

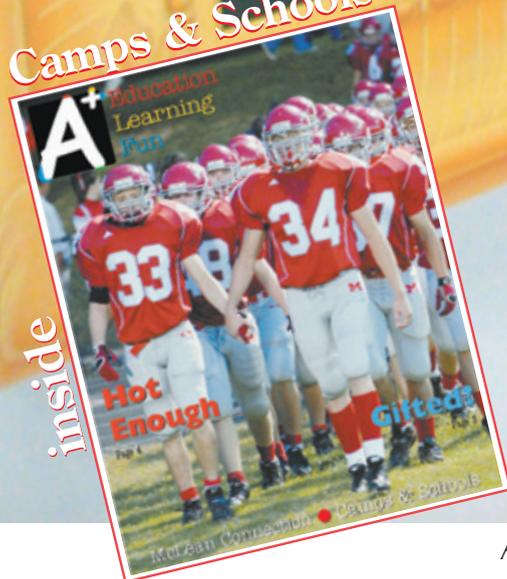
McLean CONNECTION

Woman's Club has Christmas in July

NEWS, PAGE 3

Susan Cooper stands in front of the trompe l'oeil of Renoir's 'The Luncheon of the Boating Party' in her living room. Her recently completed octagonal house will be one of three homes on the Woman's Club of McLean's Holiday Homes Tour.

Camps & Schools



Road Closures Transform Tysons

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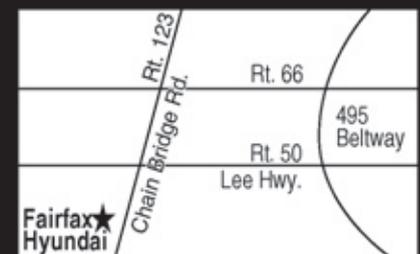


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PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION



Susan Cooper's recently completed octagonal house will be one of three homes on the Woman's Club of McLean's Holiday Homes Tour.

Woman's Club Has Christmas in July

Kickoff Tea gets members in the spirit for December's Holiday Homes Tour.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

The only rectangular room in Susan Cooper's recently completed house on Capitol View Court is the laundry room. This is because the house is octagonal. "I just dreamed it up. I wanted to do something different," she said.

Arranged around a central atrium containing a glass elevator and capped by a windowed cupola, the house is one of three that will be featured on the Woman's Club of McLean's 43rd annual Holiday Homes Tour in December. To get into the spirit and draw some attention to the coming tour, the club hosted a kickoff tea, complete with Christmas decorations, at Cooper's house on Thursday, Aug. 6.

"It's a beautiful house. It's made for parties," said club President Marianne Polito.

Also on the tour will be the homes of Charles and Sandra Sieber and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and Marilyn Jerome Foust. Club members will spend the three days before the tour decorating all of the houses.

ALL PROCEEDS will be donated to a variety of charities and nonprofit organizations, such as Share Inc., Alternative House, the McLean Project for the Arts, Claude Moore Colonial Farm and the McLean Volunteer Fire Department, as well as global charities like Operation Smile and Heifer International.

"I think a lot of people think because we're

in McLean there's no need, but Share is a good example," said club member Joan Morton.

The tour will also include a marketplace at Trinity United Methodist Church with 10 vendors, a silent auction, a bake sale and refreshments. One-fifth of all vendors' sales will also go to charity, and most of the merchants will be local. Jewelry, handbags and fashion accessories will be among the wares for sale.

"It will be much bigger than what we were able to have last year because we have more space," said tour committee co-chair Kathryn Mackensen, explaining that Trinity had been renovating last year.

Polito said the group had already been working on the event since February, when calls to advertise in the tour brochure were issued. "It's been harder this year just because of the economy, but the merchants in this area are fabulous," she said. "They come through."

The group is also looking for restaurants to donate food for the event and "gently used treasures" for the Grandma's Attic portion of the marketplace.

Cooper said club members had asked her about putting her house on the tour while it was still being built. The shape of the house is only one of its distinguishing features. For instance, an oversized breezeway connects the house to the garage, topped by a 16- by 16-foot skylight. "This is my love," Cooper said. "I've had 30 people seated for dinner on the porch."

SEE HOMES, PAGE 11

McLean Designer Goes 'Green'

Michael Choi launches eco-friendly line of jewelry.

BY MARIA KHAN
THE CONNECTION

For Michael Choi of McLean, beauty and practicality are as important a consideration in designing eco-friendly jewelry as the use of recycled materials.

XOvivo, the jewelry company Choi started in April, has recently launched an eco-friendly line of designs called XOGreen. The series features necklaces and earrings made of recycled aluminum and the designs include a variation of beads, hard resin and Swarovski Crystals.

"When I started designing there were three things that I wanted to use as my principal guidelines," said Choi about starting his eco-friendly designs. "They are vibrancy, affordability and socially conscious living." As someone who is inspired by the "inner vibrancy" of the women in his life, he believes that it is the eco-friendly yet affordable quality of his designs that make his jewelry line the perfect accessories for women in the present socioeconomic climate.

In recycled aluminum, Choi found a metal that he could shape and mold into the high quality, affordable and environmentally friendly designs he wanted. "This is perfect," said Choi. "I have both affordable metal to work with and I have a socially conscious component to it."

THE XOGREEN SERIES launched in June is divided into four different lines, the shape and style of each symbolic for the environmental message it represents.

"Solar" is a series in the green line that boasts necklaces and earrings made of spirals of recycled aluminum. The swirling metallic designs represent the sun and



Choi's Renew necklaces and Solar earrings.



PHOTOS BY MARIA KHAN/THE CONNECTION

Michael Choi at work. The aluminum is 'flattened, hammered and punched' into the desired shapes.

serves to remind us that "we really need to use our solar energy better," said Choi.

Circular recycled aluminum is used to represent the world in the next line in the XOGreen series called "Kyoto," and is symbolic of the global initiative to "come together to work on environmental issues." The line is named so after the important U.N. convention on climate change.

Recycled aluminum shaped into a square is a trademark of the "Sustain" green series. The square represents the Earth as seen in ancient Asian culture and the designs promote the importance of sustaining the earth.

In the series of designs called "Regeneration," Choi uses the triangular shape of the recycled aluminum to put forth the message of recycling our resources.

The latest addition to his environmentally friendly series of jewelry is called "Renew," and the vibrant colors of the staple component of the designs, hard resin, are fresh and literally attempt to renew the senses.

CHOI'S CREATIVE PROCESS is physical and hands on. The aluminum is flattened, hammered and punched into the desired shapes and the objects used to do

SEE DESIGNING, PAGE 11



Arrest Made in Pimmit Hills Burglary

A 29-year-old man of no fixed address was arrested on Monday, Aug. 10 for allegedly burglarizing a home in the 2000 block of Peach Orchard Drive in the Pimmit Hills area on Monday, Aug. 3. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with burglary and abduction.

Police were called at 3:36 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 3 for a burglary. Officers determined three 25-year-old women and a 14-year-old

girl were asleep inside the apartment. The 14-year-old, who was asleep on the couch, awoke to a man standing above her holding her arms down. The victim screamed and the suspect let go. He fled out the front door and the victim ran to a roommate for help. She did not require medical attention.

MCC Opens Fall Session Registration

The McLean Community Center (MCC) opened registration for its fall classes and activities for McLean tax district (Small District 1A-Dranesville) residents. Registration for those living outside the tax district will begin on Monday, Aug. 24. The Center is offering more than 100 classes this fall and a variety of day trips and tours, special events, performances and youth and teen activities. The Center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

The class program has 30 new offerings for children, teens, adults, seniors and families, including: Art Studio for Teens, School Report/Internet Search, Cooking for Two, The Fish Class, Adult Hip-Hop Boot Camp, Standing Yoga Flow, Chess, Spanish for Travelers, Memoir and Journal Writing, and 55 or Better Adult Choir, among others.

The McLean Traveler day trips and tours program has outings to Stockbridge, Mass., to view the Norman Rockwell Museum, and day trips to Montpelier, Longwood Gardens, the DuPont estate, as well as to National Theatre to see the Broadway hit, "Jersey Boys." The McLean Project for the Arts is sponsoring a trip to the National Geographic Museum's exhibit, Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor.

For more information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

Informal Sunday Dances at MCC

Starting this fall, the McLean Community Center will offer informal dances on Sunday afternoons and on Friday, Nov. 20, it will host Dancing under the Stars, a formal dance featuring the music of the Hot Society Orchestra of Washington. Popular MCC special events, such as the McLean Pet Expo, the 33rd Annual McLean Antique Show & Sale and the 27th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show will also take place.

The Alden Theatre's popular free concerts, Jammin' Juniors, will return to McLean Central Park on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 12:30 p.m., with a performance by children's entertainers Rockoceros. The Professional Artist Series features a host of international and national performers, including John McCutcheon and Philadanco. For a full listing of fall performances, visit: www.mcleancenter.org/alden.

New Initiatives at Teen Center

Local teens who are enrolled in seventh or eight grades can take advantage of a number of new initiatives at the Old Firehouse Teen Center. OFTC's After School Program and Community Service Tuesday programs are both free to OFTC members this year. In addition to the ever-popular Friday Night Activities, OFTC is also offering winter break and teacher work day trips for its members to such destinations as Wisp Resort in McHenry, Md. and National Aquarium in Baltimore.

Pre-school children, age 2 and younger will be admitted free to several MCC Youth Events including Harvest Happenings on Sept. 26, and Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 19. Families with young children can participate together in Family Art Workshops, Gingerbread House Workshops and Family Fun Bingo Night.

Promoting 'Complete Citizenship'

At Spring Hill Elementary: 'Critical thinking' strategies.

Spring Hill Elementary Principal Roger Vanderhye said his goal in a new school year is to shape all his students into "complete citizens." His number one priority, Vanderhye said, is "always academic achievement, that every child learns at the highest level possible." The school will promote critical thinking teaching strategies. Rather than focusing solely on preparing for tests, students will be assessed by "presentations, group discussions and Socratic seminars."

Vanderhye stressed that a sizable part of being a complete citizen means being environmentally conscious. His school enforces ecological awareness through recycling, wildlife conservation, energy conservation, and the school's designated butterfly habitat and business partnership with Save the Rain Forest. Vanderhye mentioned that Spring Hill students have



PHOTO BY NICOLE MAGNUSSON/THE CONNECTION

Spring Hill Elementary Principal Roger Vanderhye.

"won awards for donating to save animals and plant life."

Students will also "be good social citizens" this year by "writing letters to soldiers, helping the homeless, putting on skits at the Sunrise Assisted Living" for senior citizens.

Students this year will get 15 minutes of extra sleep due to the

later opening time.

School hours: Grades 1-6, Tuesday- Friday: 8:40 a.m.-3:20 p.m., Monday: 8:40 a.m.-12:50 p.m. Kindergarten, Tuesday- Friday: 8:40-11:45 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.-3:20 p.m., Monday: 8:40-10:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.-12:50 p.m.

— NICOLE MAGNUSSON

Emphasizing 'Individualized Learning'

At Chesterbrook Elementary: A year with two report cards.

A small, wooden framed picture of the one-room Chesterbrook schoolhouse from 1906 hangs in the hallway of the Chesterbrook Elementary School. The newly renovated building with three lush school gardens, a modern podcasting technology system and enriching summer quest programs welcomes students to a state-of-the-art elementary school.

Principal Bob Fuqua said that his single most important goal for the new school year is to "do our best to individualize learning and meet the needs of all students." Without a gifted and talented program, Chesterbrook individualizes learning by providing level four services for students who need "advanced academics." Fuqua said that the level four service allowed Chesterbrook to keep more students who would usually transfer to other schools for the gifted and talented program.

Learning is also individualized at Chesterbrook by using the podcasting system, which benefits students who normally struggle, because the majority of teaching in a classroom takes place visually.



PHOTO BY NICOLE MAGNUSSON/THE CONNECTION

Chesterbrook Elementary Principal Bob Fuqua.

The podcasting system is also used for the "television show every morning, homework assignments on blackboard and our school Web site."

"It's a way to individualize everything to the individual learner," Fuqua said.

Fuqua has also volunteered Chesterbrook to be a pilot school in testing a "standards based report card." The new standards based report card will use a scale from one to four to rate students instead of the traditional letter grade system. Fuqua predicts that in the 2010-11 school year all the elementary schools in Fairfax County will be using the standards

based report cards.

This year, Chesterbrook will be sending two report cards home: the new standards based report card and the traditional letter grade report card.

Fuqua said he has high expectations for the new school year because Chesterbrook has a "fabulous community that is very willing to work with the school."

"Chesterbrook has lots of diversity, children from all over the world, a fine slice of life," he said.

— NICOLE MAGNUSSON

MORE BACK TO SCHOOL, PAGE 15

Road Closures Transform Tysons

Three more long-term closures put in place, with more to come.

By MIKE DiCICCO
THE CONNECTION

Temporary closures of lanes, shoulders and turn lanes have become commonplace in Tysons Corner, the most heavily traveled area of the county, in the year or so since construction work began on Rail to Dulles and High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on the Capital Beltway. But three more closures just went into effect that will not reopen for the morning rush or at the end of the week. One, in fact, is permanent.

However, McLean Citizens Association President Rob Jackson said there wasn't a lot of concern about these three closures among McLean residents. "I haven't heard a lot of specific complaints," he said, although he noted that, "if we had our way, we wouldn't be going through this."

He said he wanted to commend the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Fluor Corporation — the company building the HOT lanes — for a "180-degree turnaround" in communication



PHOTO BY MIKE DiCICCO/THE CONNECTION

Drivers can no longer cross Route 7 to get to and from the service road known as Frontage Road. There will one day be a Metro station at this former median break.

efforts since last year's outcry from residents who learned of a staging area being cleared near Cooper Middle School only after they saw trees being cut down. "They're really doing a good job of reaching out and communicating ahead of time and letting everyone know what's going on," Jackson said.

THE CLOSURE NEAREST MCLEAN, which went into effect on Sunday and will last 45 days, is on the ramp from the Beltway southbound to northbound Route 123. The detour route requires drivers to take a short trip along the Dulles Toll Road to hit Dolley Madison Boulevard.

SEE ROADS SHUT DOWN, PAGE 10



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Public Options

Government jumps into business for a variety of reasons.

While private options of this amenity are plentiful, they are so expensive that they are out of reach for many even in our affluent area.

So government has jumped in to offer the opportunity at greatly reduced prices, making it available to almost everyone. It's not clear what the impact of the public option has been on the private businesses involved.

We're talking, of course, about golf courses. Joining a private country club can cost tens of thousands of dollars in original membership fees, plus thousands in annual fees.

But around Northern Virginia, there are many public options for golf, some nationally acclaimed, where one can swing the clubs

around 18 holes for under \$30.

Offering access to recreational facilities at cost well below private options is a common activity for local governments. Water parks, indoor and outdoor pools, indoor and outdoor tennis are all available in our area at reduced prices via government involvement. Recreation centers provide an affordable alternative to health clubs.

Localities offer summer day camps of many varieties, all at a fraction of the cost of private camps.

Public colleges and universities offer lower cost tuition than private colleges and universities.

Publicly owned historic sites and park facilities compete with restaurants and banquet halls to host weddings and other events.

Do these public options hold down the prices at private camps, private colleges, private country clubs? That's unknown, but

Local 'Public Options'

For public recreational opportunities, see:
 ❖ Northern Virginia Park Authority,
<http://www.nvrpa.org/>
 ❖ Fairfax County Park Authority,
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/>

what we do know is that the public options make many things affordable and accessible to people who would not be able to afford them otherwise.

Meanwhile people continue to pay a premium for the amenities, services and added value and availability of the private options, keeping those businesses in business.

Governments are also offering a private option for many things that previously have been strictly free public goods. One example is roads.

A private company is widening the Beltway, 495, from the Virginia side of American Legion Bridge to the Springfield Mixing Bowl. When it's finished, drivers will have the option to pay a significant toll to the company to ride in the "High Occupancy Toll" lanes to avoid the crowded but free lanes. Vehicles with at least three occupants will be able to ride in the new lanes for free.

— Mary Kimm,

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Author Offers No Real Solutions

To the Editor:

In her article ["Let's Get Virginia Moving," Connection, Aug. 12-18, 2009] Barbara Comstock mentions the increase in traffic problems over the past years in Northern Virginia. We all understand that, and her comment that "Richmond is broken" is one we have heard for years. Yet she is seeking to represent the 34th District in the House of Delegates as a member of the same party that previously held that seat for decades without achieving any success in gaining a fair share of transportation funding for Northern Virginia. She needs to explain how her approach is different from those in the past.

However, in her article, she offers no real solutions. Suggesting that stimulus money designated by Congress for weatherizing homes should be diverted to transportation is not a solution. In this period of increased vigilance of gov-

ernment spending, Ms. Comstock should know that states cannot unilaterally reprogram stimulus funds. More importantly, robbing Peter to pay Paul is not a way to a sustainable funding stream for transportation in Northern Virginia.

Again, she mentions royalties from offshore oil leases as a source of funding. This is another pie in the sky solution. Oil lease revenues are paid to the U.S. government and even if the funds were available to Virginia, it would be many years if not a decade or more before any money would reach Richmond.

She supports public-private partnerships which can be part of the solution. However, she does not mention that we have such partnerships underway in Virginia including the Beltway HOT Lanes, which we all see as we drive the Beltway.

Unfortunately, the plans Ms. Comstock puts forth in her article "Let's Get Virginia Moving" does

not show her willingness to confront the legislative and fiscal realities we face. She proposes a commission to study the issue. This issue has been studied to death. We need knowledgeable legislators who can reach across party lines and hammer out practical solutions.

J. Jay Volkert Ph.D.
Vienna

Wrong 'Solution' For Transportation

To the Editor:

I agree with Republican candidate Barbara Comstock that Northern Virginia badly needs transportation solutions ["Let's Get Virginia Moving," Connection, Aug. 12-18, 2009], but I can't agree with her suggestion that instead of paying for it from our own state budget, we ought somehow to raid the federal stimulus funds

earmarked for low-income home weatherization. She must know it wouldn't be legal, but beyond that it misses the point. Investments in energy efficiency save money, create jobs, support small businesses and lessen our need for new electric generation, most of it from high-polluting coal. The federal stimulus money is directed at low-income housing because those buildings most need weatherizing. (Tax credits, which Comstock champions, are rarely useful to the poor.)

The more we invest in energy efficiency, the better off all of us are. Not only would raiding home weatherization funds for transportation be a one-time gimmick, it would take away one of the few bright spots in our local economy. If this is the new Republican transportation-funding plan, it marks a new low.

Ivy Main
McLean

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/AUG. 20

Bull Run Republican Women's Club Meeting. 7:30 p.m. 703-754-7862 or NorthernVirginiaGOP.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 21

Vienna Tyson Regional Chamber of Commerce August Brown Bag University. 12 p.m. at Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, 8300 Boone Blvd., Suite

450, Vienna. "Preparing Your Business For Emergencies," with Raja'a Satouri, MD, Assistant Director of Health, Fairfax County Health Department. Satouri will discuss the impact of all types of emergencies on businesses with a focus on the H1N1 influenza pandemic. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

SATURDAY, AUG. 22

SHARE Collects Food, Donations. Many local families and individuals need food and other basics. SHARE Inc. in McLean continues to address

this problem by distributing donated food and additional provisions. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. volunteers will be stationed at the Pimmit Hills Safeway to collect food and other donations to replenish the SHARE distribution center. Please come by and make a donation.

The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) will have a booth at the Vienna Farmers Market from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. The weekly market is held on Church Street, near the Red Caboose. Information about volunteer opportunities, programs and services provided by SCOV for adults 50 & over will be available at

the booth. Stop by on your way through the market. For more info on SCOV, please call the office at 703-281-0538.

TUESDAY/AUG. 25

Town Hall Meeting with Rep. Jim Moran and former Vermont governor Howard Dean, M.D. 7 p.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. The meeting will discuss current efforts in Congress to reform the nation's health care system. Free. 202-225-4376 or moran.house.gov/index.shtml.

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Activities reported by the McLean District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Aug. 14.

ROBBERY

7400 block of Patterson Road. Police responded to a robbery in the 7400 block of Patterson Road on Monday, Aug. 10. An investigation determined around 2:30 a.m., a 21-year-old man was walking in the area when three men struck up a conversation with him. Moments later, they began to assault the victim, took his backpack and fled on foot. The victim attempted to chase the suspects to no avail. Two of the suspects were described as black. They were between 5 feet 10 inches and 5 feet 11 inches tall and 160 pounds. One of them had long dreadlocks and wore a blue T-shirt and white shorts. The other had short, black hair and a tattoo on his left arm. He wore long shorts and a white sleeveless T-shirt. The third suspect was described as Hispanic. He was about 5 feet 5 inches tall, 140 pounds and wore a white T-shirt and dark skull cap. The victim declined medical attention.

LARGENIES

8500 block of Capo Court. Jewelry and gold coins stolen from residence.
8400 block of Hilltop Road. License plates stolen from vehicle.
7700 block of Leesburg Pike. Wallet stolen from business.
2900 block of Montauk Court. Stereo stolen from vehicle.
1600 block of Quail Hollow Court. Cash stolen from residence.
1600 block of Quail Hollow Court. Cash stolen from residence.
8000 block of Tysons Corner Center. Shirts stolen from business.

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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

THURSDAY/JULY 23

Magic Around the World With Fish the Magish. 2:30 p.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Storytelling, magic and fun. Age 6-12. 703-356-0770.

Rick Beck Exhibition. 5:07:30 p.m. at the Habatat Galleries, 8020 Towers Crescent Drive, Tysons Corner. Cast glass implements and sculptural groupings. 703-989-7110 or

www.habatatgalleries.com/va.

FRIDAY/JULY 24

"Split Personality" Shane Hines and the Trance. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566. All proceeds from the auction will benefit World Hunger Year's Artists Against Hunger and Poverty program. www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 25

Civil War Camp for ages 8 to 13, at Vienna's historic Freeman House, 131 Church St., N.E. 9:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. "Recruits" will learn about basic

soldiering and camp life. The day will also include music and games. \$30 for Town of Vienna residents, \$37.50 for out-of-town participants, includes 'rations' and a souvenir. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

Donate Used Books. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun Trust Bank, 515 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women will collect used books, CDs, tapes and software for the AAUW Used Book Sale in Sept. No records or textbooks. 202-337-2294 or www.mcleanauw.org.

Big Tow. 8 p.m. at the Great Falls Tavern, 9835 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-4770.

McLean Orchestra's Kamerata

Trio. 6-8 p.m. at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

SUNDAY/JULY 26

Gordon Lightfoot. 8 p.m. at the Filene Center. \$40 in-house. \$22 lawn. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

The Adrian Duke Projek. 3 p.m. at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free. 703-790-0123.

Sun and Shade Container Gardening with Annuals. 4 p.m. Pear Tree Cottage, 130 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-938-1311 or

thepeartrecottage.com.

The Mick Taylor Band (from The Rolling Stones). 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/JULY 27

Trevor Hall CD Release Show, The Makepeace Brothers and Jonah Smith. 8 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Chris Isaak and Martin Sexton. 8 p.m. at the Filene Center. \$40 in-house. \$25 lawn. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Young Chefs Dish It Up



Culinary Art campers learn the tricks of the trade at McLean Community Center.



Grader schoolers cream butter and sugar at the culinary art techniques camp at the McLean Community Center.

Chef Joel Olson teaches his young charges how to chop, slice, roll, cream, mash, stir and finish off a dish in the series of cooking camps he conducts throughout the summer at the McLean Community Center.

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

For 12 years, professional chef Joel Olson has traveled from Wisconsin to McLean to teach culinary art techniques. For a week, students learn to wield knives, to cream, to mince, to work together in small teams. In three hours each day, they make a complete meal, from first course to dessert. The students are local children and teens.

Throughout the summer, the McLean Community Center offers morning and afternoon culinary art camps for grade-schoolers and evening camp for teens. The best part is sampling what they've made, the young cooks agreed.

Allison of McLean, a 12-year-old third-year camper, was looking forward to making Thursday's Scandinavian sugar cookies, a treat she perfected in previous camps.

"I make the sugar cookies for special occasions," she said. "This year, I like making the devil's food cake the best. I do all the baking for my family."

Andrew, 10, of Great Falls, said his older sister likes to cook, and, sometimes, he tries to "be like her."

"So, I like to cook, too. This week, I liked best making bananas Foster. My favorite part was the flame."

His teammate, Nate, 9, of

McLean, liked making "a lot of things, especially the devil's food cake."

William put steak and potatoes at the top of his favorites. "I get to make all these recipes at home for my parents," said the 10-year-old from McLean.

ON THURSDAY, the afternoon budding chefs prepared carrot soup, bread sticks, chicken and shitake mushroom strudel, honey mousse and Scandinavian sugar cookies.

"The techniques build," said Olson. "By Friday, we've built a foundation. The kids definitely have more kitchen confidence by then."

Olson walks around the students as they work on stainless steel tables and gives them personal guidance when the occasion arises.

"You've got a good mince there," he said, to one young boy. Olson sprinkles a pinch of salt over the minced garlic, telling his student that "a bit of salt really helps" when mashing garlic bits to a paste. "It makes the garlic more abrasive for smushing."

"They learn all those great culinary terms, like smear, smush and paste," Olson said through a smile.

Delaney, 11, said that she cooks all the time at home. Her specialty is "probably, brownies." But at her cooking camp, it was French onion soup that became her favorite dish. Her teammate, Lauren of

McLean, 8, liked making French bread. "I got to knead the dough. My favorite part is eating it."

French bread making rated number one, as well, for Risa, 9, from Great Falls. She said she would come back next year.

At the beginning of the week, the culinary campers formed teams to work with for the week. The teams almost-always work together well, according to Olson.

The children are comfortable around Olson. They don't hesitate to ask questions, to show him a process they're working on and asking, "Is this right?" They are facile with knives, carefully protecting their fingers as they slice and dice. They understand the concept of mincing and mashing minced garlic into a thick paste using the flat side of a knife. To hold in place their cutting boards, the children dampened paper towels, sticking them to the table surface.

Olson started the culinary camp 12 years ago. He and professional chef John Bauhs share camp duties.

Summer, an 11-year-old from Great Falls admits this is her first experience cooking, but she would do it again. Flatbread was her favorite. Annie Mae, 10, of McLean, said her favorite was flatbread, too. "I cook a lot at home," she said, noting that her specialty is spaghetti. "I'll try some of these recipes at home."



PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is hosting three public hearings to inform, and solicit comments from, the community about proposed toll rate increases along the Dulles Toll Road to support the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project and Dulles Toll Road improvements.

The public hearings will be conducted in an open house format, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Monday, August 24, 2009

Ashburn Elementary School - Cafeteria
44062 Fincastle Drive
Ashburn, VA 20147

Thursday, September 3, 2009

McLean High School - Cafeteria
1633 Davidson Road
McLean, VA 22101

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

South Lakes High School - Cafeteria
11400 South Lakes Drive
Reston, VA 20191

There will be informational exhibits about the Metrorail Project, the cost and financing of the Metrorail Project, the Dulles Toll Road and potential improvements that may be made to the Toll Road, the revenue anticipated to be raised as a result of the proposed toll increases, and how this additional revenue will be spent. Representatives from the Airports Authority will be present to discuss these items.

Informational exhibits and an on-line comment form will be available on the Airports Authority website at www.mwaa.com/tollroad during the official comment period, August 14-September 14, 2009. Comments may also be submitted at the public hearings, or mailed to: Dulles Toll Road Proposed Toll Rate Increases, 3900 Jermantown Road, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030.

For special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, citizens may call (703) 934-4639, at least 10 days prior to the hearing they wish to attend.



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McLean Community Center
Work Session on Draft FY2011 Budget
(July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011)
Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Center

Public Hearing on Proposed FY2011 Budget
Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Center
The current fiscal year has a tax rate of 2.4 cents per \$100 of real estate assessment.

Residents who wish to speak are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. Details of the proposed budget will be available at the Center and on the Center's Web site beginning Sept. 1, 2009.

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Service Roads to Shut Down

FROM PAGE 5

The route is actually shorter, and VDOT spokesman Steve Titunik said traffic on what is now the detour route was always heavier than on the ramp that is now closed. And the jaunt on the Toll Road does not cost anything. However, Titunik said, "The construction part of this is not fun."

The latest ramp closure is to allow for preparation for the construction of ramps connecting Westpark Drive to the HOT lanes, and also for the creation of two water retention facilities. Another connection to the HOT lanes will be built nearby, from Jones Branch Road. Titunik said the new connections would encourage the many commuters who work in that area, where there are a number of large employers such as Hilton, Gannett and Freddie Mac, to carpool. "The point is, it's providing choices for getting in and around Tysons Corner," he said.

Any drivers who miss the detour onto the Toll Road, though, will have to take the Route 7 exit and would likely use Magarity Road to get into McLean. Jackson said the citizens association is already con-



The left turn onto eastbound Route 7, coming from southbound Route 123, will reopen in three years. Meanwhile, drivers take a short detour.

cerned about "bailout traffic" on its roads, caused by drivers trying to avoid construction delays now, rising tolls on the Toll Road in the near future and, eventually, backups due to a more densely developed Tysons Corner. He said the MCA was unconvinced that rail and the HOT lanes would keep most commuters from driving by themselves, although he was pleased that the toll lanes would allow Beltway bus service.

Just west of the Beltway ramp closure, the barricade that recently closed off the median break on

Route 7 in front of Marshalls Department Store, north of Route 123, will one day be replaced by a Metro station. Previously, drivers coming out of the Marshalls parking lot could turn left onto Route 7 north or cross the road to an unnamed service road known by the state as Frontage Road. This road is the only point of access to a number of businesses, including Clyde's Restaurant, the Orvis sportsman's clothing store and a Virginia ABC store among others, and leads to Pinnacle Drive. Drivers coming out of Frontage Road can no longer turn left onto Route 7 south or cross to Marshalls.

"That's being closed because we're about to start construction of Tysons Central Station there," said Marcia McAllister, communications manager for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. In the early fall, all other mid-block turns along Route 7 in Tysons Corner will be closed as well, as the median is widened to make way for the rail that will run down its center.

ROUTE 7 will be pushed out to fill the areas now occupied by service roads, and McAllister said the service roads also would begin to be permanently shut down in the fall.

Just south of Marshalls, the left turn from the ramp coming from Route 123 south onto eastbound Route 7 has also been closed, due to tunnel construction. "You can still go down that ramp and go westbound on Route 7," said Howard Menaker, an engineer with Dulles Transit Partners. Rail will depart from the Dulles Toll Road at Tysons Corner, heading south on Route 123, tunneling under the intersection with Route 7 and emerging at the station in front of Marshalls, Menaker said.

The left turn will reopen in three years. In the meantime, drivers who want to get from Route 123 southbound to eastbound Route 7 have to make a left on International Drive, which hits Route 7 only about a block from the interchange.

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McLean (22101, 22102)					
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Homes Tour to Benefit Charities

FROM PAGE 3

Twenty more can be seated in the dining room, where three French doors offer a view of the terraced garden. Off the kitchen are a windowed walk-in pantry and a private office. On the second floor, an octagonal balcony circles the atrium, connecting two guest rooms, the laundry room and the master bedroom. A third guest room is located in the basement, and each has its own bathroom and walk-in closet.

The closet and bathroom in the master bedroom, though, are not only larger but also more personalized. The closet, which Cooper called "embarrassingly large," includes a three-way mirror and built-in dresser. In the bathroom, two sinks face each other, separated by a mirror. Behind a spacious, glass-block and tile shower is a Jacuzzi-style tub adorned with a rubber ducky collection that Cooper said her boyfriend suggested. Altogether, the master suite wraps around about half of the upstairs.

Much of the basement is taken up by a sizeable family room. There is a very small room as well, a lit and carpeted "secret room" off the utility room, for Cooper's grandchildren to play in. Also for the grandchildren — and, presumably, for the more adventurous house tourist — is a secret passage between the closet in the guest room and the closet under the stairs, also lit and carpeted.

Outside, a covered porch encircles the house. "I designed that so my grandchildren could ride their tricycles in the rain," Cooper said.

SHE HAS CHOSEN all of her own color schemes and decorations, including the living room's trompe l'oeil painting of Renoir's "The Luncheon of the Boating Party," in which each of the faces is one of her family members.

"I built this house to live in, to entertain in and to make people comfortable in, not to be ostentatious," she said.

Tickets for the tour will cost \$20 and will be available Oct. 17 through the Woman's Club of McLean Web site and at select retailers.

"I think a lot of people think because we're in McLean there's no need, but Share is a good example."

— Joan Morton

Designing Eco-friendly Jewelry

FROM PAGE 3

just that are not limited merely to the hammer. "It's all about finding tools in whatever you see," he said. "You wouldn't believe how many tools I find when I go shopping in the flea market."

Although Choi enjoys creativity that fuels his jewelry business, artistic expression was not always a part of his job description. Born in Seoul, Choi, upon moving to the U.S., spent his youth pursuing a career in electrical engineering. "I believe I was born an artist," Choi said of his passion. "I took a detour for 20 years because of the Korean community influence." Although he enjoyed an engineering career, he did not find it artistic enough. An MBA and business experience later, he found himself finally confident and financially secure enough to move forward with his dream of jewelry designing.

Jewelry from XOvivo seem to be a big hit in the Washington, D.C. area with stores such as Art&Soul, As Kindered Spirits in Washington, Hicklory Stick and Lipstick Lounge in Maryland and Artcraft Collection, Collectable Treasures, Elements and Imagine in Virginia selling the eco-friendly line.

Laurie Freedman, Choi's sales representative, verifies that XOGreen designs are getting a good reception from retailers. "They like the clean lines and light weight of his work," she said.

As for the engineer turned entrepreneur turned designer, the reward in designing jewelry is more than just finding a way to express his artistic talents. "The business that I'm in is about making things that can be worn, it is there because women want to be and feel beautiful," Choi said. "At the end of the day, I just want to make women feel beautiful."

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SPORTS



Game 2 on July 31 at Estadio Cibao in Santiago. Connor Bach, Nate Favero, Nick Amano-Dolan, Nate Slater and Sean Murphy (holding the Dominican flag) greet the Dominican players before the game.



PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN BACH

Game 6 on Aug. 5 at Cabarete Field in Cabarete. Connor Bach about to throw to Joey Zarella to pick a runner off first in the bottom of the seventh.

Team Virginia Sweeps Series in Dominican Republic

Area team wins all six games.

A team of Northern Virginia high school baseball players recently visited the Dominican Republic on a goodwill tour playing local teams and experiencing the Dominican culture. Teams from other parts of the U.S. have made similar trips with mixed results on the field. Team Virginia swept all six of its games but more importantly came away with a greater appreciation for the opportunities and comforts of growing up in America.

The squad was led by area high school coaches Mark "Pudge" Gjormand, Morgan Spencer and Justin Counts and included 15 players who played for eight Washington area public and private high schools last Spring. The players were: Ryan Ashooh, Connor Bach, Chris Campbell, Nick Amano-Dolan, Eli Facenda, Nate Favero, Jonny Graham, Matt Moore, Sean Murphy, Mike Norton, Kevin Pence, Daniel Shill, Nathan Slater, Josh Smith and Joey Zarella.

THE TEAM opened the trip with two games in Santiago at a modern stadium that is home to the premier team in the Dominican winter professional league. Then, they traveled to Santo Domingo for three games at Centro Olimpico, a once grand multi-sport facility that has fallen into disrepair. The tour concluded with a game on a neighborhood field in the small town of Cabarete that was Norman Rockwell in the Caribbean. As the quality of the fields diminished, the venue itself took on more character and the home fans became more animated.

Team Virginia won its opening game 2-0 behind a combined no hitter from Connor Bach and Ryan Ashooh. Mike Norton drove in the game's first run and Bach stole home for the second run. Bach and Chris Campbell had two hits apiece.

In a rematch the next day, the U.S. romped to a 15-3 victory. Daniel Shill and Eli Facenda combined on a four hitter. Josh



Game 6 on Aug. 5 at Cabarete Field in Cabarete. Team Virginia surrounded by the Cabarete team after the game. The Americans later gave their hats and jerseys to their Dominican opponents.

Team Virginia

Team Virginia players who participated in a trip include: Madison High School students Nate Favero, Eli Facenda, Jonny Graham and Matt Moore; Centerville High School's Ryan Ashooh, Connor Bach and Chris Campbell; Langley High School's Nick Amano-Dolan and Joey Zarella, both of Great Falls; Herndon High School's Kevin Pence and Daniel Shill, both of Reston; as well as Nate Slater, Robert E Lee High, of Springfield; Sean Murphy, Gonzaga High, of Vienna; Mike Norton, Georgetown Prep, of Great Falls, and Josh Smith, St. Stephens/St. Agnes High, of Great Falls.

Smith had three hits and Kevin Pence collected a pair. Smith, Jonny Graham and Sean Murphy drove in three runs apiece.

Games 3 and 4 were rain-shortened. Team Virginia was leading 3-1 when a downpour ended Game 3 in the third inning. Joey Zarella did the pitching. Zarella, Eli Facenda and Nathan Slater each drove in a run.

Rather than resuming the game, the opposing coach opted for a rematch the next day. Once again the U.S. was ahead 7-3 when rain ended the contest in the fourth inning. Facenda and Bach took care of the pitching. Bach and Slater both scored a pair of runs.



Game 5 on Aug. 2 at Fedobe Field in Centro Olimpico, Santo Domingo. Connor Bach chases a ball during warm ups down the right field line.

Game 5 was played later that day with Team Virginia winning 7-1. Matt Moore and Ashooh pitched three innings apiece and Shill closed the game. Ashooh recorded 8 of 9 outs on strikeouts. Slater had two hits including the only USA home run of the trip.

THE CLIMACTIC GAME of the trip was also the most thrilling. Nick Amano-Dolan singled home a run in the sixth to give the U.S. a 1-0 lead. Zarella pitched brilliantly, but defensive lapses allowed the home team to score three unearned runs in the bottom of the sixth. Bach came in to finish the sixth which ended dramatically when right fielder Moore gunned down a runner at the plate for the second time in the game.

Zarella started the seventh with a single and after three walks and two outs produced one run, Pence drove in the tying and go ahead runs with a bad hop single over the second baseman's head. Bach closed the game out picking a runner off first and striking out the last two hitters. The confident Dominicans were stunned as Team Virginia snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. After the game, the victors gave their USA hats and jerseys to the Dominican players.

Some Americans even gave away their spikes, bats and gloves. All were received gratefully by the home team.

"The Dominican Republic is one of the top baseball countries in the world," said Gjormand. "We didn't know what to expect, and when we took the field in a pro stadium in Santiago, there were a lot of nerves. We knew it was still the same game though, and we played with discipline and fundamentals throughout the trip. In Santo Domingo, we entered the arena, the heart of Dominican baseball. The finale in Cabarete was the craziest, coolest environment I've ever coached in. Coming back from a 3-1 deficit was like winning the state championship. Literally giving them the shirts off our backs after the game was a terrific gesture by our players. I'm real proud of the effort our guys gave and the way they carried themselves. They were a credit to their families, Northern Virginia and the USA."

— DAVE GRAHAM

Infuse to Lose



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Your hair. Your appetite. Your energy. Your sense of taste. Your sense of immortality. Your sense of order. Your boyish figure. But you can never lose hope or your dignity, and you especially can't lose the battle with your emotions. Moreover, you absolutely can't lose your sense of humor. If I've heard it from one health care professional, I've heard it from many; if I've heard it from one friend and/or acquaintance touched by cancer, I've heard it from many: staying positive about this incredibly negative set of health circumstances in which I find myself immersed, is the best way to fight.

What's the alternative, really? Be a dismal Jimmy? A gloomy Gus? A stick in the mud (to quote one of my wife, Dina's, favorite Kenny-characterizations)? Hardly. Where's the fun in any of that? Or rather, what's the point in feeling sorry for yourself? From what I've seen and read and heard from friends, family members and readers (thank you all very, very much), there are already plenty of people feeling sorry for me; sending and remembering me in their prayers, encouraging and supporting me in my hours of need, offering assistance and information, all of which I definitely need and appreciate.

However, moving forward, I am not going negative nor am I feeling hopeless. An unexpected outpouring of emotional back-stopping will do that. Life goes on, although when I look in the mirror, I do see Uncle Fester (Jackie Coogan) from The Addams Family staring back at me (a chemo moment, you might say). In this incarnation, Fester is not wearing that black tunic thing with the Elizabethan-type collar he always wore; he is bald, though, with no eyebrows, minimal facial hair and eyes with no lashes. As a result of this stark - and somewhat self-conscious - appearance, I am often seen wearing a Boston Red Sox baseball cap (unlike Fester), forever supportive of my hometown team.

The hat/head cover has been my only concession/acceptance of the cancer. I just can't go around bald; having had a full head of thick, curly black hair my whole life; seeing myself without a strand would have been too much to bear. I don't mind feeling the fear, living the life and walking the walk (one of the side effects from one of the chemo drugs makes it hard to run), but looking the part is a bit more than I can take. In my mind, so long as I don't look like I feel, I won't feel like I look, lousy. I suppose it's sort of like mental gymnastics, a kind of mind-over-what-really-matters. However, when the going gets tough, it's tough not to react in ways unforeseen and maybe even unanticipated. Finding ways (or rationalizations) to hold your head up high and reinforce whatever positive vibe you can emotionally embrace helps to defeat the demons.

As Herman Edwards, former head football coach of The New York Jets and most recently, The Kansas City Chiefs, is famous for saying: "You play to win the game!" And that's exactly what I'm trying to do. Except this is no game of football, this is the game of life.

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

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Reaching Out Around the Globe

At Cooper Middle: Opening half an hour later.

Cooper Middle School serves about 850 students from the McLean/Great Falls area. This year, those students will be going to school a little later, as school opening time has changed from 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. Principal Arlene Randall also mentioned another change. "We're getting newly refaced lockers," she said. "The 50-year-old lockers, they'll be 50 in 2012, are being refaced. The insides are old but the outsides are brand new." For new students, the school will be hosting a back-to-school fair on Sept. 1.

Randall takes pride in programs at the school. "We have phenomenal plays," she said. "We have a terrific drama program. The acting is so incredible by seventh and eighth graders."

Cooper students also spread their commu-



PHOTO BY HANNA HOWARD/THE CONNECTION
Cooper Middle School Principal Arlene Randall

nity around the globe. Journalism students write letters to soldiers in Iraq, and all of the seventh graders write stories that are turned into hardcover picture books and sent to schools in Uganda. Randall, who has been at Cooper for 12 years, had nothing but good things to say about the school staff. "I've been in five other middle schools and this is the most spectacular faculty," she said.

— HANNA HOWARD

Half an Hour for 'Saxon Time'

At Langley High: Homecoming promises 'a lot more' than before.

Approximately 2,100 students from Great Falls and McLean will file into Langley High School on Sept. 8. One of the changes that will go into effect at the onset of this school year is the implementation of Saxon Time. Every day except for Wednesday, when school starts a half-hour later, a half-hour period will be dedicated to getting students on track academically.

"The kids get time where they can do what they need to do academically," said Principal Matt Ragone. "There will be more structure for kids not doing well and less structure for kids who are doing well. The more kids do well, the more freedom they have."

This year will also mark a big change in school tradition – no more Color Day. "It



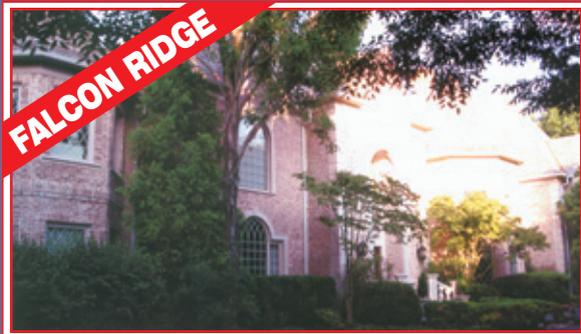
PHOTO BY HANNA HOWARD/THE CONNECTION
Langley High School Principal Matt Ragone

was basically school-sponsored hazing," said Ragone. "Last year, Homecoming was basically just Color Day, a pep rally and the dance. This year, there will be a lot more. I've told them they have a blank check, as long as it doesn't damage property and hurt kids. They're talking about having a carnival, floats, a better halftime show."

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