

McLean CONNECTION

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McLean native Todd Peterson tells a crowd of about 200 donors to the nonprofit Partner for Surgery, which he and his father started, about the ways that the organization has benefited the rural people of Guatemala.

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

PHOTO BY MIKE DiCICCO/THE CONNECTION

McLean Residents Empower Guatemalans

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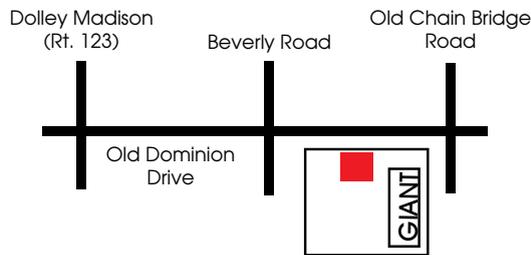
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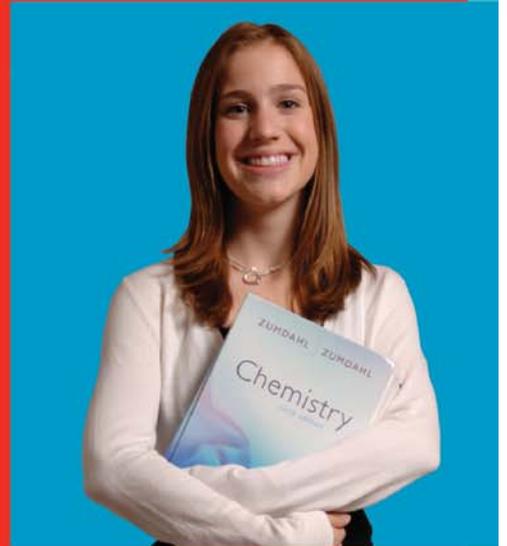
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PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

About 200 friends and supporters of Partner for Surgery, founded by McLean resident Frank Peterson and his son Todd, turned out for the organization's first-ever celebration last week.

McLean Residents Empower Guatemalans

Father-son team celebrates eighth anniversary of organization that brings medical attention to indigenous poor.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

In 2002, an elderly man blinded by cataracts made his way with his grandson's assistance to a medical crew in the northern highlands of Guatemala, organized by Partner for Surgery, a group founded the year before by McLean resident Frank Peterson and his son Todd.

As Todd Peterson told the story to a crowd of about 200 of the organization's friends and donors at its eighth anniversary celebration at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer on Tuesday, Nov. 17, the man identified himself as Francisco and begged the workers to give him back his sight so that he could return to his work in the fields. He said he had no money to pay for an operation and hadn't wanted to ask for any because he was unable to contribute to his family's livelihood, Todd Peterson recalled.

The medical team focused on eye problems, particularly cataracts, because their removal was simple, virtually painless and instantly life changing, he said. Francisco's case was no exception.

The man said he had heard of Partner for Surgery but had been afraid to come ask the organization for an operation because he thought it might kill him. But after he had tried to follow the sound of music to a recent festival and ended up lost, he had decided to come anyway, he told workers. "He told his son he would rather die than go on living like this," Peterson said.

AFTER THE OPERATION, dozens of villagers gathered to see his bandages removed, and, "as he took in the world around him for the first time in 20 years," the man grinned and began to weep," Peterson said.

"We were all crying. It was contagious."

"We learned a lot from people like Francisco in those early days," he said, noting that he and his father had discovered obstacles such as a fear of surgery, geographic isolation and language barriers among rural Guatemalans, who speak 23 different Mayan tongues. Spreading information in the countryside was difficult.

These were the barriers that Partner for Surgery had to overcome for Peterson to be able to tell the crowd at the Church of the Redeemer last week that the organization had now facilitated medical attention for more than 30,000 rural Guatemalans, more than 5,000 of whom had received surgery.

The inspiration for Partner for Surgery came in the late 1990s, when Todd Peterson, who had grown up in McLean and was then in his early 20s, served a two-year stint in the Peace Corps in the Guatemalan village of Paquip. He had a number of projects assigned to him but was given leeway to come up with some of his own work, he said after the speeches were over. One of the problems he had noticed, he said, was "the inordinate number of people with cleft lips, birth defects, men with hernias that prevented them from going back to work."

When he asked these villagers why they didn't get treatment, he was told that no treatment was available. The indigenous people also thought hospitals were a place to die. Peterson contacted volunteer medical teams in the region and found that they were "terribly excited" about working with the rural population, so he began working to connect them with people in need in his community. "The first couple of patients, there was a big collection for a coffin" in the village, he said.

Late in his stay, after about 15 of the villagers had undergone surgery, his father visited and they dropped in on some of the patients. "My father simply said, as he was walking out the door, 'I'll see you in six months. I'm going home to retire.'"

Frank Peterson left his work in civilian service to the Navy and helped his son extend his work across Guatemala, co-founding Partner for Surgery with him.

He said the organization operated on an annual budget of only about \$150,000. The bulk of the work

SEE PARTNER, PAGE 11



PHOTOS BY SHARON NORTH/THE CONNECTION

Franklin Sherman students stand in front of the current empty courtyard holding the PTA landscaping plan. From left are Nam Tran, third grade; Max Toman, fifth grade; Lauren Herzberg, third grade; Amanda Coughlin, fourth grade; Henry Stockton, fourth grade; and Bradley Lamkin, fifth grade.

Building Community Brick-by-Brick

Franklin Sherman Elementary School celebrates 95th anniversary.

BY SHARON NORTH
THE CONNECTION

Jen Herzberg thought she was just taking on the usual PTA volunteer stint when she agreed to head up Franklin Sherman Elementary School's "Buy a Brick" fund raiser this fall. "I thought of this job of selling bricks as my contribution to the PTA, but ... it is much more than that to me," she said. Some of the donors' brick inscriptions have touched her deeply. "One alumna dedicated her brick in memory of her best friend since the fifth grade."

At 95-years old, Franklin Sherman is the oldest school in Fairfax County. The school grounds have undergone many transformations over the last 200 years. Originally the land was part of the Salona Plantation where James Madison spent the night as he escaped Washington D.C. when the British invaded in 1814. A large encampment of Union soldiers also used the site during the Civil War. In 1914 Franklin Sherman School opened as the first consolidated school in Fairfax County bringing together the one-room schools in Langley, Lewinsville, Chesterbrook and Spring Hill thank largely to the efforts of then school board member Franklin Sherman.



Jen Herzberg and PTA President Michelle Sandler show the smaller brick.

This year, the school completed another transformation: major renovations thanks to a county funded bond issue. To cap off this refurbishing, the PTA has launched a "Buy a Brick Campaign" this fall to fund the landscaping of the school's new interior courtyard. The courtyard will feature an outdoor classroom, attractive landscaping featuring indigenous bat and bird populations and a quiet area with a table and chairs for the teachers. The campaign runs until Dec. 1. Bricks are available in two sizes for two donation levels:

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 15

OPINION

Give Locally

More local families in need right now than ever before; thankfully, most of us are in a position to help.

During 2008, more families across the country were without enough food during part of some months than at any time since 1995 when the U.S. Department of Agriculture began monitoring the extent and severity of food insecurity in U.S. households.

Last year, 17 million households in the United States were without enough food for some part of some months because they didn't have the money to buy food, up from 13 million households in 2007. That's 49 million people, up from 36 million in 2007.

The numbers are almost certainly higher now, as 2009 draws to a close.

The ongoing recession and loss of jobs are driving an ongoing surge of families turning to food banks here in Northern Virginia. There are more unemployed people in Northern Virginia than in any other part of the state, according to the Virginia Employment Commission. While the employment rate is lower here as a percentage of the population, this area still has by far the largest number of people unemployed.

In August, there were 69,770 unemployed people in Northern Virginia, with an unemployment rate of 4.7 percent. The rate was down from 5.1 percent in July, but up from 3.3 percent in August, 2008.

People have lost their jobs, are unable to find new ones. In some cases people who own homes are stuck, unable to sell their houses because the homes are worth less than they paid for them, and are facing foreclosure as well.

EDITORIAL Families have used up their safety net, spent their savings. They find themselves without being able to put food on the table, and they turn to local food banks, food pantries, churches and other charitable organizations for their most basic needs.

Food pantries around the area have launched additional food drives to try to meet the need. Many local charities also offer winter coats and holiday gifts, and are also turning to the community to meet the rising needs.

With the holiday season underway, it's time to help.

— MARY KIMM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Great Loss for Little League

To the Editor:

The baseball community has suffered a great loss with the passing of our good friend and colleague, Phil Chisholm. Phil was a longtime coach, board member and leader of McLean Little League and the McLean-Great Falls Babe Ruth League. Phil was a consummate gentleman, and his easy manner belied his intense competitive spirit.

Despite his significant health challenges over the last decade, Phil never complained. Overcoming enormous personal adversity, he cheerfully fulfilled his duties on the Boards of Little League and Babe Ruth always greeting everyone with a smile. We shared many exciting moments together, from participating in McLean Little League All Star Championships, to seeing a long run of Virginia State Babe Ruth titles, to throwing the light switch for the Babe Ruth baseball field at Lewinsville Park. Yet, some of our most cherished moments with Phil occurred while performing the simple daily labors of love at the ball park — raking the fields, or sitting in the stands watching the newest crop of young baseball players develop their skills. In Phil's opinion, one of the greatest moments in baseball was watching an 8-year-old catch his first fly ball: "He is so surprised that the ball didn't drop out. He did it! That is what I want

to see." The simplicity and beauty of that special achievement totally captivated Phil and reminds us all of why we love youth sports.

Phil never had an unkind word for anyone. He was always quick to volunteer, and he could always be counted on to go beyond the simple call of duty. We are lucky to have had him as our coach and our friend. In the ledger of life, Phil gave far more than he received. Our community is much richer for his having been a part of it.

Phil's inspiration will live on through his family, of which he was justifiably proud but never boastful, and through all of us, young and old, who benefited from his dedication to the game and his love of life. Too often our expressions of love for a person come at a time, like this, of great sadness. We are fortunate that Phil shared his love with us daily by his actions, commitment, and perseverance. He left our world a better place. We will miss him each time the call goes out to "Play Ball!"

The Past and Present Boards of McLean Little League and McLean-Great Falls Babe Ruth League

A Case Against Public Option

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the opinion article entitled "Making a

Case for the Public Option" in the Nov. 19, 2009 issue of the Great Falls Connection. The authors of this article suggest that now is the time to provide Americans a public option in health care. I could not disagree more. Our country's current economic condition as well as the way in which the legislation of this magnitude has been crammed through the Congress should be enough to give every American pause.

First, our current national economic state clearly demonstrates that now is not the time to be spending billions of dollars on a new entitlement program that few had the privilege to read before it was brought for a vote. Our unemployment rate has skyrocketed above 10 percent, higher than it's been in a decade, the value of the U.S. dollar sinks almost every day, and the national debt is nearly \$12 trillion and growing at a rate we have not seen since World War II. We already have existing massive unfunded "promises" to guarantee future entitlement benefits that when added with liabilities like the debt, total nearly \$57 trillion.

We are headed towards a path where our government's only option to pay off its debt will be by printing money or raising taxes since fewer and fewer countries want to buy our bonds. I know proponents will argue that this health "reform" will be deficit neutral. I would love to believe that health care coverage could be ex-

panded to all American citizens without increasing cost or sacrificing access and quality. However, I am reluctant to believe that such a utopia could be created by a government that can't even get the flu shot out in time.

More importantly, one only needs to look at the mismanagement and impending insolvency of the Medicare and Social Security Programs to see the fallacy of government efficiency and fiscal discipline.

There is also the recent Congressional Budget Office's scoring of Sen. Reid's plan. The CBO numbers start scoring the plan at the time the legislation would take effect, in 2013. However, the CBO score does not account for the fact that the legislation calls for taxes to be raised immediately. This essentially would be like giving a car dealer \$30,000 for a new car today, but driving the car off the lot three or four years later!

The suggestion was made that having a public option alongside private options would be very much like having the choice to go to Disneyland or a national park for vacation. This analogy is not accurate since, in the health care example, the government or public option, would have access to endless streams of our tax dollars while the private plans would be subject to normal rules of expense and revenue. The government op-

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THE CONNECTION

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

tion could use its ability to tax individuals to increase their revenue streams and would eventually, over time, drive all private sector plans out of business. Why in the world would we attempt to copy the failing models of England and Canada?

Second, we need to scrutinize the closed door, non-transparent, dead-of-night way the House rammed their bill through the legislative process. If this is such an excellent bill, why did Speaker Pelosi and the House majority draft it behind closed doors, virtually locking Republicans and the American public out of the process? Why was the 2,000+-page bill made available to read only 24 hours before it was brought to the House floor for a vote? Where is

the transparency promised by this Administration? If the House Bill is so wonderful, why does it threaten citizens who fail to purchase health insurance with a fine of 2.5 percent of their income, up to \$250,000, with failure to pay the fine leading to jail time? This is simply un-American if not unconstitutional. If this legislation is so profound and good for the country, why was it so narrowly passed in the House, requiring a \$1.2 billion buy off in TARP money for U.S. Rep. Cao from Louisiana? This is not good governance. This is reckless fiscal irresponsibility. With our country struggling to emerge from a severe recession, the time to tighten our belts, not spend more, is at hand.

Gina Ryan
Great Falls

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Woman's Club of McLean Presents Holiday Homes Tour

The Woman's Club of McLean is presenting its 43rd annual fund raiser, the Holiday Homes Tour and Market Place of McLean, on Thursday, Dec. 3, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Honorary chairperson of this 43rd Tour is Dr. Marilyn

Jerome Foust, wife of Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). Marilyn Jerome Foust is a practicing gynecologist and a contributing member of the Fairfax County community. The club is a non-profit, 501(C)(3) organization, and all proceeds from the Tour will

be allocated to local charitable, educational and community projects.

Tickets for the Tour are \$20 in advance and \$25 on Dec. 3. They may be purchased by contacting the

SEE HOME TOUR, PAGE 12



CONTRIBUTED

The home of Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and his wife, Dr. Marilyn Jerome Foust, is one of the three homes featured in this year's Holiday Home Tour.

Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, the McLean Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: PhotoM@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail or deliver contributions by Dec. 4, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.



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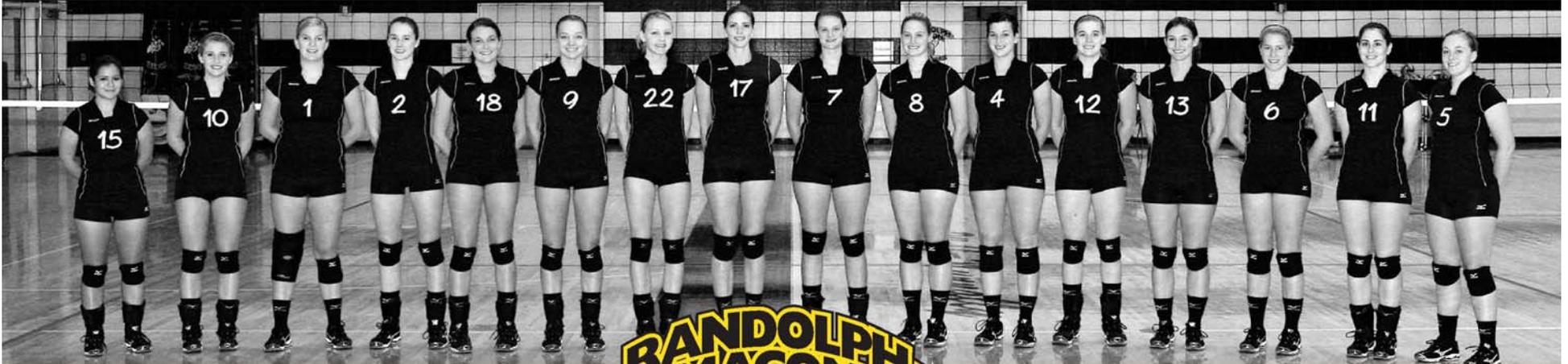
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CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/NOV. 27

27th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Art and Craft Showcase. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. More than eighty local artisans. Admission \$3. 703-560-4844 or www.nvhg.org.

Interactive Retelling of the Thanksgiving Story. 11 a.m. at the Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road. With Glee Mania's Sue Cournoyer. \$4. Pre-paid reservations required. 703-437-9101.

Shane Hines and the Trance. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

27th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Art and Craft Showcase. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. More than eighty local artisans. Admission \$3. 703-560-4844 or www.nvhg.org.

Our Daily Bread Holiday Food Drive. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. next to Safeway at Courthouse Plaza, 10376 Willard Way, Fairfax City. Proceeds to benefit Fairfax United Methodist Church www.our-daily-bread.org.

A Chanticleer Christmas. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$24-\$48. Pre-Performance Discussion held 45 minutes prior to the performance. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.



The Haddad Youth Ballet of Great Falls presents The Nutcracker at the Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike on Saturday, Nov. 28, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and on Sunday, Nov. 29, at 4 p.m.. Emily Ngau and Aleksey Kudrin are surrounded by lights during the snow scene.

The Haddad Youth Ballet of Great Falls: The Nutcracker. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-759-3366.

Boys Will Be Boys, I Saw A Ghost, Used Up, What A Night! and Light Up The Sky. 5:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance/ \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Sick Damage Turkey Stomp with Viking, Young Enough, CJMilli and The Grenade. 10:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$5. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Lipizzaner Stallions 40th Anniversary Tour. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$24.50-\$32.50. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

The Haddad Youth Ballet of Great Falls: The Nutcracker. 4 p.m. at the Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-759-3366.

Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.patriotcenter.com.

The Grandsons. Roots rock. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$16. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

Jazz Pianist John Eaton. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 29

27th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Art and Craft Showcase. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. More than eighty local artisans. Admission \$3. 703-560-4844 or www.nvhg.org.

Jody Marshall. 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Reservations required. \$15. 703-759-3309 or www.jodymarshall.net.

Lipizzaner Stallions 40th Anniversary Tour. 2 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$24.50-\$32.50. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

The Haddad Youth Ballet of Great Falls: The Nutcracker. 4 p.m. at the Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-759-3366.

MONDAY/NOV. 30

Marie Digby and Alpha Rev. 8 p.m.

Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/DEC. 1

Colvin Run Community Center Weekly Dance. 7 p.m. at Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$10. www.colvinrun.org.

Sloan. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

AIDS Quilt at GMU on World AIDS Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Mason University, Johnson Center's Dewberry Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. More than 100 panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed at GMU as part of World AIDS Day. Almost all of the 40,000 colorful panels that make up the Quilt memorialize the life of a person lost to AIDS. masonaidsquilt.com or 703-993-1094.

The McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women Annual Holiday Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at the Riverbend Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. With Henriette de Bruyn Kops, a researcher in the Dept. of Northern Baroque at the National Gallery and lecturer/ research associate at Georgetown University. \$28. 703-356-0529 or www.mcleanaauw.org. Nonperishable food, paper goods and toiletries will be collected to donate to Share, Inc.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 2

Line Dancing Classes for Active Seniors. 11 a.m. at the Vinson Dominion Hall, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Join a new community

program designed for age 55 and over. Free. Wear low heels and comfortable shoes. Registration required. 703-442-9075, TTY 711.

Brooke Waggoner, Adam Levy and Amber Rubarth. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 3

Great Falls Womens' Club 7th Annual Bridge Jamboree. 9:30 a.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The proceeds will support the GFWC Scholarship Fund and gift cards for the Fairfax County Shelter for Abused Women and Children. \$40, including continental breakfast and lunch. Prizes will be awarded. Reserve with Karen Magley, 11608 Holly Briar Lane, Great Falls, VA 22066.

THURSDAY/DEC. 3

The McLean Art Society will hold a juried show with an opening reception. The exhibit continues through Friday, Jan. 8, 2010 at the Ramp Gallery at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Road, McLean. 703-790-0123.

James Madison High School Wind Symphony and Color Guard 30th Annual Tiny Tots Holiday Show. 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the James Madison High School Auditorium, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Costumed guests include Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman and more. Sing, clap and dance along with the band. \$5 per person. 703-319-8897 or tinytots@jmhband.org.

Luke Brindley, Peter Bradley Adams and Rost Golan. 7:30 p.m.

Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 4

James Madison High School Wind Symphony and Color Guard 30th Annual Tiny Tots Holiday Show. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the James Madison High School Auditorium, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. 703-319-8897 or tinytots@jmhband.org.

Graham Colton. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12 advance/ \$15 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Memphis 59 "Ragged But Right" CD Release. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Epiphany United Methodist Church Annual Christmas Bazaar. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 1014 Country Club Drive N.E., Vienna. Silent auction, crafts, poinsettias, wreaths and center pieces, baked goods and lunch. 703-938-3494.

Preventing Diabetes. 10 a.m. at the Diabetes Center, Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, 3700 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Delay and even prevent Type 2 diabetes with healthier habits during the pre-diabetes stage. Two two-hour classes, in which Certified Diabetes Educators will provide information on physical activity, an improved diet and other positive lifestyle changes. \$50 Registration required. 703-750-8800 or www.inova.org/healthclasses

Our Daily Bread Holiday Food Drive. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. next to Safeway at Courthouse Plaza, 10376

Willard Way, Fairfax City. Proceeds to benefit Reston Bible Church www.our-daily-bread.org.

Person L, John Nolan and Brian Bonz. 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance/ \$12 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Vienna Choral Society: Hallelujah! A Christmas Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road S.W., Vienna. Handel's Messiah Part I and seasonal favorites. \$18 adults, \$14 seniors and children. viennachoralsociety.org or 703-255-5508.

Flint Hill Elementary School Craft Fair. At 2444 Flint Hill Road. Professional crafters, Secret Santa Shop for children, bake sale, cake walk, and Crafty Kids Corner. Sandy.andrews@fcps.edu or 703-242-6100.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association, at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Line dance lessons 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance 8 p.m., open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. \$10 members, \$12 non-members, \$5 ages 16-20 with student ID. www.nvcwda.org.

Children's Holiday Shopping. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill General Store, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Volunteers help children find the perfect gift. Free wrapping. 703-759-2771 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm.

Colvin Run Ballroom Dance. At Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Live music by Arrow. Dance lesson 8 p.m., dancing 9-11:30 p.m. \$15 dance, \$5 lesson. 703-795-2003 or www.colvinrun.org.

Holiday Alternative Gift Market

Saturday, December 5th, 10am - 4 pm
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SPORTS

McColgan Commits to Play Softball at GMU

Hanna Longwell will play women's lacrosse at Colgate.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

McLean High softball coach Maurice Tawil announced that senior shortstop **Lauren McColgan** has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball at Div. 1 George Mason University. McColgan will play her senior season at McLean this spring. She has been the Highlanders' starting shortstop since her arrival in 2007 and will be a team captain for a second year in a row.

Over her first three years at McLean, McColgan accumulated numerous recognition awards. Specifically, as a junior in the spring season of 2009, McColgan's outstanding performance was rewarded as she was named Liberty District Player of the Year, First Team All-Northern Region, and All-State. She led the Highlanders with a .494 batting average, .578 on-base percentage and 23 stolen bases out of 24 attempts.

During the recruiting process, Coach Tawil told GMU head coach Joe Verbanic, "I hope Lauren McColgan does for your program what she has done for our program."

McColgan started playing ball when she was 8. She played for McLean Little League from 2000-04. In 2004, she was on the All-Star team that made it to the World Series in Portland, Ore. for the first time in McLean history. In the fall 2004, McColgan joined the Vienna Stars travel team. For the past five years, while playing for the Stars, McColgan has played in many high profile tournaments and has done some extensive traveling. Her travels include tournaments in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Colorado, Oregon and Illinois.

McColgan, also known as "Mac," currently plays on the 18-under Vienna Stars Gold team, coached by Tony Rollins.



McLean High softball shortstop Lauren McColgan has signed a national letter of intent to play the sport at George Mason University.

Other schools that were interested in McColgan included Bucknell University, LaSalle, Fairleigh Dickenson, Longwood, Coastal Carolina and Providence.

McLean High's Hanna Longwell will play women's lacrosse at Colgate University. The Colgate Raiders are the reigning 2009 Patriot League Women's Lacrosse Champions.

"I am so excited to have committed to Colgate University," said Longwell. "I love the coaches and the welcoming atmosphere on campus and can't wait to be part of the team. I feel really lucky to have the opportunity to make a contribution at a school with such excellent academics and such an extremely competitive lacrosse program, and I am thankful for all the support that I have gotten from my high school and club coaches during the recruiting process."

Anne Inzerello, McLean's head varsity lacrosse coach, is impressed with Longwell's efforts and ability.

"When I first met Hanna her freshman year at tryouts, she shook my hand and introduced herself," said Inzerello. "At that

moment, I knew two things. First, she was one of the smallest goalies I had ever seen. And second, that she was tough. As I got to know Hanna better throughout that first season and the years to follow, I learned many more things about her. Not only is she both tiny and tough, she is tenacious as well."

Longwell has given her best to continue to improve as a player and as a teammate.

"Hanna works hard and accepts nothing less than perfection," said her coach. "As a result, she is very goal-driven. But she doesn't give her goals lip service alone, she practices and plays to achieve them. She constantly tries to improve herself and encourage teammates. She inspires and motivates those around her with her words and example and gives them the support they need to accomplish their own goals. She has a positive attitude that is contagious. She can buoy her defense and cement and motivate a team in disheartening circumstances. Hanna seeks challenges and loves nothing more than great competition. She exudes a supreme confidence on the field, but is never cocky. She just simply doesn't know how to be intimidated. Hanna's achievements and merit have been recognized by many and in various venues over the years. As the starting goalie on varsity since her freshman year, she has been watched and admired by many during her high school career."

Longwell's lacrosse achievements include: First Team All-Liberty District every year; team MVP as a sophomore; and All-Northern Region Goalie of the Year as a junior.

"As coaches, we feel very lucky to have had Hanna play for us and we are looking forward to her final season as a senior," said Inzerello. "We are excited for the next chapter in her lacrosse career and know that Colgate is very lucky to have her. Congratulations, Hanna."

Longwell is a captain of both the varsity lacrosse and cheer teams, and has competed as a member of the gymnastics team. She is currently on target to earn 13 varsity letters during her high school career, qualifying her for McLean's prestigious Angus Award. McLean Director of Activities Tom Herman believes that this may be a school

record for the most varsity letters earned.

Hanna has devoted an enormous amount of time to lacrosse training, practices, camps and tournaments. In addition to high school lacrosse, she has played for Capital Lacrosse, M&D Lacrosse, Potomac Power, McLean Magic and Stars Lacrosse, at one point playing on four travel teams simultaneously.

Crediting McLean Youth Lacrosse Coach Bucky Morris for sparking her interest in lacrosse in the third grade, Longwell received excellent instruction and began honing her skills early. As an 11-year old, she was selected to the U-13 National Festival Team, and to the U-15 National Festival Team as a 12-year old. She was goalkeeper for Morris' undefeated 2006 NVYLL McLean Youth League U-15A Champions during their 11-0 season. Over each of the past three years, Longwell has earned a spot on the U.S. Lacrosse Women's Division National High School Team for the Mid-Atlantic Region.

The Longwell are keeping it all in the family. Hanna will join her sister, Alexis, at Colgate. A 2009 graduate of McLean, Alexis Longwell is currently a soccer goalkeeper for the Colgate Raiders. Younger brother, Robert, is a freshman at McLean.

Sean Fitzgerald, a McLean High senior, recently signed to play college baseball at Notre Dame. Last spring, Fitzgerald was named the Liberty District Pitcher of the Year. He earned both First Team All-Liberty District and Northern Region accolades, while also earning Honorable Mention All-State honors.

A year earlier, as a sophomore, Fitzgerald was named both First Team All-District and Second Team All-Region as a utility player. And as a freshman in 2007, he made Second Team All-District utility.

Fitzgerald is McLean's all-time career leader in wins entering his senior year with 19.

McLean High senior Chris Russo recently signed to play college baseball at the Virginia Military Institute. Russo, as a junior last spring, earned First Team All-Liberty District recognition as a second baseman, and was Honorable Mention All-Region. In 2008, as a sophomore, he was named Second Team All-District (utility).

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Edric Wung (McLean) finished in a second place tie in the boys' 12-13 age group division of the recent MAPGA Junior Turkey Two-Day golf event at Fauquier Springs Country Club. Ian Hildebrand of Purcellville finished first. Wung had a two-day total of 164, tying him with Errol Clarke (Mitchellville, Md.).

In the overall girls' division, **Shabril Brewer** (Oak Hill) broke away from the field and won by eight shots over April Nimjareansuk (Alexandria). Brewer started the

day with birdies at holes one, two, and seven. She fired a 5-over 77 to finish the event at 11-over par. Brewer, a Westfield High student, was part of the Bulldogs' team that captured the state AAA golf title a few weeks ago.

Shannon Brooks (Vienna) cruised to a victory in the Girls 12-14 division with a two-day total of 166. Her second round 81 was a two-day low for her division. Julie Luo (Herndon) finished nine shots back with 175.

The Marshall High Boosters will once again be sponsoring the Christmas Tree Lot in front of the school. Trees in a variety of types and sizes, wreaths and fresh garland can all be purchased. Need a stocking stuffer? How about some Marshall Spirit wear or the White House ornament? The tree lot will be open seven days a week until all trees are sold. Hours of operation are Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Mondays-Fridays from 5:30-8 p.m. All proceeds from the tree lot will go directly

into the Marshall students' activities account, which sponsors 21 teams and a variety of clubs with the purchase of uniforms and equipment, field maintenance, capital improvements and travel needs to competitions. In addition, the purchase of White House Christmas Ornaments will directly support Marshall's All Night Graduation Celebration. Contact Christmas Tree Chair Ellen Loszynski at ejloszynski@msn.com for any further information.

The McLean High Athletic Boosters' Golf Classic fund-raising event took place Oct. 23 at the Reston National Golf Course. The day of golf featured a best ball team format, awards, gift bag, lunch and appetizers after the tournament. Funds raised will go towards upgrades to McLean High athletic facilities, such as improvements to the stadium entrance, an asphalt walkway between the baseball and softball fields, re-surfacing of the tennis courts and the purchase of new scoreboards.

Partner for Surgery 'Keeps Magic Going'

FROM PAGE 3

was to connect volunteers with the villagers who needed their services, he said. "They bring in the doctors, we bring in the patients." Clinical teams pay their own expenses, and surgeries are given for free. A villager who transports a patient gets a payment of about \$10.

IN 2005, Partner for Surgery founded and now funds a Guatemalan sister organization, Compañero en Salud, or Partner in Health. The Guatemalan organization is better able to hire work in the country and gain the trust of villagers, Frank Peterson said.

One of the two groups' latest projects, Todd Peterson told the crowd, is a program to feed children with cleft palates. Because of their lip deformities, these children often cannot produce enough suction to breastfeed. "If they can't breastfeed, they're in dire circumstances," he said, noting that a day's worth of baby formula could cost as much as a week's worth of work. "A lot of them simply don't make it through the first month."

Last year, a program was created to supply formula and feed these children, he said.

Also speaking at the celebration was Guatemalan ambassador to the United States Francisco Villagrán de León, who said he had first learned of Partner for Surgery in the same church where he was speaking. "I was very impressed then, and I'm even more impressed now," he said. Thanking the organization on behalf of the Guatemalan government, he said Partner for Surgery and Compañero en Salud filled "a critical void" in a country where many had no access to health care. Also, he noted Frank Peterson's success in recruiting prominent Guatemalans to serve with Compañero en Salud, such as its president, Evelina Gonzalez de Herrera, widow of surgical pioneer Dr. Rodolfo Herrera-Llerandi.

When she spoke, Gonzales de Herrera hailed the "young American who came with the Peace Corps" and "helped far beyond what we expected."

In Guatemala, Frank Peterson told the crowd, one in 10 children die in their first year. Cancer treat-

ment is unavailable to most, and the most common instance of the disease is cervical cancer, he said, noting that thousands of women were now screened through his organization.

While it was common for people everywhere to witness suffering and say that "someone should do something," he said, "We use the magic of collaboration, the sharing of activities, to get done what none of us could do on our own."

"There is no effort too small to acknowledge and no contribution too small to make a difference," the elder Peterson told the audience.

PARTNER FOR SURGERY Development Committee Chair Mark Weischedel said he had tried to pinpoint what made his organization different and effective in Guatemala. "In a word, it's magic," he said, noting that the group relied on the collaboration of many different groups across cultural lines. However, he said, difficult economic times threatened the long-term existence of the organization.

"Only you can keep the magic going," Weischedel said to the organization's supporters.

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Holiday Homes Tour

FROM PAGE 7

Club's Web site at www.mcleanwc.org, or at any of the following locations: Mesmeralda's of McLean, Karin's Florist of Vienna, Great Dogs of Great Falls, and Stifel and Capra of Falls Church.

Three homes in McLean have been selected. The club members have tastefully decorated each home.

First, is the Foust home. This five-bedroom house is decorated with Chinese accents throughout. It is a home that speaks of warmth for family and elegance for entertaining. Its gardens feature a waterfall, swimming pool with hot tub and a view of surrounding nature.

The second selection is The Octagon House, home of Susan Cooper. This is one-of-a-kind house, which was completed in 2008. This eight-sided house is white with a red metal roof. It features a wrap around covered porch, also a large breezeway connecting to the two-story garage. The entranceway features an atrium and an elevator. Looking at the floor you see red tile spokes leading from a center point to each corner of the house. The living room features a large painting of Renoir's "The Luncheon of The Boating Party," with the party members depicted as Coopers family and friends. This home is made for entertaining.

Lastly, the contemporary home of Chuck and Sandy Sieber. This is the second home the couple has designed and had built in McLean. The house features Tennessee flagstone walkway, a two-story fireplace of Maryland stone, which also accents the front of the house, Chinese counter tops and Mexican tile in the kitchen, crystal chandelier from Italy. Asian décor in the media room contains gifts from her father who served in Vietnam. The collection and treasures in this house must be seen.

Market Place

The Market Place is located once again at Trinity United Methodist Church, Dolly Madison Boulevard (Route 123). The Market Place is free to the public, open 9:30 a.m.-3:30p.m. Parking is available. Last minute tickets for the Tour may be purchased at the Market Place. Eight vendors will be offering a selection of gifts for Christmas. Grandma's Attic features collectibles from club members at a low price. The Silent Auction offers valuable items donated by merchants, members, restaurants and other area participants. The Country Kitchen will have baked goods, preserves and other items. A light lunch will be available.

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Caring Citizens Fund Bench at McLean Bus Stop

McLean residents Madeleine Hahn and husband Ed Clark led the effort last summer to build a much needed bus stop bench at the corner of Old Dominion Drive and Birch Road. Over a year ago, Hahn heard that a man had fainted at the bus stop. The man told paramedics that the incident might have been prevented if he had been able to sit on a bench while waiting. Bus riders often wait more than an hour for the next bus, especially on weekends. Hahn also observed "people in the rain sitting up on the roots of a tree and in the mud near the stop" and decided that something needed to be done.

According to Hahn, the Virginia Department of Transportation denied her request for a bench to be placed at the stop. Hahn and Clark decided to fund the building of the bench themselves and later worked with Bill Denk, president of the El Nido Civic Association, to gather donations to recover the costs. Zoey and William Hertz gave permission to have the bench placed on their land.

Rosario Ramirez works in the neighborhood and rides the bus nearly every day. "My job has very long hours and I wait for one hour on Sundays for the bus," she said. "I am very tired and in the cold and the rain [the bench] is good."

"I just kind of felt like that it would add a lot to our community and that it was our responsibility to do something for the people that caught the bus," Hahn said. "We'll probably pick up a little plaque and



PHOTO BY CHRISTY STEELE/THE CONNECTION

Rosario Ramirez, a woman who rides the bus nearly every day, sits on the bench funded by Ed Clark and Madeleine Hahn, back right and center. Bill Denk, right, president of the El Nido Civic Association, has helped Hahn and Clark cover part of the cost through donations from citizens.

stick it on here somewhere that says 'from the community.' It is just one of those community things that we do and I'm real happy with it. This is what we are. We are a community here and we want to help."

Residents of homes that are located within the area bounded by Kent Gardens Park, Old Dominion Drive, Kirby Road and

Westmoreland Street are members of the El Nido Civic Association. If you would like to make a contribution toward the building of the bench or future improvements to the community, go to <http://elnidoca.org/> to learn more.

— CHRISTY STEELE

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MONDAY/NOV. 30

Open Season Workshop for Federal Employees and Retirees, with Congressman Gerry Connolly. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Featuring OPM's Dean Schleicher, the project leader for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program annual Open Season, and Walt Francis, author of Consumer CHECKBOOK's Guide to Health Plans for Federal Employees. FEHB plan representatives will be on hand to answer questions and help participants. Call Congressman Connolly's District Office at 703-256-3071.

TUESDAY/DEC. 1

Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Holiday Mixer. 5:30 p.m. at Navigator Wealth Management, LLC, 7601 Lewinsville Road, Suite 205, McLean. Members \$20, non-members \$25. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 2

Great Falls Friends hosts their Annual Holiday Breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Great Falls Library - Stop by for Food, Friends and Networking.

TUESDAY/DEC. 8

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. 7:45 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., Vienna. Contact Ann, 703-938-7304. www.lwv-fairfax.org.

FAITH

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

St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean will hold a Thanksgiving Day service of Holy Eucharist on Nov. 26 at 10 a.m. The Thanksgiving Offering will support SHARE, a non-profit organization founded in 1969 to meet emergency needs in McLean, Great Falls, Pimmit Hills, and surrounding areas. All are welcome. St. John's Church is located in McLean at 6715 Georgetown Pike. For more information, call 703-356-4902, or visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.

The Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna, is announcing the installation of their new minister, Rev. Randy Beeman. Rev. Beeman has most recently served as the Sr. Pastor of First Christian Church of Lawrence, Kan. and the Chaplain/Character Coach of the University of Kansas Men's Basketball team. Pastor Beeman and his wife Linda have four children. The guest speaker for the Installation service is the Rev. Lari Grubbs, Regional Minister of the Christian Church Capital Area. The message by Rev. Grubbs is "Setting Examples in the Church." The Installation Worship service begins at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29. A reception hour will follow the Installation worship service. The community is invited to participate and child care is provided.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. Contact Gary Axelrod, 301-610-8309 or gaxelrod@jssa.org,

or www.jssa.org.

Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road, Vienna, is celebrating the 400th birthday of Baptists. Sunday service is at 11 a.m.; Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. 703-281-4400 or www.vbc-va.org.

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. Services are at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., and 11 a.m. Sunday School classes and an adult forum series are at 10:15 a.m. 703-759-2082 or www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org. Fall events include:

- Voice recital at 7 p.m. on Sept. 20, with music from the British Isles.
- Choral Evensong for All Saints, 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 1.
- Country Fair, Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, Oct. 4 at the 9 a.m. service.

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

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

Great Falls United Methodist Church at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-759-3705 offers "All Things New," an ecumenical worship service, every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Based on the Beatitudes of Jesus, for people affected by anger, fear, stress, dealing with rejection, credit abuse, drug/alcohol abuse, physical/sexual addiction or eating disorders.

Praise for the Station That Prays



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I imagine it's a bit more than a coincidence under my present health circumstances (God works in mysterious ways, it is said), that after pressing the "seek" button on my car's radio, the radio will regularly (it doesn't feel random anymore) advance itself and stop on "Praise 104.1," an "inspirational" Gospel music station, (and not one of my "pre-sets"). And for the first time in my life, other than occasionally watching Joel Osteen with my recently deceased mother on Sunday mornings, and/or watching the Christmas/Easter services broadcast from Rome, with my wife, Dina's, Italian grandmother, Filomena (also recently deceased), I am now stopping and listening again; definitely to the music and sometimes even to the words.

As for the songs I hear, which are not really distinguishable to me as yet, I don't know if it's the arrangement, the production/engineering, the music, the musicians, the lyrics, the singer, the choir, but together, it all sounds wonderful. It "taps my toes" and lifts my spirit. Moreover, it's so upbeat and positive and full of life and enthusiasm that it almost makes me feel like dancing (and that's saying/doing something), and I feel better just listening (not healthier, yet; let's be realistic). Maybe, even, a little hopeful, though. But I'm not quite committed, emotionally. Nor have I reprogrammed my car radio's "pre-sets." And I don't know any of the D.J.s/"personalities" or the formats that may differ from hour to hour, day to day, either. At present, I would describe myself as a casual/inadvertent listener but one whose interest has been piqued.

So what next? Do I change one of my "pre-sets" on my car's FM radio and become a regular listener? Do I call in and inquire about getting on the station's email/web site list (if they have one)? Do I join their frequent listener club (if they have one)? How involved do I want to be? Dare I ask, will whatever that level of involvement becomes, will it/could it positively affect my life; and if someone, anyone, says it might, shouldn't I, given the seriousness of my underlying medical condition, embrace any and all options that might offer a way through this most arduous journey in which I find myself entangled?

Maybe there's an interim step I could hesitatingly take?

Maybe I should first listen better when the radio "seeks" and finds "Praise 104.1," and pay closer attention to more of what's broadcast, specifically the lyrics in the songs, what the D.J.'s say, the station's promotions/advertisements, in general, the overall flow and feeling, the vibe. Maybe it's not as much of a match as I think it is? I've only heard bits and pieces of parts of songs, minimal D.J./broadcaster involvement and so far, very little proselytizing. On balance, so far what I've heard has been good, but it's been so infrequent and irregular, that I haven't focused my attention yet and really listened to hear what I might learn and determine if in fact, this station's content is what I want/need to hear.

And if it turns out that it's not where I'm comfortable being, I think I'll be better off having reached out, so to speak, to make that assessment. As much as this cancer thing may have closed me, somehow I need to find ways to stay open. Who's to say, or who knows, what really helps? Probably, it all does. Who knows which way to turn/how best to proceed? Certainly not me.

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

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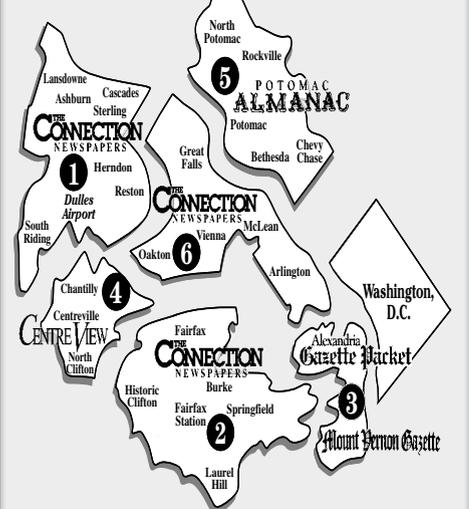
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PHOTO BY SHARON NORTH/THE CONNECTION

Eric Simpson, Landscaping Committee chair; Michelle Sandler, PTA president; Vicki Duling, principal and Jennifer Herzberg, Buy-A-Brick Campaign chair with the new courtyard landscaping design.

School History Celebrated

FROM PAGE 3

4" x 8" for \$50 and 8" x 8" for \$100. Corporate bricks are also available in the larger size for \$500. Initially aimed at parents and students, the campaign has also contacted alumni, community organizations and businesses. The response has been very positive, and the campaign has raised \$5,000 so far. Alumni have bought bricks commemorating relatives who taught at Franklin Sherman, previous influential principals, school days spent in Quonset huts, bus drivers as well as alumni parents and grandparents. The Safe Community Coalition and Chain Bridge Bank have purchased bricks too. Students have donated bricks in honor of

"Mom, our leader and first teacher," and in appreciation of teachers and staff who have guided them. The school librarian was moved to buy a brick in memory of a great thinker, Thomas Jefferson, who said "I cannot live without books." With more brick sales the PTA hopes to raise another \$2,000 to buy bat and bird houses, benches for students and patio furniture for the teachers by its Dec. 1 deadline. The organization also plans to hold a rededication ceremony in April 2010 to celebrate the completion of the courtyard. Principal Vicki Duling said that although she has only been at the school for three years it has been good to gain a greater sense of the long history of Franklin Sherman Elementary to see the community come together and support the school.



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21 Announcements
21 Announcements
 Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process: Public Participation
 Clearwire Wireless Broadband, an FCC-licensed wireless provider in the State of Virginia, is proposing the collocation of wireless antennas on an existing building rooftop at 200 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia 22203. The proposed development will include a 10' x 10' lease area for equipment. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects of the proposed project on historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to Alex Bos, Rescom Environmental Corp., P.O. Box 6225, Traverse City, MI 49696 or call 1.231.947.4454. Project Reference #: 0909042

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