

McLean CONNECTION

PHOTO BY CHRISTY STEELE/THE CONNECTION ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13

Kelsey and Christe Lodge prepare Ozzie and Toto for the 13th Annual Reindog Pageant in McLean.

'Piano Man' Named Citizen Of the Year
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Highlanders Stage Holiday Bazaar
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Holiday Cheer At Reindog Pageant

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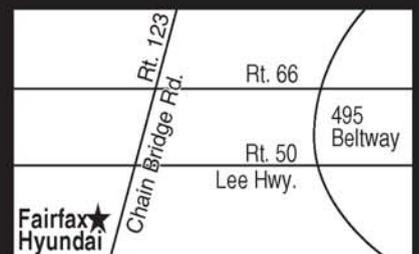
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The winners of the Best Pet/Owner Combo prize do an encore performance for the crowd, holding out five hula hoops for their dog to jump through.



Holiday Cheer at Reindog Pageant

BY CHRISTY STEELE
THE CONNECTION

The 13th Annual Reindog Pageant drew a large crowd Sunday afternoon as festively dressed canines filled the parking lot of the McLean Baptist Church. Holiday music played over loudspeakers as participants checked in and received a contestant number. Canine elves, angels and reindeer sniffed their way through the crowd before preparing to show off in front of the judges. Peggy Fox of WUSA-TV and three other judges observed nearly 50 dogs who competed for prizes, including treats and gift certificates.

Roger, a mini Pomeranian, was dressed as Santa and competing for his first time in the pageant. His owners, Kate, Hope and Adrienne Albers, were dressed as a reindeer, an elf and Mrs. Claus to support Roger.

The Albers had attended the past two years and decided that it was time to enter Roger into the competition.

The Lodge family brought their Yorkshire terrier, Ozzie, dressed as a wrapped present, and Toto dressed as Mrs. Mint. Ozzie received second place in the small dog category at last year's pageant and this year Toto was awarded second place in the medium dog category.

Harley, a Boston terrier, was dressed as Santa's helper and donned a bright red and green sweater with red antlers. Harley's owners reported that they put the antlers on her a month ago "to get her used to it. They kept sliding down when we first tried it so it was good we tried them early." They



Best in Show: Malaika, Bennie, Ellie and Teddy. The four dogs belong to four friends who teamed up and dressed the dogs as the Three Wise Men and a camel.

were rewarded for their preparation when Harley received second place in the small dogs category.

The Best Pet/Owner Combo was given to the family who trained their dog to jump through five hoops in succession. Because their

dog performed the task so well, the audience asked for an encore performance. The Best in Show award was given to four friends for their team of dogs — Malaika, Bennie, Ellie and Teddy who were dressed as Three Wise Men and a camel.



The Albers family shows off Roger, a mini Pomeranian, in his Santa outfit.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTY STEELE/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SCOTT MARTIN/THE CONNECTION

Robert Rosenbaum and his wife's aunt Katherine Maugin mixing with attendees before the Sons of the American Revolution annual Christmas meeting.

'Piano Man' Named Citizen of the Year

Bob Rosenbaum honored for "exceptional volunteerism."

BY WILLIAM SCOTT MARTIN
THE CONNECTION

It seems that Robert Rosenbaum, McLean's own "Piano Man," can't help but make an impact wherever he is. Known for his good humor and charm as much as his talent for music, Rosenbaum has performed at countless events. Lately, the Roanoke native has been recognized once again.

Rosenbaum was named Citizen of the Year by the Fairfax Resolves chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution on Sunday, Dec. 6 at Vinson Hall, during the chapter's annual Christmas meeting. By receiving the award, Rosenbaum becomes a candidate for the state and national award given by the same organization. The award is given to honor those who provide exceptional volunteerism in their community. Rosenbaum received the award at the Vinson Hall event.

At the end of the evening, he took requests from the attendees. For many, it was their first time hearing him play. "Well, I just enjoyed him," said attendee Eilene Maksymiec. "It's the first time I heard him and he's fabulous."

Rosenbaum considers his tal-

ent for music a gift. "When you play by ear, it's something that you can just do. ... I can't explain it," he said. He has played since the age of 6 and has never learned to read music, instead relying on his natural musical intuition. His skill has allowed him to pick up and play virtually any instrument. He's the kind of man who couldn't stand piano lessons while loving the piano.

Rosenbaum was born in Roanoke in 1920. He got his B.A. from Hampden-Sydney College and was a first lieutenant in the counter-intelligence division of the military. In 1963, he opened the Washington, D.C. office of his father's business and has lived in McLean since 1971. He is now semi-retired.

The man responsible for nominating Rosenbaum is Denis Hickey, president of Fairfax Resolves chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He is someone who gives his time and talent for the good of the community without any fees and he brings a lot of smiles and laughter to all those that he touches," said Hickey, justifying his choice. "He's a well known clown of the best sort."

The Sons of the American Revolution is a hereditary orga-

SEE ROSENBAUM, PAGE 10



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NEWS



PHOTOS BY SARAH WALTER



First grade boys Sean Mullery, Michael Himy and Kevin Long.

Pictured from left are Churchill Road first grade girls Julia Sensiba, Katie Williams and Kate Walter.

Churchill Road Students Plant Tulip Bulbs at MCC

Churchill Road Elementary first graders took a walking field trip to the McLean Community Center. Organized by first grade teachers Libby Diffie, Robyn Fry and Elaine Okonkwo, the students took part in a service learning activity, by planting tulip

bulbs on the McLean Community Center grounds. Service learning integrates community service activities with connections to the students' curriculum. The students will revisit their flowers in the spring.

WEEK IN McLEAN

Capitals Select Rocco's Restaurant

Rocco's Italian Restaurant has signed an agreement with the Washington Capitals to become their preferred caterer. Rocco's is now serving all pre game meals for the players when games are played at home. "Rocco's is very excited about this opportunity and we look forward to fueling the Caps Players all the way to the Stanley Cup!" said Rocco's John Juliano.

and performing arts programs from January through March. Program guides also are available at the Center's reception desk.

Center patrons can register using the Center's online registration option, or may register by mail, in person, or by fax (703-556-0547). To register, or for more detailed information, visit: www.mcleancenter.org, or call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

DNA Hit Leads to Arrest in 1987 Sexual Assault

In spring 2009, the Fairfax County Police Department's Cold Case, Sexual Crimes Unit, reopened a case from 1987. On May 11 of that year, someone broke into a home in the 7400 block of Lisle Ave. in the Pimmit Hills area of Fairfax County. The 30-year-old female resident was brutally attacked and sexually assaulted. The victim eventually jumped out of a window to escape her attacker. The suspect fled and managed to evade capture until now.

Detectives recently submitted DNA evidence to the Virginia Forensic Laboratory and a positive match was found in the DNA database. Based on this information, Cold Case detectives proceeded with their investigation and evidence was presented to the Grand Jury on Monday, Nov.16. A 49-year-old Greencastle, Pa. was indicted for rape and burglary with intent to commit rape.

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, Pennsylvania State Police arrested him at his residence. He was returned to Virginia on Wednesday, Dec. 2 to face the criminal allegations.

MCC Opens Winter Session Registration

The McLean Community Center (MCC) has opened registration for the winter session. The classes will begin the week of Jan. 3. The Center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

This winter, the Center is offering more than 100 classes, including: Drawing from the Masters (Art); Technology for Tykes (Computers); Risotto-A-Moto, Stock and Sauce Clinic, and Cooking, Manners and Etiquette I (Culinary Arts); Introduction to Ballet, Teen Hip-Hop I and Adult Jazz (Dance); Foil, Sabre and Epee (Fencing); Mom and Toddler Workout and Wednesday Night Yoga (Fitness); An Insider's Guide (Music Appreciation); Chess, Intro to Machine Sewing and Writing your Life History (Personal Interest), Babysitting and CPR (Safety); and Volunteer Certification (Theater).

McLean tax district residents will receive the Center's Winter 2010 Program Guide by mail. The guide gives detailed descriptions of all MCC classes, tours, community events, youth activities and visual

FAITH NOTES

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

St. John's Episcopal Church at 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, will hold Christmas worship services. Contact 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

❖ Sunday, Dec. 20. 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Lessons will be read by parishioners and seasonal anthems sung by the choirs.

❖ Thursday, Dec. 24. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 4 p.m., following Christmas music at 3:30, for families with young children. At 7 p.m. a traditional service of Holy Eucharist includes carols led by the St. John's Quartet. At 10 p.m., Holy Eucharist follows Christmas music at 9:30 p.m. The Senior Choir with organ and woodwind accompaniment will lead the congregation in singing carols.

❖ Friday, Dec. 25. 10 a.m. Christmas morning Holy Eucharist.

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.

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.

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Conner Honored for Preserving Woodlawn

On Thursday, Dec. 3, more than 130 Friends of Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House gathered at the historic mansion to ring in the holiday season and to honor Cynthia Conner, who is completing her third term as president of the Advisory Board and Woodlawn Foundation. Candle-lit interiors were decorated with gold hydrangeas, white roses and greenery in arrangements designed by Beverly Stanley, who will begin a three-year term as President of the Woodlawn Advisory Board in January. Guests, including Sen. and Mrs. Mark Warner and Terry and Dorothy McAuliffe, enjoyed music by jazz trio "The Wright Stuff" and dinner by Windows catering.

Under Conner's leadership, Woodlawn has added a variety of



Terry McAuliffe talks with James Bird. They are joined by Sen. Mark Warner (D) and his wife Lisa and Betsy Merritt at the reception before dinner.

new programs and events.

"Woodlawn owes its preservation to three great women," said Dr. Laurie Ossman, the site's director. "Nelly Custis, who built and maintained it as a shrine to her grandfather, George Washington; Elizabeth Sharpe who restored it after a hurricane in 1896 and, now,

to Cindy Conner, whose leadership has ensured its preservation for the 21st century."

Conner will continue to serve as an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Woodlawn Task Force and as a member of the Woodlawn board nominating committee.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 14

You and Your Aging Parents Support Group. 7 p.m. at the Jewish Social Services Agency, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax. Explore the aging process and share experiences as a caregiver. Discussion topics can include coping with illness, balancing multiple demands, managing difficult emotions, identifying appropriate resources and developing a care plan. Group meets on the second Thursday of every month. Register at 703-896-7910.

FRIDAY, DEC. 18

Charity Citrus Fruit Sale. Seedless Grapefruit, Navel Oranges, Sunburst Tangerines, and Holiday Gift Boxes fresh from Florida via American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Fruit available 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., (also on Saturday, Dec. 19, 8 a.m. to 12 noon). Proceeds support local community youth, patriotic activities, and veteran needs. Pure Maple Syrup will also be available. Call 703-356-8259 for additional details.

MONDAY/JAN. 4

McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia. 5:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The group is planning an event, for June 26 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of McLean. 703-356-8223.



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OPINION

Clearing the Air

New rules on smoking are flawed and fail to protect many workers, but still great step in right direction.

Non-smokers and families looking to eliminate exposure to second-hand smoke got an early and unlikely Christmas present from Gov. Tim Kaine and Virginia General Assembly on Dec. 1, when substantial restrictions on smoking in restaurants and bars went into effect.

Restaurants and bars in the Commonwealth are required to go smoke free. But many establishments will still be able to offer a smoking area.

If the business has the space and the financial ability, it is allowed to construct a separate smoking area, if it is completely walled off and has its own ventilation system.

This exception is unfortunate for several reasons.

First it is unfair to the businesses that do not have the space or wherewithal to add smoking rooms.

Other jurisdictions, like the District or Montgomery County, Md. have passed true smoking bans, leaving a level playing field for businesses. And overall, in Montgomery County and many other places, receipts at restaurants increased after the smoking ban went into effect.

Second, such restrictions fail to protect workers from the serious detrimental health effects of second-hand smoke, one of the key objectives of smoking restrictions. Especially in the current job market, restaurant workers are

more likely to feel compelled to continue to work in conditions that are hazardous to their health. A full ban on smoking in restaurants and bars would protect more workers.

Third, even with a separate ventilation system, many smoking rooms will continue to leach smoke into non-smoking areas every time the door is opened and closed. Those who want a truly smoke-free dining environment will still have to do a little research.

But even with all its flaws, the successful implementation of smoking restrictions in Virginia remains a bit of a miracle, and a blessing.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Immanuel Inspires 'Dreamers'

Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean is now deeply into its second "I Have a Dream" class — each representing about 60 Anacostia youth whom we've committed to nurture, tutor and mentor — and pay for their college tuition. Each class is a 12-15 year commitment, since we begin with sixth grade and younger youth. Our commitment includes Saturday breakfasts and tutoring session, liaison with schools and arranging after-school tutoring, summer opportunities including camps as far away as New Hampshire and trips overseas through the Experiment in International Living and creating traditions of shared fun with Immanuel youth, ranging from apple picking in the fall to Habitat for Humanity trips in summer and a special Christmas gathering on Dec. 5 at Immanuel.

But there was a problem this year because my traditional source of trimmed branches to make wreaths and more had closed early the previous night and I didn't have enough branches for all of the children. At about 9 a.m. on Saturday, in driving rain, I stopped by Trinity United Methodist Church, which had a Christmas tree lot. I explained that I was in search of some trimmed branches from trees for use at Immanuel for our Christmas Dreamers Celebration. I explained that our Anacostia youth would be arriving soon and, as over the past seven years, would be with us and deco-



Two McLean churches made last Saturday a special day for the Anacostia Dreamers.



rate cookies, make wreaths and table centerpieces, enjoy Christmas music and more. I asked for their help.

The Trinity congregation mem-

bers couldn't have been more supportive. They helped me fill several large bags with branches,

SEE HOSTING, PAGE 11

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Woman's Club Thanks Community

To the Editor:

The Woman's Club of McLean expresses appreciation for the vital support given by the community during our December fundraiser, "The Holiday Homes Tour of McLean." We especially want to thank the three homeowners who opened their homes for public viewing — Susan Cooper, Supervisor and Dr. Foust and Mr. and Ms. Chuck Sieber. We are grateful to Trinity United Methodist Church for the use of their facilities for the Market Place. To the many businesses in McLean, Great Falls and Vienna we thank you for supporting our project by purchasing adds in our ticket books and generous contributions to our Silent Auction. To the women in the Club who worked so diligently to make a success of this endeavor, we applaud you.

The Homes Tour is a productive annual club fund-raiser, which supports many charities in our community. We could not do this without the support of The Connection and the encouragement of our community at large and to you all we say thank you.

Marianne Polito
President, Woman's Club of
McLean

THE CONNECTION

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SCHOOL

Send School Notes to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Tips on Trips and Camps Fair. Saturday, Jan. 30 at The Potomac School, 1301 Potomac School Road, McLean. Camp Fair 1 p.m.; Panel Discussion on Foreign Language Programs 12:30 p.m. Summer overnight camps, travel, language or cultural immersion programs, community service, internships and more for children 8-18. Directors of various programs will attend. 703-345-0722 or meg@tipsontripsandcamps.com.

The Langley High School Wind Symphony will participate in the Music for All national festival in Indianapolis in March 2010. Music for All is an educational event for American high school bands, enabling them to perform for a knowledgeable audience, receive input from leaders in the performing arts, and take part in clinics.

McLean residents **Vivian Bui**, **Jessica Denko** and **Alexander Yates** have gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech. To qualify for the marching band students must audition one week before the beginning of classes each fall. Commonly known as The Spirit of Tech, Virginia Tech's marching band is celebrating their 35 anniversary this year. Under the direction of David McKee and Tony Marinello, the band will present music by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Chicago, the Four Seasons, and more during the 2009 season.

Sarah J. Braselton of McLean is attending Colby College in Waterville, Maine. A graduate of Langley High School, Braselton is the daughter of James and Lelia Braselton.

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Activity No.	Day and Date	Time
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8102.290	Tuesday, Dec. 2	9 a.m.-Noon
8103.290	Wednesday, Dec. 30	9 a.m.-Noon

Full-Day Camp
For ages 5-9.
\$60 per day/\$50 McLean district residents

Activity No.	Day and Date	Time
8105.290	Monday, Dec. 28	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
8106.290	Tuesday, Dec. 29	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
8107.290	Wednesday, Dec. 30	9 a.m.-4 p.m.



The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123; TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org/special-events

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/DEC. 17

Langley High School Choral Department Winter Concert. 7:30 p.m. in the LHS Auditorium, 1454 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The LHS Madrigals perform Renaissance holiday music in elaborate period costumes. Free admission. gendelle@aol.com or 703-404-5502.

1-2-3 Imagine! with Elmo & Friends. 7 p.m. At the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

Winterbloom: Holiday Traditions Rearranged, Meg Hutchinson, Antje Duvokot, Natalia Zukerman and Anne Heaton. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 18

Natalie MacMaster: Christmas in Cape Breton. 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celtic melodies and classic Christmas carols. Tickets are \$23-\$46. Youth through grade 12, half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

1-2-3 Imagine! with Elmo & Friends. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. At the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

www.patriotcenter.com.

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play. 8 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$15 adults, \$13 seniors and students. 703-790-9223 or www.mcleancleanplayers.org.

Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun Holiday Show. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

Redeemer Lutheran Church Living Nativity. 5-9 p.m. at 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Christmas Festival with craft vendors, hot soup, barbeque, warm drinks, caroling, a tree lighting on the lawn at 6 p.m., and sounds of the season from Redeemer's choir at 7 p.m. The community is invited. Christmas Eve family worship at 4:30 p.m. Traditional candlelight services at 7 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. with special music. Christmas Day worship at 10:30 a.m. 703-356-3346 or www.redeemermclean.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

Yosi and the Super Dads: Rockin' Hanukkah Concert. 2 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Age 3 and up. 703-790-0123.

1-2-3 Imagine! with Elmo & Friends. 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. At the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play. 8 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside



CONTRIBUTED

HOLIDAY SHOPPING For those looking for the last-minute holiday shopping, Squire Chase boutique at 1319 Chain Bridge Road in McLean offers an array of Herend dinnerware, figurines and home décor pieces, as well as Moser crystal, Jay Strongwater, Halcyon Days, Baccarat, Mariposa and other gifts ranging from luxurious pillows and throws to whimsical baby items. 703-790-5649.

Ave., McLean. \$15 adults, \$13 seniors and students. 703-790-9223 or www.mcleancleanplayers.org.

Model Train Display. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Colvin Run Historic Site, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. G-gauge trains run through a miniature western town in the Colvin Run Barn. Free. 703-759-2771 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm.

Rockncoeros Holiday Show and Sing-a-long at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 for everyone one and

older. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Breakfast with Santa. 9:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$10 per person for McLean district residents, \$15 per person for all others. Age 2 or younger are free. Advance registration required, no walk-ins permitted. www.mcleancenter.org or 703-790-0123. TTY: 711.

Colvin Run Christmas Ball. 9-11:30 p.m. at the Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Music by The Helmut Licht band. \$12 dance, no lesson. 703-795-2003 or www.colvinrun.org.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

SUNDAY/DEC. 20

1-2-3 Imagine! with Elmo & Friends. 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. At the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

Model Train Display. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Colvin Run Historic Site, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. G-gauge trains run through a miniature town. Free. 703-759-2771 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm.

Live Nativity. 4-7 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolly Madison Blvd, McLean. Live animals, hot cider, caroling, cookies and more. **Eric Hutchinson.** 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$25. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

McLean Symphony in Concert: Deck the Halls. 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Alden Theater, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Piano soloists, the Symphony Festival Singers and the McLean Symphony under the direction of Dingwall Fleary. Adults \$25, seniors \$20, age 18 and under \$12. Tickets available at the Alden box office, 703-790-9223, or TicketMaster, 703-573-7328. 222.mcleansymphony.org.

MONDAY DEC. 21

Open Mic Showcase hosted by Ron Good. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$2. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

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- 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. - Lessons will be read by parishioners; seasonal anthems presented by the choirs, and carols sung by the congregation.

December 24 – Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m. – Family Service of Holy Eucharist with Christmas music at 3:30 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Christmas music at 6:30 p.m.
- 10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Christmas music at 9:30 p.m.

December 25 – Christmas Day

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

For information about St. John's Church, call: 703-356-4902, or visit our website: www.stjohnsmclean.org

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Plan to sign up now for our new winter session! We have a wide variety of classes, day trips and activities to warm the winter months.



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Saturday, Dec. 19, 2 p.m.
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The Capitol Steps
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The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

Rosenbaum Honored As Citizen of the Year

FROM PAGE 3

nization established to promote the values of patriotism and volunteerism. The organization honors citizens who best embody these values.

Rosenbaum's range of volunteerism is extensive. He still plays at the Lewinsville Adult Day Care Center almost every Tuesday, but has also played piano for everything from wedding receptions and birthday parties to events at

the New Zealand and British embassies. For each one, he requests that any fees he would have been paid to be given instead to a charity, amounting to thousands of dollars over the years. "He brings smiles and laughter to all those that he touches," said Hickey.

"I learned a whole lot from example," Rosenbaum said, of his parents, who were both honored as great citizens in Roanoke, as Father of the Year and Mother of the Year, respectively.

When asked if his children were going to keep on with the family tradition, Rosenbaum said, "They might, my eldest son, he's already going in that direction, and so is my youngest son. I've got two sons and a daughter, and they're all pretty much in that direction."

Despite all of the honors, Rosenbaum isn't the sort that seeks attention. "The piano playing is like the quarterback of a team, you can have other players that make the quarterback look good, but it's

the quarterback that usually gets featured," he said. "But it doesn't take away from the fact that the others are quietly working hard and are doing a fantastic job. I don't want to be the focus. ... I like it when I'm quietly doing what I do and others are enjoying themselves."

In his speech, Rosenbaum summed up his attitude. "I'm not just being gracious, I don't feel that I deserve it, I do what I do because I love doing it," he said.

"His generosity of time and talent are legend with the McLean and Fairfax community," said Hickey. "He may get honors for, in his words, what amounts to 'eating my favorite ice cream,' but that is something he can't help but share."

Even without a piano, Rosenbaum is seen as an exceptional man. "I think he has a wonderful personality, I don't care if he plays the piano or not," said attendee Eleanor Barron.

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HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA
Alexandria was named for the family of John Fairfax, a Virginia planter who in 1669 acquired the tract on which the town began. By 1732, the site was known as Hunting Creek. Washington frequented the town. George Washington frequented the town. Robert E. Lee claimed it as his boyhood home. From 1800 to 1862 Alexandria was a part of the District of Columbia and was later occupied by Federal troops during the Civil War. By the 20th century it had become a major railroad center. In 1942, Alexandria created the third historic district in the United States to protect its 18th- and 19th-century buildings.

VIRGINIA MARKER HISTORY
VOLUME II
Northern Virginia Region

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OPINION

Hosting Dreamers In McLean

FROM PAGE 6

working in the rain. They explained that the tree project was a Trinity youth project, so that helping the Dreamer program was especially appropriate.

As I was leaving, one of the Trinity church members said to me, "Bless you and Immanuel for what you are doing with the Dreamers." Maybe it was my imagination, but that is just about then that the rain turned to snow.

And the branches, the snow and all of the other ingredients came together last Saturday and we had a marvelous Dreamer event. I'm sharing a few photos in hopes that you can let your readers know how two McLean churches made last Saturday a special day for the Dreamers.

Derrick and Luayne Crandall
McLean

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SPORTS

Madeira Swim Team Opens Season With Pair of Wins

Sports Notes: Private school girls' team defeats both Visitation and Connelly School.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Madeira School girls' swim and dive team, under coach Rod Montrie, opened the new season with a 98-87 meet win over Georgetown Visitation on Dec. 3. Double winners for Madeira were junior Christa Ann Saunders (100 butterfly, 100 backstroke), sophomore Brittney Jansen (200-freestyle, 100-free) and freshman Maddy Alagia (200-individual medley, 500-free). Madeira won all three relays. Saunders, sophomore Ann Griffin, freshman Grace Johnson and Alagia swam in the winning 200-medley relay; Griffin, senior Megan Basel, Jansen and junior Rachel Tang swam in the winning 200-free relay; and Saunders, Jansen, Johnson and Alagia swam in the winning 400-free relay.

Notable performances were turned in by senior Tessa Newland, who placed second in the diving competition; sophomore Ann Griffin, who placed second in both the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke events; freshman Grace Johnson, who placed second in both the 50-free and 100-fly races; and senior Hanna Bartram, who placed second in the 500-free.

"This was a great season opener with an outstanding team effort," coach Montrie said. "Visitation gave us a terrific meet, keeping it close right to the end. I was delighted with the performance of our new swimmers. We are a young team this year and all our rookies rose to the occasion."

More recently, Madeira bested Connelly School of the Holy Child, 108-78, on Dec. 8. With the team win, Madeira improved to 2-0. Event winners for Madeira were senior Megan Basel (100 backstroke); senior Renee Mattox (50 freestyle); junior Christa Ann Saunders (200 freestyle); sophomore Ann Griffin (100 breaststroke); sophomore Brittney Jansen (100 butterfly); and freshman Maddie Alagia (200 individual medley).

Madeira won two of the three relays. Saunders, Griffin, Jansen and Alagia swam in the winning 200-medley relay; and Mattox, Saunders, Jansen and Alagia swam in the winning 200-freestyle relay. Notable performances were turned in by junior Rachel Tang, who placed second in the 100 butterfly, and sophomore Kat Pfleeger, who placed fourth in the 200 freestyle and third in the 100 freestyle. Seniors Tessa Newland and Jen Dussault placed second and third, respectively, in the diving competition.

"We were able to take a good look at some of our freshmen by putting them in tougher events and they did a great job," Montrie said. "Our rookie divers continue to im-



The McLean Premier U-16 Strikers recently captured the State Cup girls' soccer title.

prove. Freshman Grace Callander dived her first meet today and did very well."

Madeira's next meet is Friday, Jan. 8 against Maret School, at home.

The McLean High girls' swim and dive team kicked off the new season with a recent 205-95 home win over Marshall. Four-event winners for McLean were Margaret Harlow, Eva Green and Katie Yensen. Double winners were Adrienne Harlow and Ellie Springstein.

On the boys' side, McLean also prevailed, defeating the Statesmen, 194-103. Charlie Putnam was a quadruple winner for the Highlanders, while Ed Lee won three events. McLean double winners were Josh Cason, Kevin Geiger, Bryan Kres and Colin Fitzgibbon.

The McLean Premier Soccer (MPS) Strikers U16 girls were crowned champions on Nov. 8 at the Virginia Youth Soccer Association (VYSA) 2009-10 State Cup Tournament finals, in Richmond. In a rematch of last year's State Cup final, the Strikers prevailed over the Chantilly Burn, the three-time state cup champion and current Region 1 Champion. McLean won the title game, 2-1. The Strikers had advanced to the finals by defeating the FCV Cardinals, 3-2, the previous weekend.

Against Chantilly in the championship game, McLean tallied one goal in the first half and another early in the second half to take a 2-0 advantage. Chantilly, showing the speed and tenacity that helped make them a three-time defending champion, answered quickly by scoring off of a set play from the kickoff that followed the Strikers' second goal.

McLean's defense withstood strong challenges in the waning moments of the match as Chantilly sought desperately to draw even. At the final whistle, the Strikers were thrilled to bring home the State Cup championship. The victory over their respected rival was particularly rewarding as Chantilly

had ousted the Strikers in State Cup play both of the preceding two years. The title game win for the Strikers also capped off a State Cup run that saw them outscore their opponents by a total of 19 goals to three.

Coached by Clyde Watson and German Peri, the Strikers will represent Virginia in the Region 1 Championships this July in West Virginia.

McLean Premier Soccer (MPS) is part of McLean Youth Soccer's Travel Program and provides a highly competitive training environment and professional coaching for top-level players. The MPS girls' program was ranked 13th in the nation by SoccerAmerica for 2009.

The McLean High girls' basketball team beat Falls Church, 51-29, in a recent non-district contest. The McLean team built a 24-14 halftime lead on way to the win. The Highlanders, throughout the game, played hard, intense defense, making it difficult for the Jaguars to find offensive success.

McLean displayed a balanced offensive attack with both Caitlin Baker and Andie Romness scoring eight points, and Lauren Sutherland adding seven. The Highlanders also received scoring contributions from Patricia Pascoe (5 points), Shellie Kaniut (5), Kristina Bettner (4), Cassidy Kelty (4), Melissa Wilson (3), Megan Gavigan (3), Caroline Gray (2) and Meghan Wheeler (2).

Westfield High will once again be hosting the Eighth Annual Bulldog Bash Holiday Basketball Tournament Dec. 28-30. Both a boys and a girls tournament will be offered.

Along with teams from Northern Virginia, teams from Roanoke and Pennsylvania will compete.

The boys' field of teams will include Langley, Centreville, Flint Hill, Woodbridge, West Potomac, Freedom (Loudoun County), Patrick Henry (Roanoke) and defending tournament champion Westfield.

The girls' bracket will include James Madison, Potomac, Flint Hill, Centreville, Freedom (Loudoun County), St. Hubert's (Philadelphia), and last year's champion McDowell High of from Erie, Pa.

Admission for the Bulldog Bash is \$6 per day. A three-day tournament pass will be available for \$15. Free admission will be granted to children under age six, adults over 60 and any travel or house youth basketball players wearing their uniform tops who are accompanied by a paying adult.

For more information on the tournament, check out the tournament Web site at www.bulldogbashtournament.com.

The Northern Virginia Football Officials Association (NVFOA) is seeking new members for who can become on-field game officials and electronic clock operators for games at the youth, middle school, and high school levels throughout the Metropolitan area. NVFOA is the sole supplier of football officials to all high schools in the Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Loudoun, and Fauquier. It also supplies officials to numerous private schools in Northern Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. For those who have the time to commit, NVFOA has the resources to teach and develop football officials. NVFOA seeks men and women who have reached the age of 18 and who have a desire to be a part of the most exciting and popular scholastic game in America. Information and application forms are available by contacting commissioner Dennis Hall by phone at 540-837-1316 or by e-mail at commissioner@nvfoa.com.

The Northern Virginia Softball Umpires Association (NVSUA) is seeking new umpires for the 2009 season. The association is responsible for umpiring softball (fast-pitch and slow-pitch) recreation league games, VHSL-sanctioned high school games and tournaments in the Northern Virginia area. Umpires can earn \$23-plus an hour. Schedules are flexible based on ability and availability during the week and weekends. NVSUA uses a Web-based scheduling program. In-depth training is provided and begins in January. Contact Judy Cole at JudyUIC@cox.net or at 571-236-5744.

The Cardinal Girls Lacrosse league offers a year round program for girls from the fifth through eighth grades. Northern Virginia girls from areas including Reston, Great Falls, and Leesburg, are encouraged to try out. The organization will likely fill two teams per age group. Cardinals Girls Lacrosse, in its fourth year, is a non-profit, travel lacrosse organization. All the league money goes to uniforms, coaches and fields. The senior coach is the women's coach at Georgetown University, while the junior coaches are players or alumni from Catholic University, James Madison University, Virginia Tech or the University of Virginia. Practices are held at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Vienna. The league Web site is: www.cardinalgirlslacrosseclub.com.

SCHOOLS

Fairfax Considers Closing Alternative High School

The Fairfax County School Board could shutter one of its three alternative high schools if it is forced to make large cuts to the Fairfax County Public Schools budget next year.

Schools Superintendent Jack Dale has said that closing Pimmit Hills High School, located off Route 7 in Falls Church, could save the school system approximately \$1 million in operating expenses during 2010-2011 school year. The county could also divert approximately \$6 million currently earmarked for a capital project at Pimmit Hills to other school building projects if the alternative high school closed.

Pimmit Hills serves nontraditional high school students including those who do not speak English as their first language, are pregnant, are teenage parents and older students who may not feel comfortable in a normal high school setting. The alternative high school operates year round and offers classes from early in the morning to late in the evening, accommodating students who might need more flexibility for jobs or other issues.

Bryant Alternative High School in the Mount Vernon area and Mountain View Alternative High School in Centreville offer similar programs. Woodson Adult High School, located at Woodson Secondary School in Fairfax, also offers high school diploma programs specifically for adults.

If Pimmit Hills closed, the school system said the county's other adult and alternative high schools would absorb its 276 students. The school system would also move Pimmit Hills' "alternative learning center" - which provides classes to students in the sixth through 10th grades that have been involved in serious disciplinary matters - to a building in the Dunn Loring area.

Fairfax County Public Schools would then use the Falls Church site for bus driver training, which currently takes place at Marshall High School. The school system's chief operating officer Dean Tistadt would also like to open a fourth maintenance office at the Pimmit Hills location.

Tistadt said Fairfax County Public Schools expects to lose 29 maintenance positions as a result of budget cuts next year and the new office would mean those maintenance men who remain would spend less time driving to schools and more time fixing problems.

At-large school board member Tina Hone said she was concerned that students who attend Pimmit Hills would have a difficult time reaching Bryant or Mountain View.

Pimmit Hills is near a major bus route and convenient for people who live in central Fairfax County. Residents who live inside the Capital Beltway would have a difficult time reaching Bryant in the Mount Vernon area or Mountain View in Centreville, said Hone at a meeting Dec. 7.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

"Serve-Us" Contracts?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Can someone please explain to me the pros and cons of these after market, service contracts, available for purchase after your car dealer's/manufacture's warranty/warranties have expired? Their solicitations on television, radio and print are almost replacing the credit card companies in their vigorous pursuit of American consumers. Just yesterday, I received in the mail, what looked like a very official, certified-type, for your-eyes-only directive, aimed very specifically at yours truly, owner of an expiring automobile warranty. When I tore the four perforated sections and opened the remaining fold, what I found was yet another "If your car is not more than 15 years old and has less than 200,000 miles on it" offer of automobile repair and maintenance relief.

However, since I wasn't born yesterday (or even the day before), I can't help being cautious and concerned about the "relief" offered. Moreover, I can't help thinking that there's likely so much fine print, finely printed, that I won't be able to read or, won't likely understand, that as a car owner with future repair bills ahead, what I'll likely be relieved of is my money, not my worry about those future bills. But what do I know? As has been proven in this space many times before, not much.

My instincts, as a former Life & Health insurance broker, is to be concerned - and to plan for - worst case scenarios and pre-existing conditions (meaning exclusions). With respect to life and health insurance, I am well aware of the issues and conditions under which medical and lifestyle-type, pre-existing conditions/considerations might adversely affect one's coverage. However, I don't have near that same level of experience and instinct when it involves car repairs and maintenance. What little I can say is, with absolute certainty, that the longer a car is driven/owned and the more miles it accumulates, the more likely repairs will be needed. And if I may presume a little bit more, the more expensive and involved those repairs likely will be.

That presumption being logical and agreed to, in theory; why would companies take on that unfunded - and likely undocumented by the car's owner - commitment, to assume liability of future repair bills likely to be "major:" engine, transmission, struts, gaskets, etc., as listed in the company's advertisements? Further presuming that these companies are not in business to lose money and are not advertising (putting their money where their marketing mouths are) because they are stupid, I'm left with no other conclusion than to paraphrase one of my recently deceased father's favorite expressions: the idea must have merit.

Still, I can't get past the "If it sounds too good to be true..." feel of these promotions/assurances. Are these companies regulated in some way like Life and Health, and Property and Casualty insurance companies are? Must these service-contract companies have a certain amount of cash reserves on hand to pay for their future - and as yet undetermined - liabilities? Have they been vetted/investigated/researched and/or evaluated by consumer groups, consumer magazines or even Consumer Agencies? Has the Better Business Bureau done any due diligence?

I understand the coverage is not free. However, if I am to believe - and ultimately buy in to - all that I hear, read and see about these reassuring offers, I'd have to be crazy to not want to learn more and see if I really can eliminate the worry I will admit to having, about these inevitable future car repairs. But I'm hesitating. I must be crazy, right? (Maybe that's a side effect of the oral chemotherapy?)

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

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21 Announcements

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ABC LICENSE

Guest Services of Virginia, LLC trading as General Dynamics-Fairfax Park, 2941 Fairview Park Dr, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22042. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine & Beer Premises, Mixed beverage on Premises Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Gerard T. Gabrys, President/CEO

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The McLean High School students perform during the Highlander Bazaar. From left: Tom Hall, Claudia Bolaños, Charles Stolze, Abby Dean and Zayd Farah.

Highlanders Stage Holiday Bazaar

McLean High School was filled with holiday cheer last Saturday, Dec. 12, for the Holiday Highlander Bazaar. Shoppers wandered the halls of the school browsing tables occupied by more than 40 vendors from the McLean area. Items for sale included baked goods from a few of the MHS sports teams, specialty foods, clothing, jewelry and other household items. The McLean High School Athletic Boosters sponsored the event.

Various musical groups entertained shoppers throughout the day, including a String Quartet, the MHS Madrigals and bagpipers. Members from many of the sports teams sold food and raffle tickets throughout the afternoon. Raffle tickets cost \$1 and offered participants the chance to win gift certificates to Old Dominion Chiropractic Center, Mary Kay, cooking class for two at Taverna Market, private tennis lessons with Alexander Tennis and Flower Arrangements from Flower's and Plants.

— CHRISTY STEELE



Alexandra McNair sells a pair of custom embroidered jeans to a customer. Find information about her custom designs at alexandramcnair.com.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTY STEELE/THE CONNECTION



Maddie Zug (left) and Eleonor Zavala, Longfellow Middle School students, sell jewelry from their newly formed jewelry line, Z Beads.

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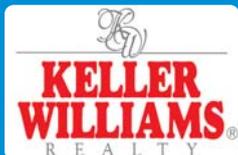
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