markedly increase the number of uninsured women screened and treated for breast and cervical cancer through Virginia's Every Woman's Life Medicaid program.

The program estimates that about 300 women who are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer each year in the state would be eligible for Medicaid help through Every Woman's Life, but only about half gain access to the program.

In 2000, the federal government passed the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, offering two-to-one matching funds to cover the cost of screening and treatment for uninsured women who make too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but less than twice the poverty level. So Every Woman's Life was created.

However, in Virginia, like many states, women must be screened and diagnosed at certain facilities in order to qualify for the program and there are only 26 such centers in the state. Many women may not know of the program or which facilities to utilize until they have already been diagnosed.

LAST YEAR, Vanderhaye introduced a bill to expand eligibility for the program by allowing women to be screened anywhere, but it failed for lack of funding. Making the program easier to access would mean more women would avail themselves of it, increasing costs. It was obvious that there would not be any more money this year, so Vanderhaye started looking for funding from the private sector. Hospital foundations and others were eager to donate, she said, but the federal government would not match private money.

The solution was to set up a state fund that could accept private donations and could only be used for Every Woman's Life. Now that the fund has been set up, Vanderhaye said, "my challenge is to go out there and raise the money for it." She hopes to have enough money in the fund to expand services next year.

While working on the bill, Vanderhaye learned that state Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple (D-31) had submitted a bill to place a check-off box on Virginia income tax forms allowing taxpayers to donate income tax refund money toward Every Woman's Life, so she brought her on board, and tax refund money can also be donated to the new fund.

"As far as I know, there aren't any other states that

have set up a sort of receptacle for private funds," said Keenan Caldwell, state director of government relations for the American Cancer Society. He noted that many states were facing budget shortfalls and that prevention programs are often among the first expenditures to get cut in such situations. "This could be a model for other states and other programs," he said.



Del. Margi Vanderhaye (D-34)

"Ultimately, of course, this will reduce Medicaid costs."

— Del. Margi Vanderhaye (D-34)

"Ultimately, of course, this will reduce Medicaid costs," Vanderhaye said, noting that more cases of cancer would be caught earlier if women had better access to screening. "The cost of treating someone at stage one is probably 25 percent of the cost of treating someone at stage four." This, she said, was why hospitals had expressed interest in contributing to the fund. When someone comes to them with late-stage cancer, there is little they can do and the cost is great.

LINDA TILLER, executive director of the Virginia affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, said she knew members of the public policy division of the foundation were keeping an eye on the arrangement in Virginia, as they thought it was a model that might be replicated elsewhere.

The Komen foundation was part of a coalition that included the Virginia Department of Health, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, various cancer groups and hospitals, which worked over the course of the last year with Vanderhaye and Whipple to get their bills passed and establish the new fund.

Tiller said not all of the groups involved had initially been as optimistic as Vanderhaye about the effort's chances at success. "She just was

not going to be stopped," she said of the delegate. Tiller said she had been surprised to watch the bill pass through the House with unanimous support.

"This was all her idea. She knew some folks wanted to put money into the program, but she

didn't know where to put it," Caldwell said of Vanderhaye.

A longtime member of the executive board of the Prevent Cancer Foundation, Vanderhaye said women's health and early detection and prevention of cancer had long been high priorities for her. "This is something that's very important to me and it's been important to me

"This could be a model for other states and other programs."

— Keenan Caldwell,
American Cancer Society

Storage Facility Contemplated

Countywide zoning amendment would allow storage on downtown McLean parcel.

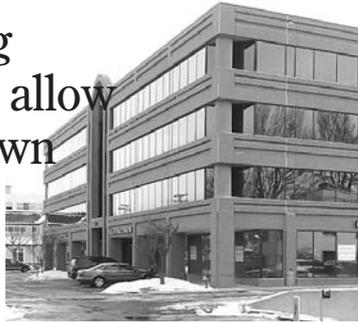


PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

It looks like a local landowner will gain the support of the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) in seeking to amend the countywide zoning ordinance in order to allow a personal storage facility on sites zoned for a planned commercial development. The site in question is between Beverly and Old Chain Bridge roads adjacent to the Madison Building, but the amendment would apply countywide.

In 2004, the county Comprehensive Plan was amended to encourage a storage facility on the site, which was to be rezoned for a planned commercial development. However, such facilities are not allowed under that zoning. The site is one of only two places in the county where a storage facility in a planned commercial district is encouraged by the Compre-

The MCA is considering an amendment of the countywide zoning ordinance that is being proposed in order to allow a storage facility adjacent to the Madison Building.

hensive Plan, and both are in McLean, said Mark Zetts, co-chair of the MCA's Planning and Zoning Committee. The committee discussed the matter at its last meeting Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Zetts said the committee had not yet heard from residents of other parts of the county regarding the proposed amendment, but he said committee members were trying to keep a "global outlook" when discussing an amendment that would affect other areas. "Really,

we have no problem with it," he said of the proposed change.

If the amendment is approved, the landowner will draw up a site plan and apply to have the land rezoned. The facility is expected to be a four-story building housing 60,000 square feet of space. "It will look just like an office building," Zetts said.

The new building would also offer the chance to have a pedestrian walkway constructed, running across the block from the McLean House to the Safeway area.

Zetts said the committee felt that a storage business would be useful both to individuals and to businesses in the area. And, he said, "As far as traffic goes, a storage facility like that produces less traffic than an office building or residential building. I think that's attractive."

The county Planning Commission is scheduled to discuss the zoning amendment March 26, and Zetts said the McLean Planning Committee, as well as the MCA, would weigh in at the hearing.

— MIKE DICICCO



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Later Start Times Still Possible

Not this proposal, but later start times still worth the effort, without hurting athletics and activities.

Next week, the Fairfax County School Board should direct school staff to resolve the many issues and concerns raised about moving high school start times.

Years ago, moving start times for high schools in Fairfax County was impossible because it would have cost \$20 million. That was about a decade ago.

Now, after five years of intensive study and probing by a group of dedicated parents, it turns out that start times could be moved back from 7:20 to 8:30 a.m. at no cost at all.

This alone makes it hard to have a lot of confidence in the financial forecasts coming from the school system.

The devil is in the details, and the details put forward in the proposal last month are fraught with conflict. While it represents a technically feasible plan, it clearly stops there. It seems to have maximized the size and number of changes that Fairfax families would face next year, and Fairfax families have responded accordingly.

Thousands of people turned out for community forums on the topic, responding with intensity in several directions. Teens and their families worry that later start times will throw a wrench in carefully orchestrated after school activities. Parents of children who attend different schools complain that they would have to accommodate vastly different schedules.

The parents who have advocated for later start times have science on their side. But even the many advocates of affording teens an extra hour of sleep have concluded that the current proposal is not workable for the coming year.

It's clear that this proposal has too many unresolved issues to move forward for next fall as many had hoped.

But this should be the beginning, not the end, of this proposal. An 8:30 a.m. high school start

time won't cost \$20 million to implement, and it should be compatible with high school sports, including swimming, and other extracurricular activities. Both Arlington and Loudoun manage this start time, and their sports teams compete with Fairfax sports teams in some leagues.

It isn't fair for school staff to dump a half-baked proposal on families without answering the obvious questions. Fear of change will stymie progress.

It's also essential to try to minimize the changes forced on elementary and middle schools individually. For example, if an elementary school has an early time now, it shouldn't be moved to a late time in transition.

These are logistics that can and should be addressed so that it's possible to address healthy start times without compromising athletics or activities.

All change is hard. Some change is worth the effort.

Let's put in the effort to try to resolve the conflicts, not use unresolved questions to fan the flames.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Summing Up

To the Editor:

I wish to thank Mr. Paul Regnier of the Fairfax School Board's, "Media and Crisis Communication" organization for his interest in correcting my letter in the Connection Feb. 19-20 edition ["Correcting Errors," Connection, Feb. 25-March 3, 2009].

In the interest in fairness and being certain that I am clear on the content of that correction letter, I would like to synopsise my understanding of the School Board's communication here:

1. The planned purchase of GH II has been in the works for six years.

2. That purchase is key to saving serious money through consolidation of support and administration personnel.

3. The personnel to be consolidated are currently in older buildings, some leased that are in need of expensive maintenance and repair.

4. There will be position cuts to help fund the building acquisition.

5. GH II is basically free as the costs are to be made up entirely by savings created by consolidation and the removal of the expensive obligations mentioned on line 3 above.

6. The money to be used for the GH II acquisition and refurbishment will be used one way or the other. However, that bonding stream is not available for any other use.

7. GH II, although higher than

the 2006 purchase price, is a good deal that has become available because of the current recent R/E downturn.

8. Some of the buildings to be vacated will be recycled as schools.

9. There is no spin group nor has there ever been, in the School Board organization.

Bruce Bennett
Vienna

Healthy Priority

To the Editor:

This is a critical time in our nation's history. We are confronted with large health care challenges. Yet the potential to significantly improve access to critical health care services for all and to make meaningful progress in discovering the cures to cancer provide us with the hope of an exciting and healthier future.

We were grateful Congress and the Administration took the first step in addressing the growing health care crisis in the states with the recent economic stimulus legislation. These funds give states the opportunity to avoid cuts to potentially life-saving breast cancer education, screening and treatment services for underserved women.

Yet there is so much more to do. As the non-partisan voice for over 2.5 million breast cancer survivors and the people who love them, we look forward to working with President Obama to establish a health system that ensures access

to affordable, high-quality health care for all — including underserved populations and people with chronic or pre-existing conditions like cancer.

We must ensure that everyone has access to breast cancer screening and treatment. For breast cancer, as is the case for many diseases, early detection is the closest thing we have to prevention. Detecting cancer early not only increases a patient's chance of survival, but also considerably reduces the cost of their treatment.

We were also thankful for the considerable investment in health research contained in the stimulus legislation. We urge the Administration to intensify this commitment to discovering the cures, as funding has remained essentially flat since 2003. We must signal that discovering and delivering the cures for cancer is a top national priority.

Martina Hone
President, Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance

Help on Road To Recovery

To the Editor:

The American Cancer Society has an opportunity to make a significant difference in the lives of Northern Virginia residents who are facing cancer. To take full advantage of it, we need the support of the entire community.

Cancer treatments today work

better than ever. But for many residents of Northern Virginia, just getting to the treatment can be a problem. A patient receiving radiation therapy may need to travel to the clinic every day for up to six weeks. Someone receiving chemotherapy may need weekly treatments for as long as a year. Temporary side-effects can make patients feel too sick to drive themselves or to take public transportation. For those without a car or without family living close by, this lack of transportation may mean missing the treatments that could save their lives.

The American Cancer Society has a critical need for volunteers for its Road to Recovery driver program. We need Northern Virginia residents with a car and some time available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to step forward and help out. If you can spare as little as one morning or afternoon each month, you could be making a significant difference in the life of one of your neighbors who is facing cancer.

If you can help out in this way, please call or e-mail American Cancer Society's Mission Delivery Manager, National Capital Region, Sarah Ness at 202-483-2600 ext. 101 e-mail Sarah.Ness@cancer.org. The American Cancer Society will provide an orientation, support materials, and other assistance. In return, you'll be providing local cancer patients with the help they need to travel the Road to Recovery.

Glynnis M Keogh
American Cancer Society
Intern

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Murder Suspect Waives Hearing

More than 125 family members, friends and taxicab drivers packed a Fairfax County General District Courtroom Monday afternoon, in support of murder victim Mazhar Nazir.

Police discovered Nazir, 49, of Falls Church, dead inside his taxicab in the 8400 block of Greensboro Drive in Tysons Corner on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008. Nazir died from a single gunshot wound to his head, according to autopsy results.

Fairfax County Police charged Nazir's last fare, Evan D. Gargiulo,

22, of the 1700 block of Port Place in Reston, with murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Gargiulo, who was an employee of Lockheed Martin, waived his right to a preliminary hearing Monday, Feb. 23. His case was certified to proceed to a Fairfax County Circuit Court grand jury in March, one of the first steps for a felony case to proceed to the Circuit Court.

Gargiulo, a recent graduate of Pennsylvania State University, turned himself into Fairfax County Police at the Reston District station

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008, about 5:30 p.m.

On Nov. 3, an anonymous caller contacted the Fairfax County Police Department's Crime Solvers Unit and said Gargiulo committed the murder. On Nov. 4, detectives interviewed the caller, who told police that Gargiulo attended a Halloween costume party in a D.C. nightclub on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2, dressed in a wetsuit, a neoprene diver's jacket, neoprene diver's boots and a blond wig, according to Fairfax County Circuit Court documents.

— KEN MOORE

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the McLean District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Feb 27.

LARCENIES

1400 block of Balls Hill Road.

Computer and license plates stolen from residence.

7400 block of Barley Walk.

Laptop computer stolen from residence.

1900 block of Chain Bridge Road.

Bicycle stolen from business.

1900 block of Chain Bridge Road.

Laptop computer stolen from business.

1900 block of Chain Bridge Road.

Clothes stolen from business.

7300 block of Eldorado St.

GPS unit stolen from vehicle.

7300 block of Eldorado St.

GPS unit stolen from vehicle.

8200 block of Greensboro Drive.

Wallet stolen from business.

7400 block of Hallcrest Drive.

Documents stolen from vehicle.

7000 block of Haycock Road.

Laptop computer stolen from vehicle.

2000 block of International Drive.

Handbag stolen from business.

7300 block of Lee Highway.

Motor scooter stolen from residence.

7400 block of Lee Highway.

Stereo stolen from vehicle.

8000 block of Leesburg Pike.

Purse stolen from business.

8600 block of McHenry St.

Purse stolen from residence.

3000 block of Nutley St.

Beer stolen from business.

3000 block of Nutley St.

Laptop computer stolen from business.

3000 block of Rosemoor Lane.

GPS unit stolen from vehicle.

3000 block of Rosemoor Lane.

Cash stolen from vehicle.

7900 block of Tysons Corner Center.

Jewelry stolen from business.

VEHICLE THEFTS

7800 block of Enola St.

2006 Yamaha motorcycle.



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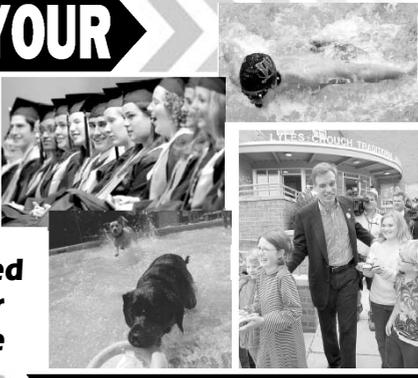


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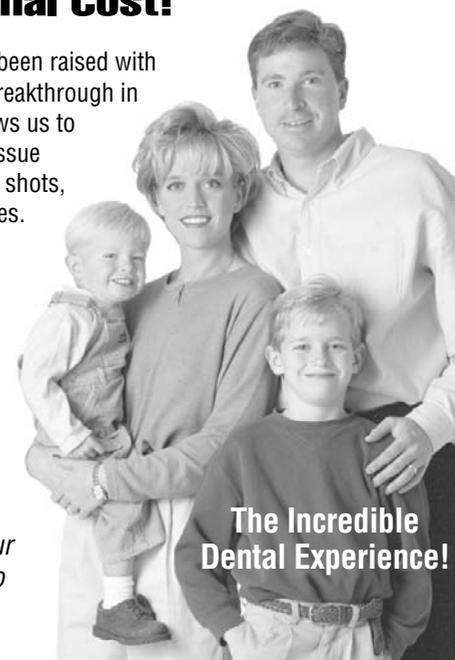
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Metrorail Stations Under Scrutiny

FROM PAGE 3

would require the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the group managing the project, to notify county chairman Sharon Bulova (D) and the local district supervisor — in many cases Smyth — about any changes made to a particular station's design or landscaping.

But some other supervisors, who do not have constituents living near the project, said they were concerned that Smyth might be trying to "micromanage" the project.

"We don't see as integrated an approach to these stations as we would like."

—Stewart Schwartz

"Are we talking about a change in the ceiling tile coming to you? ... I am a little bit uneasy about how far down in the weeds we are," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

By contrast, Foust did not think Smyth's amendment went far enough. He said the supervisors ought to require a full vote on changes to the station design that might come forward.

"You can call it micromanaging, but my guess is in Boston they had hoped they had more micromanaging," said Foust, referencing Boston's "Big Dig," which was worked on by one of the same contractors handling the Dulles Rail project.

FOUST ALSO said he could not support the plans for stations in Tysons Corner because too many details had not been provided. The federal government was not requiring the county board to rush approval of the stations so it could receive "full funding" and the supervisors should wait until they had more information, he said.

"There are too many matters that are left to be determined. The proposed development plans are a skeleton at best," said Foust.

Several citizens, both supporters and critics of the current Dulles Rail project, agreed with Foust.

"These stations are coming to you in a vacuum. We don't see as integrated an approach to these stations as we would like," said Stewart Schwartz, executive director of the

Coalition for Smarter Growth.

Since the station plans do not show how they will interact at all with the new development around them, it is hard to determine whether they are being built with an "urban design" or in pedestrian friendly way, he said.

"There is a lot of risk that they won't get the design right ... It is astounding that the plans are so vague," said Schwartz.

But At-large Fairfax County Planning Commissioner Walter Alcorn said the integration with private development will come later as they review the comprehensive land development plan for Tysons Corner. Staff also said the station plans, each set on approximately two to three acres, would not impede on the urbanization of Tysons Corner as a whole, which is 1,700 acres.

"It is just the stations we are looking at. The street grid [and development] is outside the boundaries of this," said Alcorn when the Planning Commission reviewed the projects Feb. 20.

THE TWO remaining Tysons Corner stations the supervisors have not approved may be the most controversial. The stops are those located closest to residential areas in Vienna and McLean and have given the citizens most cause for concern.

They were also the two stops that solicited the most opposition from members of the Fairfax County Planning Commission. Sully Planning Commissioner John Litzenberger, Mount Vernon Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan and Dranesville Planning Commissioner Jay Donahue all had objections the "Tysons East" station — planned for Route 123 and Colshire Drive. Donahue also opposed the "Tysons West," planned for Route 7 and Spring Hill Road.

Mark Zetts, a McLean Citizens Association board member, raised concerns about lack of transparency for the "Tysons East" station plans.

"We have no tree inventory and no storm water plan ... Why can't the public look at these plans and see what is being proposed?" said Zetts at the Planning Commission hearing on the project.

At "Tysons West," Zetts said there is not enough parking in the plan to make the station more accessible to people from the surrounding community. Donahue agreed, stating that the area around "Tysons West" may not attract enough density to support a rail station by itself for several years.

"At least, a temporary parking garage is something we should be considering," said Donahue.

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Doing a dance move that they call "the lobster," Julia Larson of Alexandria, Caroline Livaudais of Herndon, and Alexis Ramirez of Vienna, show off their skills.

During a dance rehearsal cast members Becka Hall of Great Falls, Mary Mitchell of Bethesda, Md., Caroline Livaudais of Herndon, Alexandra DeSanctis of Potomac Falls, Mim Blower of Alexandria, and Colette Maimone of Fairfax, pose for a photo.

'Stuart Little' at Oakcrest School

Performances scheduled for Friday and Saturday.

This Friday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m., students at the Oakcrest School in McLean will celebrate the opening night of the high school's production of "Stuart Little."

Based on the classic tale written by E. B. White, "Stuart Little" is a story about an underdog, or rather, mouse, who strikes out on his own among the "real people" of New York City. The show opens on the heels of some significant changes to Oakcrest's theater program. While the program has been an important part of the school long before the move from Washington, D.C., to its McLean campus, it has only recently been added into the formal curriculum. This year is also the first year that the show's director and Oakcrest's theater arts teacher, Brittney K. Sweeney, has made cuts. With a cast of 21, "It's truly an ensemble piece," Sweeney, a Reston resident, said. "Everyone except for one character plays different roles throughout the show. It's been a lot of fun, creating ensemble and learning what is ensemble." Among other things, finding a script was a big obstacle. As an all-girls school no boys are brought in to perform, and while girls are cast in male roles there are no romantic or father/daughter relationships. "My background is not in an all-girls school," said Sweeney, "but it has been very different, finding a new perspective. It doesn't have to be all princesses and witches and fairy tales."

THIS SHOW is also the first stu-



The director Brittney K. Sweeney.

dent-choreographed production. The choreographer, Caroline Livaudais, is a junior at Oakcrest and resident of Herndon. Even though she's working with a cast of her peers, it is not a challenge for the longtime dancer. "The girls have been really helpful, supportive and respectful," Livaudais said. "We have break before school and lunch and they'll come to me with questions and we work it out right there in the hallway." After assistant choreographing the middle school's most recent production, Livaudais accepted the challenging task of designing all of the choreography on top of schoolwork, dance classes and a job. She advises that it's all about, "managing your time really well and finding balance. I just love all the girls here; I wait for rehearsal after

school. It's my friends that I'm working with and dance that I've loved my whole life."

She said, every member of the cast is truly dedicated to the production. Whether it's coming in on weekends for additional rehearsals or building sets and coordinating wardrobes or create costumes, there is 100 percent participation. Julia Larson, a junior and Alexandria resident who narrates the show, said, "It's not easy to juggle but we all signed up to do it. Ms. Sweeney likes to work with us to develop our characters. She has a vision and we get to meet people from all grades and bond."

OF THE BONDING with upperclassmen, ninth-grader and Alexandria resident Carolyn Lucas, who plays the title role of Stuart Little, said, "I've gotten to know a bunch of girls who are really nice. They've taken me in and let me be a part of their family." Alexis Ramirez, a junior from Vienna, who plays the role of Snowball, said that rehearsal is, "kind of like a detox from the rest of the day."

The production is for all audiences and director Sweeney recommends the show for anyone 6 and up. "The story of Stuart Little is just a little older than preschool," she advised. "We do a lot of work on how to act for a young audience and not act at them. We try to balance it with things for adults as well." In addition to Friday's opening night performance at 7:30 p.m., there is also a Saturday matinee at 11 a.m. and a closing performance at 7:30 p.m.

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/MARCH 4

Peter Mulvey, 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
Runaway Colors, 10:30 a.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Wear a favorite color for stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-356-0770.
Around the World in Film, 7 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Comedy about the last days of East Germany, in German with subtitles. Adults. 703-938-0405.

THURSDAY/MARCH 5

BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet. General admission dance, 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.
Tyrone Wells, Brendan James and Keaton Simons. Pop/rock. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
White Burgundy and Pinot Noir. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. A wine tour of one of the wine French regions.
The Bird and the Bee, 8 p.m. at The Barns. \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.
Portraits of Freedom Riders. 7 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Eric Etheridge and former Freedom Rider Rev. Reginald Green will speak. Etheridge is the author of "Breach of Peace: Portraits of the 1961 Mississippi Freedom Riders." Tickets are first-come, first-serve with a limit of four per person. 703-324-8428
Tiny Tot Tales, 10:30 a.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Stories and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-356-0770.
Citrus Sale. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, 9916 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Lions Club will be holding its semi annual citrus sale. Valencia oranges, tangerines, red and white grapefruit will be on sale at \$25 per box or \$13 per half box. All profits go to support local and national Lions charities.
Anxiety Management Group. 6-6:50 p.m., Jewish Social Service Agency, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax. This 17-session group is for children ages 9-11 with anxiety issues. Call 703-204-9100 to register.

FRIDAY/MARCH 6

Emmanuel Ceysson, harpist. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.
Family Skate Nights, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center. \$1 per skater; bring your own skates and safety equipment.
Shane Hines CD Release Show, Stepanian and Madi Diaz. 8 p.m. Rock. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
Mariza sings Portuguese Fado, 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 7:15 p.m. on the Center's



The U. S. Marine Band is coming to the George Mason University Center for the Arts on Sunday, March 8.

Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$23-\$46. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.
Pig Farm. 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright of "Urinetown." Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 students. 1-800-838-3006 or www.1stStageSpringHill.org.
Bruce Dale. 7-9 p.m., Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. National Geographic Photographer "The Making of Images: Bad Ideas Behind Good Photographs." \$25 online, \$30 at the door. www.leagueoffrestonartists.org.
English Conversation, 10 a.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. For non-native English speakers. Adults. 703-938-0405.

SATURDAY/MARCH 7

Theresa Andersson. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
Nature Photography. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Two days of information and activities. Gain an appreciation for the natural world and learn to improve as a photographer. \$5 per person. 703-255-3631.
Pig Farm. 4 and 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright of "Urinetown." Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 students. 1-800-838-3006 or www.1stStageSpringHill.org.
Green River Ordinance, 10 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce 16th Annual Casino Night. 7 p.m.-12 a.m., Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Casino Night and Taste of the Town Event. Guests can bid for prizes with their winnings as well as select from the Silent Auction items. \$75 per person; \$65 per person in groups of 10 or more. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.
'It's All about the Cats' Adoption Day sponsored by Commonwealth Cat Rescue, Inc., 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560. Contact Chris C. Haslam, Commonwealth Cat Rescue, Inc. at 703-568-3600.
Legal Aspects of Separation and Divorce. McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Jeffrey Sprowls, Esq. will provide information on divorce topics including grounds for divorce, child custody arrangements, spousal and child support, division of assets and liabilities, retirement and more. \$55/person, \$45/Center Circle Donors. Call 703-281-2657 to register.
Estate Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Claude Moore Farm at Turkey Run, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Browse

MONDAY/MARCH 9

An Evening with Andy McKee and Dan LaVoie. Fingerstyle guitar. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
Spring Is Sprouting, 4 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Uncover secrets of spring wildflowers, and plant a seed to take home and watch as it transforms into a plant. Age 3-12 with adult. 703-757-8560.

TUESDAY/MARCH 10

Keri Noble and Rachael Sage, 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
Daughters of the Confederacy. 6:30 p.m., Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. The Laura Ratcliffe Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will meet. Meetings are open to the public. Call Nancy Wigginton at 703-408-8019.
WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11
Rude Buddha and Ballyhoo, 9pm show at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Chickens in a Row, 10:30 a.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Egg stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-356-0770.
The Art of Conversation. 7-9 p.m., The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Rashmi Nair-Ripley, Ontological Coach will introduce how the body, emotions and inner language drive communication and behavior. To register go to www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657.

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Steve Moakler (full band), Gabe Vitech and the Ivory, 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
Ask an Expert: Tom Lassman on Early Cruise Missile Technology: the Regulus I. 12:30-12:45 p.m. at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Free admission. 202-633-1000 or www.nasm.si.edu.
Booz Allen Hamilton Nonprofit Conference on Fundraising Development Speaker Series, in partnership with Volunteer Fairfax, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at 8283 Greensboro Drive in McLean. Participate in person or via live webcam feed. \$25 per session. Register at www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx. Contact Samantha Watson at Volunteer Fairfax, 703-246-3826 or www.volunteerfairfax.org.
Natty Beaux, 8-10 p.m. at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 7:30 beginner lessons. \$10. 703-414-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.
Financial Planning for Separation

and Divorce, 7 p.m. at Investment & Resource Planning Associates, 10600 Arrowhead Drive, Suite 310, Fairfax. \$55 non-members, \$45 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.
Celtic Fusion at the Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

FRIDAY/MARCH 13

Martin Vidnovic: What Matters to Me. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.
The Independent and Charlie Duda, 6 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
Celtic Fusion at the Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Tom Rush. Folk singer/songwriter. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$30. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.
Women in Aviation & Space Day. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Learn about the accomplishments to Bessie Coleman, the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs), Sally Ride and other women who contributed to aviation, science and space exploration history. Book signings, story time and hands-on activities throughout the Museum. Free admission. 202-633-1000 or www.nasm.si.edu.

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FAITH

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

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, is hosting its semi-annual consignment sale of baby, child and maternity items Friday, March 20, 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, March 21, 8-11 a.m. 703-356-3567.

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

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.

St. John's Episcopal Church supports over twenty outreach ministries, including SHARE, Habitat for Humanity, Martha's Table, and the Gen. Colin L. Powell Leadership Club at Macfarland Middle School in Washington D.C. Services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation

Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of North-ern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax, offers a variety of family programs. Call **703-204-9100**.

♦**Just Chill: An Anxiety Management Group**, for ages 8-10. Wednesdays through Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.

♦**Teen Talk: An Adolescent Adoption Series**, for ages 13-18. Tuesdays through Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. Pre-registration required.

♦**Support Group for Parents of Young Adults with Asperger's Syndrome and Related Disorders**. Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.

♦**Social Club for Young Adults with Asperger's Syndrome**. Call for a schedule of events and costs.

♦**Starting Over: A Widow and Widower Support Group**, meeting the third Monday of every month, at 1 p.m.

♦**You and Your Aging Parents**, meeting the third Wednesday of every month, at 6 p.m.

The Baha'i community of McLean holds a weekly fireside, a meeting of discussion, devotion and fellowship, at 7500 Box Elder Court in McLean, at 8 p.m. every Friday. An opportunity to learn about the Baha'i faith. 703-556-3400.

English classes at McLean Baptist Church on Mondays, including beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Advanced electives are Literature, U.S. Government, World Religions, and current events. Free class and registration, but students must buy their own books. 9:30 a.m. at 1367 Chain Bridge Road. 703-356-8080 or www.mcleanbaptist.org.



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Loving Music, Bach to Rock

Center cultivates love of music for children of all ages.

BY ALEKSANDRA KULCZUGA
THE CONNECTION

Even the 3-year-olds who attend music classes at Bach to Rock Music Center can use the classical composer's name in a sentence. "Is today Bach to Rock Day?" Nicholas Marks asks his mother Peggy every morning when he wakes up. "I want to be in a band!" exclaims the 3-year-old Vienna resident who has been attending classes since last August.

This is the kind of energy that early childhood music director Paul Waskiewicz, "Mr. Paul," hopes to cultivate. They encourage youngsters to fantasize about becoming their musical heroes, tapping into every child's natural propensity for playing pretend.

The state-of-the-art facility could nurture the rock star dreams in anyone. Glamorous practice studios, each named after a famous band, line the curving hallway that leads to the high-tech recording studio.

THE CORE of Bach to Rock is a researched philosophy of musical education. The curriculum is built on years of research correlating musical education and advanced brain functions. Each activity is tailored to an educational role at an educationally appropriate level. "Technology has shown what music does for brain development. There is an increased density of neural connections that develops in children who play music from a young age. We teach the appropriate music skills when the children are developmentally ready for them," Waskiewicz said.

The McLean location opened in February of 2008 and is the fourth Bach to Rock center. The centers have been experiencing consistent growth as word spreads in the community that the staff at Bach to Rock are both music and child-



Peggy Marks and son Nicholas, 3 1/2, of Vienna, participate in the Tunes N' Tots class led by staff members Audrey Albright, Darrion Siler, and Dan Avedikian.

More Information

Bach to Rock Music Center is located at 1440 Emerson Ave., McLean. Call 877-B2R-8558 or visit www.B2Rmusic.com.

care experts. "Most of our clients come by word of mouth, especially the young children," Waskiewicz said. "Once people realize that we are well trained to handle children of all ages, they trust us and come back, often bringing friends." All staff members have musical backgrounds and have completed specialized training in child development.

For the youngest children in the Tunes and Tots class, parental participation is encouraged. Parents and their children up to age 4 go through a series of movement and harmony exercises to a variety of different songs. They play Cajun, African and swing music, each with focus on instruments like drums and tambourines to demonstrate different musical principles.

"When it comes to young children, our philosophy is that it is important to let kids grow and play in a way that is natural to them," Waskiewicz said. The first step in becoming a musician is

learning to move to the music. "That's why there is so much movement at this level."

CHILDREN of all ability levels are encouraged to jam on their instruments, make noise and move to music, a relief to parents who don't want a drum set in the house. There are group lessons and jam sessions available for children of all ages, along with individual lessons on a variety of instruments. "We also teach audio engineering and just added DJing lessons as well," said Jennifer Gregor, the director of the McLean location who also teaches guitar and bass. The overarching goal is to cultivate a love of music so that children will continue to study it throughout their lives.

For those who want a taste, the center hosts birthday parties tailored for all ages and ability levels. For ages 8 and up Bach to Rock will help the birthday party prepare a specific song that the participants will learn, perform and record in the studio before the birthday is over. All participants go home with a compact disc of their own recorded music. They also host summer camps, which begin in June.

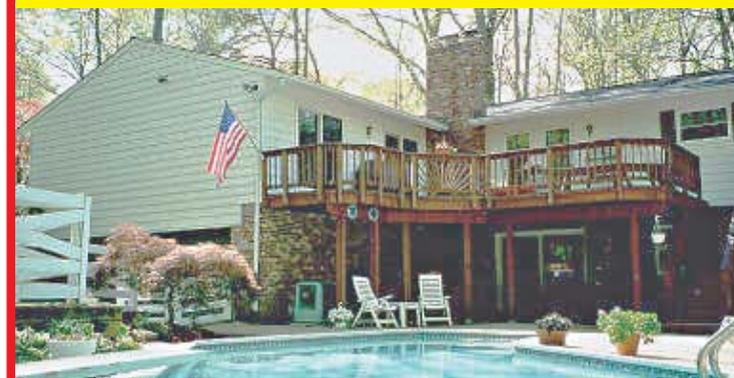
PHOTOS BY ALEKSANDRA KULCZUGA/THE CONNECTION



Nicholas Marks, 3 1/2, and Gabrielle Morian, 3, experiment on the foam piano as staff members Audrey Albright, Darrion Siler, and Dan Avedikian teach songs the children can play with their feet.

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639 Nalls Farm Way	\$2,500,000	Sun 1-4	Carol Ellickson	Weichert	703-862-2135

Falls Church

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6799 Colby Crossing Way	\$1,399,000	Sat & Sun 12-4:30	Anne DiBenedetto	McEearney	703-790-9090

McLean

1450 Emerson Ave #205	\$865,000	Sun 1:30-4	Nihal Beidas	Long & Foster	703-505-7550
8532 Georgetown Pike	\$1,084,000	Sun 1-4	Gene Asmuth	Long & Foster	301-564-4900
1527 Brookhaven Dr	\$1,699,000	Sun 1-4	Mark McFadden	Coldwell	202-333-6100
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2665 Manhattan Pl #02/103	\$399,500	Sun 1-4	Matthew Ryan	RE/MAX	571-276-3606
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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact:

In Great Falls, Salome, 703-917-6467, or salome@connectionnewspapers.com

In Vienna, Don, 703-917-6466, or donpark@connectionnewspapers.com

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SCHOOLS

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On Monday, **March 9**, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon, **Spring Hill Elementary School** will host a Virginia Reader's Choice Program Voting Party. VRC is a yearly reading incentive program all across Virginia. The school librarian asked students to participate, and even though it was optional, approximately 125 students are involved. All 4th, 5th, and 6th graders who have read at least 5 books (4 books for 6th graders), and passed the online quiz for each book, will vote for their favorite. They'll have a pizza lunch while discussing each of the books and what determined their vote. Two clubs will be formed: the "Read all 10 Club" for students who read all 10 books in their category (elementary or middle school), and the "Gold Star Readers Club" for those students who read 20 books from both the elementary and middle school categories. Students who read all 10 books on their list will receive a great tote bag with a logo designed by a Spring Hill parent.

Caroline Johnson Rothrock of McLean and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Rothrock, was named to Rippen College's dean's list for the Fall 2008 semester.

In June, **Colin Johnson**, a 20-year-old sophomore at George Mason University will be meeting 90 other Pi Kappa Phi's from universities across the country and embarking on a 64-day "Journey of Hope." The Journey of Hope is a 4000-mile cross country cycling trek

from Seattle to Washington, DC that raises funds and awareness on behalf of people with disabilities. Johnson is committed to raising \$6,000 for this cause. To donate, contact Colin at cojsterling@msn.com or 703-405-8281. Contributions can also be mailed to: Push America, Attn: Colin Johnson, 46657 Ashmere Square, Sterling, VA 20165

Amanda Johnson of McLean is currently studying abroad through the Boston University International Programs office. A History major at BU's College of Arts and Science, Johnson is currently enrolled in the Dublin Internship Program through the end of the Spring 2009 semester.

Averell Gatton of McLean has been named to the dean's list for the fall semester at The College of Wooster. Gatton, a graduate of Langley High School, is a senior physics major.

Three McLean residents were named to the 2008 dean's list at Washington and Lee University: **Brendon Charles Ellis**, sophomore, son of Daniel Ellis and Colleen Sanford, **Benjamin Kenney Belair**, sophomore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Belair, and **Jody Thomas Davis**, freshman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Davis.

Three area students were named to the 2008 dean's list at Colby College in Waterville, Me.: **Tamar H. Hassan**, sophomore, son of Hany and Deborah Hassan of Great Falls. **Duncan H. Hardock**, sophomore, son of Randolph and Anne Hardock of McLean. **Sally H. Klose**, freshman, daughter of Thomas

Klose and Elizabeth Hull of McLean.

George C. Marshall High School has been designated a "Silver Medal School" by US News & World Report. Silver Medal high schools meet specific criteria, which include college readiness, proficiency on standardized state tests, as well as student participation in and performance on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams. Marshall High School has also placed as the highest ranked IB school in the Washington Metropolitan region. Students at Marshall High School took the highest number of IB exams in the history of their school, 927, an increase from 751 exams in 2007. 70 students earned the IB Diploma.

Alaura Rose Magilo of McLean was named to the University of Wisconsin-Madison's dean's list for the fall semester in the 2008-2009 academic year. Magilo is currently in the College of Letters and Science.

Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Brian C. Jones, son of Michelle B. Krocker of Oakton and Michael R. Jones of McLean, has received his commission as an officer in the Marine Corps after completing Officer Candidate School in Quantico. Jones is a 2004 graduate of St. Johns College High School of Washington, D. C., and is a 2008 graduate of University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa with a BA degree.

Kelsey Dunn of McLean has graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

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Schools May Lease 2nd Administration Building

Fairfax County Public Schools is considering leasing space in an office building that it had hoped to purchase for administrative functions until the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors killed the proposal Feb. 23.

The school system plans to convert two of its existing administrative buildings in the Falls Church area back into schools next fall. Staff said they need to find new office space for those central workers being displaced by the conversion.

"We are not pursuing the acquisition of Gatehouse but that doesn't mean we don't still have space issues that have to be resolved," said the schools chief operating officer Dean Tistadt.

Had the building purchase gone through, Tistadt had planned to put those administrators and others in the new building, "Gatehouse II," a property adjacent to the school system's current central office building in Merrifield.

Though no final decisions have been made, the school system may decide to rent space for administrators in the "Gatehouse II" building anyway, said Tistadt.

"It is one of the things that we are looking at but no decisions have been made about that building," he said.

For the most part, the School Board strongly backed the "Gatehouse II" proposal. They said buying the extra administrative building would save the school system money, in part because it would no longer have to rent as much office space. "This is an option that would have allowed us to save money and help reduce overcrowding in schools," said School Board president Dan Storck (Mount Vernon.)

The proposal was met with large-scale public opposition. Critics said it was not appropriate for the school system to acquire a new administrative building during a budget crisis when schools may increase class size and cut teachers next year.

"The timing for this was just no good. There was tremendous opposition to moving forward with a proposal to purchase an administrative building right now," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova (D.)

Given the current economic climate, Bulova said she had a hard time feeling confident about the school system's prediction of cost savings.

"We are dealing in a very unstable economic climate and I wasn't sure that the savings in the long term or the short term were truly predictable," she said.

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay said he was wary of the county acquiring more debt when the county economic is not supposed to experience an upturn until 2012.

"Just because you find a good deal doesn't mean you execute it at the expense of everything else. By that logic, everyone would be out there buying a house right now," said McKay.

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) was not convinced that the school system could not fit the administrators they need to move into the administration building they own now.

"They never demonstrated they couldn't clear out of the two office buildings they really need for schools by consolidating and crowding into the existing space they have," said Foust.

The School Board could cause problems if they decide to lease "Gatehouse II" after the county board voted down the purchase.

"I would view that as slap in the face. I think that is going to make life really difficult if they do that," said McKay.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

THE COUNTY LINE Budget Process Falls Short

Critics: \$650 million shortfall calls for more 'revolutionary thinking.'

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

After months of pouring over Fairfax County's lines of business, the Dranesville Budget Task Force made 13 recommendations about local government spending to its district supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). Near the top of its short list, the citizens' advisory group asked that the county seriously consider the consolidation of county offices and programs in the face of a \$650 million shortfall in next year's budget.

The county should look into combining public information and technology officer positions across its departments and agencies, they said. The task force also specifically recommended Fairfax look at merging the Department of Administration for Human Services and the Department of Systems Management for Human Services for cost savings.

"There are certain things in the budget that are very good. There are also things in there that seem a little rich," said Jim Mietus, a task force member who worked for the federal government's office of management and budget for 33 years.

BUT FAIRFAX COUNTY executive Anthony Griffin disappointed those expecting him to lead a major overhaul or restructuring of county government. Griffin was not available for an interview for this story.

In his initial budget proposal Feb. 23, Griffin included only one consolidation of a county department and agency. He proposed moving the planning commission into the department of planning and zoning.

"Globally speaking, it is not revolutionary. ... During these times, it is going to take revolutionary thinking to manage this kind of shortfall," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee.)

"I was just disappointed we haven't done anything structurally with the budget. All we did with that budget is take some of the reductions that the agency heads put on the table," said Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield).

In a recent interview, McKay rattled at least four different agency and department mergers he thought the county should investigate for potential cost savings: Fairfax's revitalization office could possibly be folded into the county's department of planning and zoning; the park authority and department of community and recreation services could be combined; the office of emergency management might be able to move into the department of public safety; and Fairfax's new homelessness office does not necessarily have to be separated from the department of housing, according to McKay.

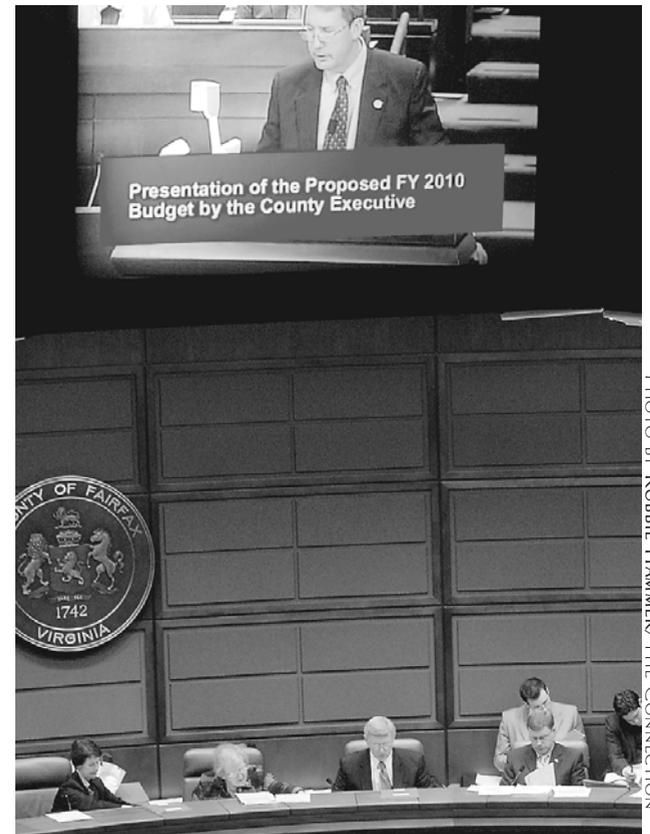
"Where you save money in these consolidations is the upper level management positions," he said.

McKay added that he wasn't sure he would be able to support Griffin's one recommendation for consolidation.

"I think [the planning commission's autonomy] is the one thing that makes our land use process work. I don't think you gain enough in savings to take away those independent reviews in land use," said McKay. "The only recommended consolidation in the budget is one I think citizens will object to."

WHEN DRAWING UP his budget draft, Griffin relied heavily on last fall's "lines of business" review, where county agency heads presented what reductions they would make to their individual departments if they had to take a 15 percent cut.

But several supervisors expressed frustration with the "lines



County Executive Anthony Griffin presented his proposal for the 2009 budget to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Feb. 23.

of business" process. Many had gone into the process expecting some level of county service restructuring. But the lines of business included no comprehensive look at how the county functions or departments could be combined.

"A series of presentations of how the agency directors could save 15 percent in each of their budgets is not a 'lines of business' review. That was the point I was making early on. ... I thought we would see more sweeping changes, not just chewing around the corners of the budget," said McKay.

But the purpose of the lines of business review process was not to overhaul the county's administration, said Merni Fitzgerald, Fairfax County director of public affairs.

"The purpose was not to make structural changes and structural changes are not needed necessarily," said Fitzgerald.

Either way, the process did result in the types of changes some supervisors wanted to see in a budget cycle this dire.

"The [lines of business review] got us some reductions but it focused on the details and put us in the weeds. ... We needed more than 'in the weeds' reductions," said Herrity.

"As a new supervisor, I would like to take fresh look since we are in a fiscal crisis."

— John Foust, Dranesville Supervisor

DURING HIS BUDGET presentation last month, Griffin said the planning commission consolidation was the only total department merger seriously considered.

"[Griffin] and his staff have apparently concluded the structure we have is the preferable one. As a new supervisor, I would like to take fresh look since we are in a fiscal crisis. This is the opportune time to make sure we are structured properly and

efficiently," said Foust.

County chairman Sharon Bulova said it is not necessarily the job of the county executive to propose major overhauls in the county government. "If there are going to be major policy changes and more structural changes, it can be done with the recommendation of our staff but it is the Board of Supervisors that makes policy," said Bulova.

A small group of supervisors and School Board members started meeting two days after the budget was presented to discuss how county and Fairfax County Public Schools could share services and potentially save money.

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Winter Sports Season Drawing to a Close

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Virginia State AAA Swim and dive championships took place at the Freedom Center in Manassas two weeks ago.

In the boys team standings, Robinson was team champion, with Madison and Langley finishing second and third, respectively. Oakton finished seventh among the field of 36 teams. Other local teams included McLean (14th place), Herndon (15th), Marshall (22nd) and South Lakes (28th).

The Langley High 200 medley relay team, made up of Stephen Richards, Chuck Katis, Alex Brumas and Chris Barnard, finished fourth. And the Saxons' 400 free relay team of Ryan Natal, Alec Contag, Katis and Richards was fifth.

In individual events, Richards was first in the 100 breaststroke and second in the 200 individual medley race; Katis was third in the 100 breast; Natal was seventh in the 100 fly; and Jamie Sexton was seventh in the 100 breast.

For Madison, Sean Fletcher won the 100 fly and 100 free events, while Robbie Parker won the 50 free race.

Madison's 200 free relay team of Fletcher, David Fallovollita, Adam Pennington and Parker finished first. The Warhawks also won the 400 free relay with a foursome of Parker, Matt Russiello, Pennington and Fletcher.

McLean High's Charlie Putnam finished third in the 200 IM race and fourth in the 100 back. In 1-meter diving, McLean's Martin Brown was eighth.

Oakton High's Phillip Bailey won both the 200 free and 100 back events and was second in the 500 free. Also for the Cougars, KJ Park was second in the 100 breast and sixth in the 200 IM; Devin Jansen finished seventh in the 100 free and eighth in the 50 free; and Michael Hallock was second in the 100 free. The Oakton 400 free relay team of Bradley, Park, Kevin Cho and



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The McLean High girls basketball team finished with a winning 12-11 overall record this season. The Highlanders, under coach Mike O'Brien, finished 7-7 in Liberty District play. Here, junior forward Melissa Wilson drives hard to the basket as Langley's Rachel Warrick defends.

Hallock was eighth.

South Lakes' Brad Dillon was eighth in the 100 back event.

Herndon's Mark Rodakowski was fifth in 100 breast.

Marshall's Cyrus Hashemi finished fourth in the 200 free event and fifth in the 500 free.

IN THE GIRLS' TEAM scores at state swimming, Robinson High was the champion. Other local teams competing included Langley High (fourth place), Oakton (eighth), McLean (12th) and Madison



McLean High boys basketball coach Kevin Roller and his Highlanders qualified for the Northern Region playoffs for the second straight year. They made the 16-team playoff field by defeating South Lakes in a first-round Liberty District playoff game. The Highlanders' season ended last week with a first-round region playoff loss at T.C. Williams.

(25th).

Langley High's Kim Pilka was third in 1-meter diving and teammate Kelly Corish was fifth. Also for the Saxons, Megan Howard was seventh in the 50 free; Jayme Katis was seventh in the 100 free; and Karen Schirm was eighth in 100 breast. Langley's 200 medley relay team of Meghan Overend, Karen Schirm, Jessica Hawken and Megan Howard was eighth. The Saxons' 200 free relay team of Overend, Hawken, Jayme Katis and Howard was third.

McLean's Eva Greene was fourth in the 100 free and third in 100 back.

Oakton's Kaitlin Pawlowicz won the 200 IM and was second in the 100 fly. Cougar Emily Rakosi was eighth in 1-meter diving. Oakton's 400 free relay team of Quinn Wilkinson, Allie Maher, Ashley Doran and

Pawlowicz was seventh.

Madison's Kelly Lloyd finished second in 1-meter diving.

THE SOUTH LAKES High boys indoor track and field team captured the Northern Region championship at the George Mason University Field House in Fairfax Feb. 21. The Seahawks finished ahead of second-place Edison and third place Chantilly.

Seahawk senior Vincent Brown won three events to lead South Lakes — the 300 dash, 55 hurdles and the long jump.

He was third in the high jump event. Teammate Mike Harrell finished third in the 55 hurdles.

For the South Lakes girls, Lachelle Wallace finished third in the 300 dash and second in the 55.

The Highlander boys 200 medley relay team of Charlie Putnam, Edward Lee, Jungmin Park and Andrew Cole finished 12th. The boys 400 freestyle relay team of Phil Betts, Edward Lee, Andrew Cole and Charlie Putnam finished 13th.

The girls 200 medley relay team of Alex Yensen, Jamie Bugel, Eva Greene and Margaret Harlow finished 12th, while the girls 400 freestyle relay team of Margaret Harlow, Adrienne Harlow, Alex Yensen and Eva Greene finished 10th.

McLean Youth Soccer is accepting registrations for the spring 2009 season on the league Web site at www.mcleansoccer.org for all returning and new families. MYS offers various programs for children ages 4-19. The season runs March 30- June 14. Contact the MYS administrator at admin@mcleansoccer.org for more information or call the MYS Office at 703-506-8068.



PHOTO COURTESY/LANGLEY JV BASKETBALL

The Langley High junior varsity boys basketball team finished the winter season with a perfect 16-0 record in the Liberty District. The Saxons were under the direction of head coach Eric Fish and assistant Ken Savittierre. Top row, from left, Coach Eric Fish, co-captain David Adams, co-captain Brenden Dwyer, Troy Scharfen, Brian Doll, Alex Anderson, Patrick Haddad and assistant coach Ken Savittierre. Bottom, from left, Jefferey Cochran, Austin Vasiliadis, Joseph Robinson, Alex Brunton, Braden Anderson and Zach Sekel.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The **McLean High boys and girls** swim and dive teams were well represented at the recent Virginia State AAA Championships. In all, there were 70 teams and 630 athletes that qualified to participate in the meet. The Highlander girls finished 12th in the state. Team members included Eva Greene, Jamie Bugel, Alex Yensen, Margaret Harlow and Adrienne Harlow. The McLean boys were 14th overall. Team members included Martin Brown, Phillip Betts, Andrew Cole, Edward Lee, Colin Fitzgibbon, Jungmin Park and Charlie Putnam.

The following McLean swimmers did particularly well: Martin Brown (eighth in men's diving); Margaret Harlow (ninth in the 500 freestyle); Eva Greene (third in the 100 backstroke; fourth in the 100 freestyle); and Charlie Putnam (third in the 200 individual medley; fourth in the 100 backstroke).

Jannery Launches New Book

Great Falls author continues Simple Grace series.

BY DANIELLE LANDAU
THE CONNECTION

Beth Jannery of Great Falls, author of the Simple Grace book series, has released her third book in the series, "Simple Grace: Awareness, Meditations, Breathing Space." This, her 2009 release, finds its place in her growing collection as a means by which to slow down and appreciate quiet moments.



CONTRIBUTED
Beth Jannery

As Jannery explained on her Web site, "Inside you will find inspirational quotes and beautiful photographs. Read about love, truth, zen, 'the now' and what it means to create your own breathing space. A simple book full of wisdom from the ages and words that will touch deep in your heart and maybe even lift your spirit."

Jannery said, "What's really cool about the series is that readers will find one book, read it and then find out there are more books.

They are always so delighted because they can read them in any order. Most importantly, they tell me how the books help them pause for moments of reflection in their hectic lives. If I can help one person find an instant of peace after reading a quote from my book, then I have accomplished my goal."

Next in line for Jannery is "Simple Grace Miracle Moments," a collection of miraculous stories and moments that happen to anyone and everyone. This book will differ from the others in the series as Jannery is turning to her readers, friends and fans to contribute their miracle stories. Miracle Moments will be published in 2010 and Jannery is still taking stories and moments on her Web site.

Also in the opening stages for Jannery is Simple Grace Book Consulting, her consulting firm for "want-to-be" writers. Jannery said, "I was taking a lot of time away trying to help people write their own books, because it is my passion. People started offering to pay me for my help, so it turned into a business." Jannery helps beginning authors solidify their concept, create a working outline, write a summary and polish their first chapter.

More information about all of Jannery's books and endeavors can be found on her Web site, www.bethjannery.com.

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Opposites Attract What, Exactly



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

As an old, comparatively speaking, married man, I am intrigued by the how-couples-met process of today's engaged and/or married couples. The fact that there can be some rhyme or reason for individuals to actually meet seems quite an advantage over those of us who had no real practical alternative other than letting "the chips fall where they may" or allowing "nature to take its course."

Still, not having had that opportunity doesn't necessarily mean that all is lost, it more likely means that potentially all, certainly some, things may not yet be found. And how could it all be found, especially if you're not starting from the same place? It seems like relationships would be so much easier if there were more inherited similarities than there were newly discovered differences, more common interests, shared experiences and familiar "familialities." And not that there are any guarantees in life ("other than death and taxes"), but knowing more about your partner would seem to be quite an advantage over knowing less. Granted, some of the adventure in pursuit of the inevitable discovery — who, what, where, how and why — might be missing, but so too might some of the disappointment and difficulties be missing when two attempt to become one. As the character Tevye, from Fiddler on the Roof, said, "A bird can love a fish, but where would they live?"

Nowadays, if you're attempting to match, with some professional data entry-type assistance, this problem would never arise (I know, never is a long time), presumably nor would a host of other conflicts arise among people who speak different languages (figuratively speaking but certainly literally, too): religion, age range, smoke or not, like pets, like/want children, among many other considerations too numerous to list. But maybe not. Chemistry, in the classroom, on the job, in social settings, isn't really drawn up in any book. It seems to be somewhere between the luck of the draw and there being no accounting for taste: opposites attract, like-minded persons/personalities clash, individuals from similar backgrounds aren't necessarily similar; in summary, what's good for the goose isn't necessarily good for the gander and vice versa. True in nature might not necessarily be true in nurture.

What brought this curiosity to light was a recent neighborhood function, the post-wedding BBQ to celebrate a neighbor's son's betrothal. The couple were both in their mid-twenties. They met over the internet. The groom (my neighbor) lives in Montgomery County, Md., the bride lived in Richmond, Va. Given the geography involved, it's unlikely they would have met otherwise. How did it all happen? I asked. They matched on line, they said. When I asked their recollections of their profiles and whatever it was that they thought they had in common that led to the match, all they could muster was "family was important." And though I tried to learn more about their how and why and so forth concerning their "togetherness," no further explanation was offered.

As incomplete as I thought their answers were (given the "matching" elements presumably in play), perhaps they really weren't so incomplete. Perhaps starting from one common point is enough. Time will certainly tell, just like for the rest of us old married couples.

Maybe we're not that different after all. Maybe it matters not how — and/or why — you start, maybe it matters more how you finish.

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

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NVDBC Breakfast. 7:30 a.m., Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Join the Northern Virginia Democratic Business Council for a breakfast with Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va), who will speak about his legislative agenda and the major issues affecting the Commonwealth. Contact Dawn Petrosky at drpetrosky@hotmail.com or 412-217-3296.

SUNDAY/MARCH 8

Republican Women's Club Luncheon. 1 p.m., Kena Temple Center, 9001 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. The Western Fairfax Republican Women's Club is holding a "Membership Luncheon" with Chriss Winston, Director of the Office of Speechwriting for President George H.W. Bush, as the special guest. Call 703-425-6542.

TUESDAY/MARCH 10

League of Women Voters. 12:30 p.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will be holding their March meeting. The March topic is "The World's

GALLERIES

Paintings by **Alina Bennett** will be on display at the Vienna Arts Society Gallery, 513 W. Maple Ave., Vienna, through March 13. Bennett specializes in watercolors.

The **U.S. Geological Survey**, National Center Art Hallway, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, presents paintings by Pauline D. Lorfano March 3-30, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Drawings, collages, and sculptures by students of Great Falls Elementary School under will be on display in the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, **March 3-**

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

McLean Youth Athletics, which operates youth sports programs in McLean, will hold its annual meeting and elect its board of directors at 7:30 p.m., at the McLean Community Center. A slate of officers can be seen at myathletics.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Auto Awareness for Women. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Billy Weber Tire, 303 Mill Street N.E., Vienna. An auto mechanic will teach you how to perform basic maintenance on automobiles. \$45/person; \$35/Center Circle Donors. Go to www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657 to register.

Keeping a Journal. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Hilary Casaretto, LCSW, will teach specific journaling techniques which allow for self-exploration. \$100/person; \$85/Center Circle Donors. Go to www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657 to register.

Leadership Conference. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., McLean Hilton, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. The Women's Center will host its 23rd annual Leadership Conference. Visit www.thewomenscenter.org to register.

31. On March 5, 3-5 p.m., an ice cream social to celebrate the students' art will be held in the conference room.

Exhibitions by Deanna Clayton and Keith Clayton will be on display March 5-April 20 at Habatat Galleries, 8020 Towers Crescent Drive, Tysons Corner. The opening reception will be March 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Habitat will also host "Habitat for Healing," a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Donated pieces from several artists will be on display March 5-April 20. The pieces will then be auctioned off in a silent auction April 7. Call 703-989-7110.



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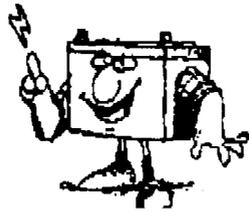
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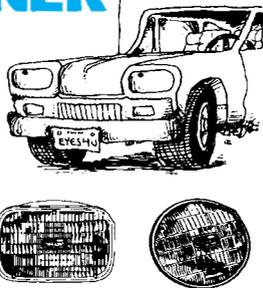
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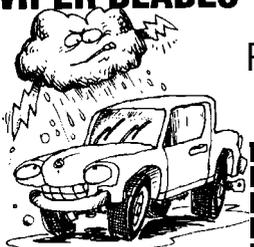
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