

Talent on Display At Marshall High

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PHOTO BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION



Vanesse Bretas and Amandine Thomas play two best friends in the McLean High School play presented at the 2010 Liberty District Theatre Festival at Marshall High.

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Rough Main Street Designs Discussed

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NEWS

As shown in this conceptual intensity map, density in the redeveloped Tysons Corner is to be arranged around the four coming Metro stops, with allowable density decreasing further from the stations.

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Public Supports, Questions Tysons Redevelopment

At comment session, speakers back overall ideas while raising individual concerns.

BY MIKE DiCICCO
THE CONNECTION

McLean resident Sally Horn said she supported high-density redevelopment in Tysons Corner, where four Metro stations are to be operational by 2013. However, she encouraged the county's Planning Commission to reject proposals for amassing 100,000 residents and 200,000 jobs in what is to become the "urban downtown" of Fairfax County.

Those numbers are supported by Fairfax County planning staff in the draft plan for Tysons Corner's redevelopment that was released last week. The commercial center currently has about 17,000 residents and 105,000 jobs.

Horn, who is a member of the McLean Citizens Association board, said she thought the capacity of transportation infrastructure would need to dictate the pace of development, with specific transportation improvements set as "triggers" for certain levels of density. A number of other speakers took the same position. "Just as in the Route 28 corridor, the landowners and developers who will profit from increased density must be required to contribute 75 percent of the infrastructure improvement costs," she said, adding that taxpayers should not be the main source of funding.

However, Neil Sullivan, representing the ownership of the Fuddruckers Restaurant on Spring Hill Road, said property owners were concerned about being taxed for improvements, as they were already subject to a special tax, capped at 22 cents per dollar of assessed property value, to help pay for the coming Metro line. He also said proposed requirements for land consolidation in order to build to maximum densities would virtually eliminate the possibility of redevelopment for the Fuddruckers site, and he said the drop in allowable density outside of one-eighth of a mile from rail stations was too sharp.

THE PLAN proposes a maximum floor-area ratio (FAR) of 4.75 within one-eighth of a mile of Metro stops, meaning nearly 5 square feet of floor space could be built for every square foot of land, although addi-

tional densities could be reached by developers who meet certain criteria for features like affordable housing and environmental friendliness or who dedicate land for parks, roads and other public uses. However, Fuddruckers falls in the one-eighth- to quarter-mile radius, where a maximum FAR of 2.75 is proposed. And the plan recommends an FAR of 2.0 between a quarter of a mile and half a mile from stations.

The idea is that offices and housing within walking distance of Metro stations would generate far fewer vehicle trips than those farther out. The Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force had recommended considerably higher densities, with an FAR of 6.0 in the immediate vicinity of rail stops.

The task force, comprising representatives of residents, businesses, employers and community and civic organizations, was formed in May 2005 and just conducted its final meeting on Monday, Jan. 25. Two days later, the public had a chance to offer reactions to the draft plan amendment before the Planning Commission's Tysons Corner Committee. Sullivan and Horn were two of more than 30 people who showed up to speak at the Fairfax County Government Center Wednesday evening.

Almost everyone who spoke expressed support for higher-density, transit-oriented redevelopment at Tysons Corner, although many, like Horn and Sullivan, were either residents concerned that growth could outpace infrastructure or property owners worried about conditions and restrictions on development. Most of the residents who spoke lived outside Tysons Corner, in McLean or Vienna.

Representing the Town of Vienna, Town Council member Laurie Cole said the "implementation entity" that is to oversee the fulfillment of the plan should include residents of the surrounding communities. "The future of Tysons Corner affects us directly and deeply," she told the commission. Cole advised against density bonuses for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, as well as the compounding of density bonuses, saying that such policy was "testing the surface tension of what Tysons Corner can contain." She also said she had heard resistance to tying the rate of development to the creation of supporting infrastructure because developers could not control the construction of roads, for example. To the contrary, she said, road construction was beyond the control of residents, while developers could help finance it.

The draft plan does prioritize transportation im-

SEE VIENNA, MCLEAN, PAGE 7

MCLEAN CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC
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PHOTO BY MIKE DiCICCO/THE CONNECTION

Plans are in discussion for the block now occupied by Giant Foods and McLean Shopping Center, as well as two adjacent blocks.

Rough Main Street Designs Discussed

Redevelopment would be long-term, in many phases.

BY MIKE DiCICCO
THE CONNECTION

Jim Peoples of the McLean Planning Committee wondered whether the plaza being proposed for the McLean "Main Street" project would be large enough to hold the McLean Farmers Market.

With about 20 vendors in the market, Alan Ward of the architecture and planning firm Sasaki Associates Inc. said the new streets proposed for the downtown area might need to be closed in order to accommodate it.

McLean Citizens Association board member Darren Ewing suggested that the plaza be expanded. "You really need to have a plaza that is bigger in size and scope and open space," he said.

Bob Montgomery, representing McLean Properties, which has consolidated the property being considered for a future Main Street, said enlarging the plaza was a possibility. "This isn't a final layout by any stretch of the imagination," he said of the drawings he and Ward had brought to last week's joint meeting of the McLean Planning Committee (MPC) and the McLean Citizens Association (MCA).

THE MEETING at the McLean

Community Center on Wednesday, Jan. 20 was the third time that McLean Properties had met with the planning committee to discuss the Main Street redevelopment, and the addition of a plaza was one of the most substantial changes to the plan since the last presentation.

After McLean Properties consolidated the block where Giant food sits and the two blocks across Redmond Drive, a series of public meetings took place and surveys taken in the spring of 2008 to find out how residents would like the area to be redeveloped. Initial plans for creating a Main Street environment around Redmond Avenue had been created in the late 1990s.

The property owner first met with the planning committee in September and then returned in October with a preliminary layout. Simon Romano, chair of the committee's Main Street Subcommittee, said the presentation had been "generally well received," noting that committee members had been pleased by the unexpected prospect of cross streets through the block now occupied by the Giant, although some concerns had been raised about the impact of the project on neighboring residents, and the committee had wanted to make sure parking

SEE DOWNTOWN, PAGE 19

Kaiser Permanente Comes to Tysons

Kaiser Permanente, a not-for-profit health plan and care provider, has completed negotiations to purchase the 236,000 square foot Russell Building in Tysons Corner. The six-story structure at 8008 Westpark Drive will undergo a complete renovation to become a state-of-the-art medical office building for Kaiser Permanente's operations in Northern Virginia.

When completed, the new Kaiser Permanente Tysons Corner Medical Office Building will serve as a convenient location for health care for the large workforce of Tysons Corner's employers, while also providing care for many of the nearly 200,000 Health Plan members who frequent one of 11 Kaiser Permanente's medical offices in Northern Virginia. It will house both primary care and specialty care, advance imaging services, laboratory, pharmacy services, and urgent care — all supported by industry-leading technology and information systems.

Planning Underway for McLean Centennial Celebration

McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia is looking for historical items circa 1910. The organization is currently busy planning the McLean Centennial Celebration, which will take place on June 26, at the McLean Community Center. They are seeking photographs, toys, clothing as well as other memorabilia for display purposes. Those with items may contact Page Shelp at 703-450-3918. The next meeting of the planning committee takes place on Monday, Feb. 22 at 5:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center. For information contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

Au Pairs Make Teddy Bears for Sick Children

AuPairCare, a leading au pair placement agency located online at www.aupaircare.com, is teaming up with Build-A-Bear Workshop stores nationwide to hold their Share-A-Bear campaign which invites au pairs to give back to their local communities by making a bear and donating it to a local children's charity.

Northern Virginia au pairs will hold their party Feb. 7, at the Tysons Corner Center Build-A-Bear Workshop. Led by AuPairCare Area Director Kim Chenen, more than 30 au pairs from 14 different countries will stuff and name teddy bears while also creating individual cards wishing the recipient of their bear good wishes in their own language. These special international bears will then be donated to the Children's Inn at NIH (National Institutes of Health). <http://www.childrensinn.org>.

Grant Proposal Deadline Extended

The McLean Community Foundation has extended its grant proposal deadline to Feb. 15. All proposals must be postmarked by that date. Non-profits in the McLean area wishing to learn more about the foundation and grant applications should visit www.mcleancommunityfoundation.org.

MCA To Discuss Tysons Redevelopment

The McLean Citizens Association (MCA) invites all residents in the greater McLean community to its winter meeting on Tuesday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m., at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. The meeting will feature a discussion of the county staff's recommended plan for turning Tysons Corner into an urban center, led by two members of the Planning Commission. Also, MCA will present information about the implications of this plan, including for traffic and road construction. Ample time will be available for the public to ask questions. For further information, e-mail MCA.President@mcleancitizens.org or contact MCA President Rob Jackson at 703-556-9160.



Fairfax County Public Schools plans to start the renovation of Longfellow Middle School this year.

PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/ THE CONNECTION

Many Schools Outdated and Overcrowded

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County School Board has set a goal of renovating school buildings every 25 to 30 years, but in reality, most schools are waiting approximately 40 years before their physical plants receive an upgrade.

School board members unanimously approved a capital improvement plan Jan. 21 that included many school renovation projects several years overdue.

When Franklin-Sherman Elementary's renovation project gets underway this year, it will be the McLean school's first total facilities overhaul since it was built in 1952. Freedom Hill Elementary, which opened in Vienna in 1949, is scheduled to undergo its first "full renovation" in 2010 as well.

WITH LITTLE HELP from the commonwealth of Virginia, the school system relies almost entirely on the Fairfax County government for money to complete new school construction, building additions and renovations.

Both school staff and county government officials agree that the county has been generous when it comes to school building funding. But what the county can afford to do is simply not enough to keep up with the demand for renovations.

Currently, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors issues bonds annually for \$155 million worth of school capital projects. The

Increasing enrollment puts pressure on limited school facilities funding.

McLean School Construction

Fairfax County Public Schools plan construction on the following schools in the McLean area:

School Name	Type of Project	Cost	Completion Date
Longfellow Middle School	Renovation	\$36.6 million	2011-2012
Spring Hill Elementary School	Capacity Enhancement	\$6.3 million	2011-2012
Stenwood Elementary School	Renovation	\$15.1 million	2011-2012
Marshall High School	Renovation	\$90.1 million	2013-2014

Overcrowded

Fairfax County Public Schools enrollment has grown by 8,500 students over the past four years and the school system is facing serious overcrowding issues in some schools. To combat this problem, the school board plans more funding for additions and other capacity enhancements, thereby diverting funding that could be used for more renovation projects.

The following is a list of the most crowded school buildings in Fairfax County.

School Name	Building Capacity*	Current Enrollment	Amount of Building Capacity Used
Longfellow Middle School (McLean)	815	1,201	147%
Haycock Elementary (Falls Church)	601	780	130%

* Fairfax County Public Schools includes outdoor "modular" classrooms as part of a facility's overall capacity. Trailers, which are smaller and often contain only one classroom, are not considered part of the campus' capacity.

system's staff said it would need approximately \$225 million per year to ensure an overhaul of each facility every three decades.

By contrast, Mount Vernon school board member Dan Storck has said that Montgomery County, Md. can spend approximately \$100 million more per year on

school construction than Fairfax, even though the suburban Maryland school system has 30,000 fewer students.

Maryland's state government chips in far more for Montgomery County's school construction when

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Schools Need ‘Capacity Enhancement’

FROM PAGE 4

compared to Virginia, which doesn't allocate enough school construction funding to Fairfax annually to cover a single elementary school renovation.

AN INCREASE in student enrollment has also put extra pressure on Fairfax's limited school construction funding pool.

The school system has seen enrollment grow by 8,500 students since the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year, gaining 3,300 students from September 2008 to September 2009 alone. The boom in the student population is expected to continue, with an estimated 11,500 more students in the school system in the fall of 2014 than were enrolled this past fall.

An increase in students means that Fairfax schools must use more of its construction funding to build new schools and to add extra wings onto older school buildings.

In the construction plan passed last month, the school system included a new South County

“Right now, there is a big school construction and renovation need,”

— Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield)

Middle School for the Lorton area and 11 “capacity enhancement” projects for older elementary and middle schools around the county.

SOME ELECTED officials are looking at ways to address the school system's capital needs.

The school system's capital funding is supposed to fall from \$155 million to \$130 million annually in 2012 but Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) has proposed keeping the school construction and renovation dollars at their current level.

“Right now, there is a big school construction and renovation need,” said Herrity, who said other supervisors would also likely support the additional funding.

But keeping the school facilities funding elevated means that other county facilities would have to go without renovations and some other government buildings are also in dire need of repairs, according to Fairfax County executive Tony Griffin.

PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS to school programs could also end up saving the school system money on some facility projects, particularly capacity enhancements.

If elementary schools lose their music programs and full-day kindergarten, many school facilities would suddenly have more open classrooms than the school system originally thought they would.

And an increase in class size of one student per teacher would make space for 146 more students at Oakton High School and 139 more students at Robinson Secondary School for example.

This means that the school system may possibly be able to spend fewer dollars on projects like building additions and more money on existing school renovations.

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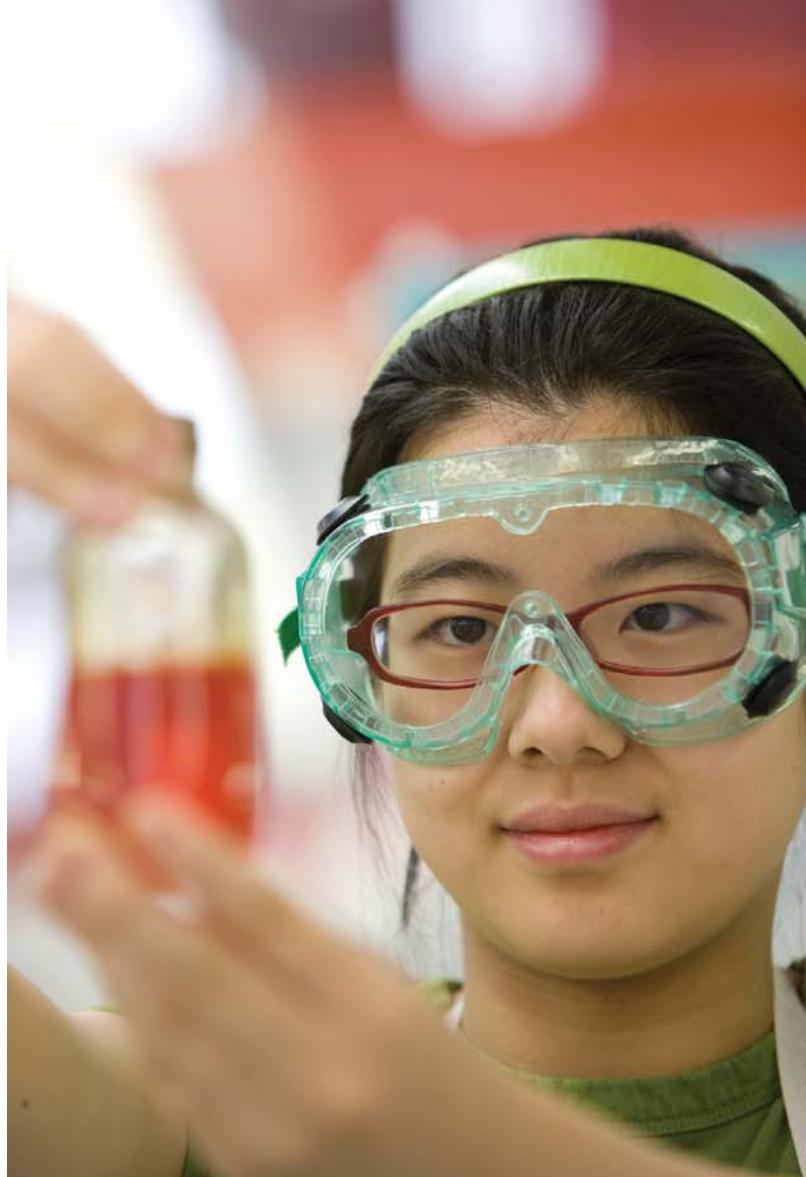
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PEOPLE

McLean Women To Present Quilt to Wounded Veteran

Joyce Ward, chair of the Quilters Group of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in McLean, stands next to the quilt that took five months to make. The quilt, featuring panels of patriotic themes, will be presented to the Red Cross unit at Walter Reed Army Hospital, which will in turn present it to a wounded veteran undergoing treatment at the facility. Ward said that the quilt was produced by the women of the group 'to show in our small way the love we have for our wounded veterans.' Ward's late husband was retired U.S. Army Gen. Leonard Ward. Her son, Leonard Ward Jr., recently returned from duty in Iraq. The Wards have been long-time active members of St. Dunstan's, which is located at 1830 Kirby Road, McLean. More information on the Quilt Group and other activities at the church may be obtained at www.stdunstans.net.





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NEWS

Vienna, McLean Raise Tysons Concerns

FROM PAGE 3

provements as "triggers" for overall levels of density, with certain sets of criteria to be required to accommodate 60 million square feet of development, 84 million square feet and 113 million square feet.

TYSONS CORNER is currently home to 46 million square feet of development. The plan envisions 84 million square feet by 2030 and 113 million by 2050. It also encourages landowners to help fund road improvements, possibly through participation in a community development authority, although no specifics for landowner contributions are laid out.

The plan also aims to secure space for public facilities as quickly as possible in an area where little land is available, expressing a preference for developers to make contributions of land or building space, rather than cash, to offset the impacts of their projects.

Jonathan Cox of AvalonBay Communities, which owns Avalon Crescent Apartments, said he could appreciate the need for affordable housing but thought the objective

of 20 percent was too much, where the county requires only 12 percent affordable housing. "Why require the highest subsidy rate in the county at Tysons Corner?" he asked, adding that the requirement would discourage the explosion in residential development that would be necessary to turn Tysons Corner, now primarily a business center, into a mixed-use community. Moreover, he said, a requirement that existing housing units deemed "affordable" must be replaced on a one-to-one basis in any redevelopment would be unworkable, particularly for developments that currently have relatively low rents. If Crescent redeveloped to the new maximum density, he said, about 45 percent of its units would have to be affordable. "It's tantamount to a taking," Cox said.

McLean Citizens Association President Rob Jackson said his group opposed the plan because projections had shown that even with rail, mixed-use development, "aggressive traffic demand management," and road construction and expansions, the transportation network would fail once development reached 84 million square

feet. "That constitutes planning for failure," he said.

However, State Sen. George Barker (D-39), vice chair of the task force, had said at the opening of the meeting that Arlington had found its transit-oriented development to produce smaller increases in traffic than had been predicted. In recent years, he said, development and jobs around Arlington Metro stations had increased while traffic actually decreased. "It confirms what we had envisioned all along in Tysons," Barker said.

Task force Chairman Clark Tyler, too, referenced Arlington's experience. "Transportation models do not produce facts," he said. "They produce guesses and best estimates." He noted that the outcome of such models depends on the assumptions that planners feed into them. Tyler said he did not want to base transportation requirements solely on traditional "level of service" standards for traffic but would rather prioritize metrics based on pedestrian, bicycle and transit trips, since the planners' goal was "transit, not cars."

A NUMBER OF RESIDENTS

turned out to oppose the portion of the plan that suggested that one or two athletic fields be built at Raglan Road Park in the Vienna area, just outside Tysons Corner. Allen Beatty, who lives near the park, said it was on hilly terrain, bisected by Courthouse Spring Branch, and was home to many mature trees and a wide variety of wildlife. Also, he said, the woods there served as a buffer between his neighborhood and the commercial development along Route 7.

"Raglan Road Park is really no place for a soccer field," said Vienna resident Maurice Giguere.

Several residents of the Rotonda condominium development in Tysons Corner spoke against a proposal to take a strip of the development's land along Greensboro Drive in order to create street parking and a bike lane. "Right now, there are 81 feet separating me from all that traffic," said Rotonda resident Martha Harris, noting that more than 25 feet of that buffer would be lost under the plan. More could be taken if Greensboro Drive becomes a route for circulator buses. Harris said the change would make living at the

Rotonda "like living on something like K Street" in D.C.

Her neighbor, Russell Moss, though, said he had warmed to the idea of giving up the condominiums' frontage after recalling that an 18-inch wide strip of the property along Spring Hill Road had been purchased under eminent domain for \$1.5 million a few years ago. "By my calculations, we're going to get about \$30 million," he said, tongue in cheek. "That's kind of expensive for the three or four bicyclists we have in Tysons and those 12 parking spaces." He said he looked forward to receiving his cut of the selling price.

The Planning Commission's Tysons Corner Committee will conduct another citizen comment session on the draft plan amendment on Thursday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Fairfax County Government Center. A public hearing before the full Planning Commission is scheduled for March 24.

"Some of the toughest decisions haven't been made," Commissioner Walter Alcorn, chair of the committee, told the crowd last Wednesday. "We're really just getting to the interesting part."



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OPINION

Adding More Painful Cuts

With talk of cutting programs that make it bearable to go to school for students, pay cuts should also be on the table.

Some of the cuts proposed by Fairfax County Public Schools might sound like they will not affect learning very much.

Freshman sports, for instance, involves 2,200 students across the county who are engaged in the delicate transition from middle school to high school. Why would it matter?

How about the 5,000 students who participate in indoor track?

Or the thousands of students who find their love of learning through music.

Or the students getting a second chance on success at Pimmit Hills Alternative School.

Succeeding in school is all about finding a niche, a reason to go, particularly in high school. For some students, this is band. For others it is the chance to run track. For some,

it's an art class. For others it might be a connection to friends made through freshman sports.

Education succeeds for many different reasons. It is a huge mistake to cut off the very things that help students engage.

Nevertheless, schools across the area will have less money per student this year, and they will have to make cuts. Before they cut the life out of the school day for some many children, parents and the rest of local taxpayers deserve to see administration and staff over a certain level willing to share the pain.

No doubt many administrative cuts are not receiving as much publicity as cuts that impact students. But what administrative departments will face cuts similar to those proposed

for music or some sports programs?

Pay cuts for staff with salaries more than \$75,000 should also be on the table, holding classroom teachers harmless. Here are some suggested guidelines, more moderate than many of the cuts in many private companies with revenue shortfall in the past two years:

- ◆ 5 percent for employees who make \$75,000-\$90,000
- ◆ 10 percent for employees who make \$90,000-\$115,000
- ◆ 15 percent for employees who make \$115,000-\$140,000
- ◆ 20 percent for employees who make \$140,000-\$200,000
- ◆ 30 percent for employees who make more than \$200,000

This budget crisis is different than in the past. Right now for the first time, taxpayers are looking at drastically lower home values, and many are underwater. Tens of thousands of taxpayers in Northern Virginia are unemployed. For the public to press for more money for schools, schools will have to demonstrate that they "get it."

EDITORIAL

Conflicting Advice on Mammograms

BY DR. KIRSTEN EDMISTON
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, INOVA
CANCER SERVICES

Women can be apprehensive about going for their annual mammogram. The stress of waiting for results, or even the test itself, can be something many would gladly avoid.

In November, the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSF) may have added to this stress by announcing revised screening mammography guidelines. The new recommendations left many women uncertain about what to do about their breast health. The USPSF recommended against routine screening mammography in women aged 40 to 49 and recommended that women aged 50 to 74 have a mammogram every two years rather than every year, unless there is a high-risk for breast cancer because of family history or gene mutations.

The new guidelines conflict with those of the American Cancer Society and the American College of Radiology, which both remain committed to advising annual mammograms starting at age 40, as well as the National Cancer Institute, which recommends that women age 40 and older have mammograms every one to two years.



Dr. Kirsten Edmiston

In the United States, breast cancer is the most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women according to the American Cancer Society. More than 192,000 new cases and 40,000 deaths from the disease are expected in the U.S.

this year.

The best approach to maintaining a women's breast health is to maintain a healthy lifestyle, have appropriate screening based on risk and to encourage women to discuss their specific family history and circumstances with their physician.

Women who have found breast cancer after having an annual mammogram agree that it is important to be diligent about having regular breast exams. Early detection leads to the best chance for a successful outcome.

The Inova Breast Care Institute at Inova Alexandria, Inova Fairfax, Inova Fair Oaks, Inova Loudoun and Inova Mount Vernon hospitals are some of the first programs in the Washington, D.C., metro area to receive three-year accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, which awards accreditation only to programs that embrace a multidisciplinary approach and can meet or exceed 27 strict standards for excellence in breast care.

When there are questions about breast care, experts at the Inova Breast Care Institute are available to answer those questions, alleviate any concerns and offer our commitment to supporting women's breast health. For more information about breast health visit inova.org/ibci.

VIEWPOINTS

At Churchill Road Elementary School in McLean, 98 percent of parents are concerned about the class size already, let alone how classes might grow if the superintendent implements his budget, said Cat Lippman, the school's Parent Teacher Association president.



Lippman

Lippman said her fourth grader is in a class with 34 students and every first grade class in the school has at least 30 students.

"I taught in the D.C. Public School system for many years. I cannot imagine trying to teach a class of 30 6-year olds how to read," said Lippman.

Lippman said her son's fourth grade teacher is gifted and has done a very good job of providing instruction, despite the large class size. But this is the teacher's third year with an exceptionally large class and she is worried school system will lose her and other good teachers because of the tough circumstances involved in teaching a large class.

— JULIA O'DONOOGHUE

THE CONNECTION

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McLean

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NEWS

George Swygart, regional president, Greater Washington D.C., Wachovia; **Bobbie Kilberg,** president and CEO of NVTC; **Gov. Robert McDonnell (R);** and **Donna Morea,** NVTC chair and president, U.S., Europe and Asia, CGI.



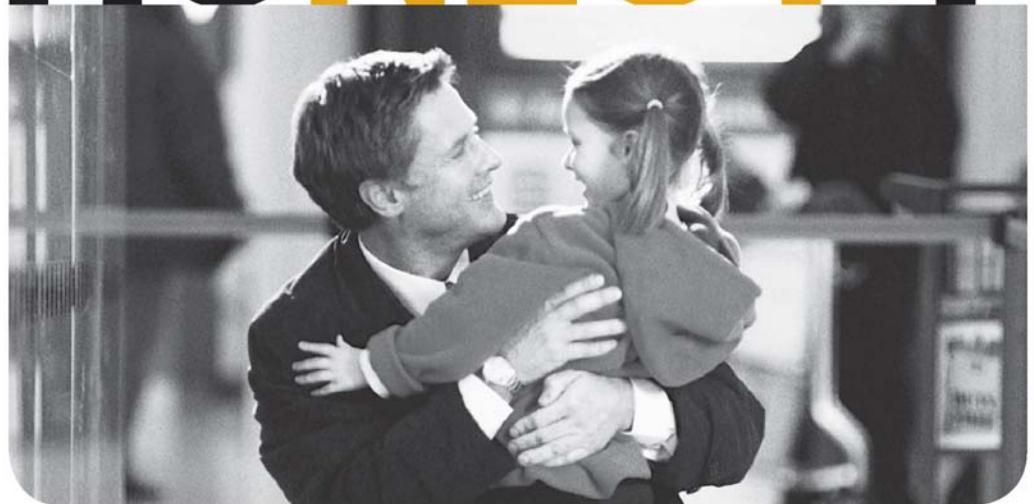
McDonnell Highlights Job Creation

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) spoke on Jan. 27 to a group of over 470 technology business leaders at The Ritz-Carlton in Tysons Corner as part of the Northern Virginia Technology Council's (NVTC) Public Policy series. In his speech, McDonnell outlined his plans for job creation and economic development, highlighting the need to invest in Virginia's future now in order to position the state for recovery. The NVTC's Public Policy Series previously fea-

tured the first federal CIO Vivek Kundra and Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Describing the technology industry as the "economic engine of the state," McDonnell highlighted the need to create an environment where the private sector can thrive in order to promote entrepreneurship and attract new business to the state. Stating his goal of being a "jobs governor," he listed several initiatives he has introduced, including several measures recommended by NVTC.

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CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/FEB. 5

The Vagina Monologues. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$25. Part of the Vday campaign to end violence against women and girls. sas.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/FEB. 6

Cabaret Series: Jeri Sager. 7:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Northern Virginia native and Broadway star Sager debuts at the Barns of Wolf Trap with her solo cabaret show, Broadway by Jeri. Accompanied by four-piece band, Sager will re-create her roles in Cats, Les Misérables, and Evita. \$25. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Mark Morris Dance Group. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With the area premieres of 'Visitation' and 'Empire Garden.' A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 8 p.m. prior to the dance. Lesson \$5; dancing \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Chocolate Lovers Festival. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. Taste of Chocolate, Chocolate Challenge, pancake breakfast, craft show and bake sale, children's activities and Chocolate Caper. Open Houses include the Fairfax Museum, Ford Building, Legato School and Ratcliffe-Allison House. www.chocolatefestival.net or 703-385-1661.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Galloway Road, Falls Church. Line dance lessons at 7:30 p.m.; beginner's couples dance lessons at 8 p.m. Open dancing from 8:30-11 p.m. \$10 for NVCWDA members, \$12 for non-members, and \$5 for ages 16-20 with student ID. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

The Vagina Monologues. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$25. Part of the Vday campaign to end violence against women and girls. sas.gmu.edu.

By The Bog of Cats. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Tickets \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/cats.

Family Art Workshop: Haiku Scroll Paintings. 10 a.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Families will work together to create a Haiku poem as part of each painting. \$10 per family. Register at 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

Polyhymnia A Capella Choir. 8 p.m. at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church Assembly Hall, 1125 Savile Lane, McLean. Performances of works by Flemish Renaissance composers, Gioachino Rossini, Carl Loewe, Claude Debussy and Paul Moravec. 301-565-0314 or [polyhymniasingers.org](http://www.polyhymniasingers.org).

Valentine Jewelry & Accessories Workshop. 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Make jewelry for Valentine's Day. Age 10-18. 703-938-0405.

Max and Ruby. 3 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Age 3 and up. 703-790-0123.

Chocolate Lovers Festival. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. Taste of Chocolate, Chocolate Challenge, pancake breakfast, craft show and bake sale, children's activities and Chocolate Caper. Open Houses include the Fairfax Museum, Ford Building, Legato School and Ratcliffe-Allison House. www.chocolatefestival.net or 703-385-1661.

Ensemble Gaudior: Soggiorno Italiano Concert. 4 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian church, 124 Park St., Vienna. Italian sonatas by Corelli, Vivaldi and more in a benefit concert for New Hope International. Free, the public is invited. Donations accepted. Reception to follow. 703-395-2899 or ensemblegaudior@gmail.com.

Max and Ruby. 3 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Age 3 and up. 703-790-0123.

Chocolate Lovers Festival. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. Taste of Chocolate, Chocolate Challenge, pancake breakfast, craft show and bake sale, children's activities and Chocolate Caper. Open Houses include the Fairfax Museum, Ford Building, Legato School and Ratcliffe-Allison House. www.chocolatefestival.net or 703-385-1661.

By The Bog of Cats. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Tickets \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/cats.

Sonorus, Virginia's 1st Wizard Rock Festival. 11:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Ballyhoo! And Mojo. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

McLean Community Center's 4th Annual McLean Jewelry Showcase. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. More than 42 juried jewelry designers and artisans with a wide variety of

Jane Seymour Comes to Tysons Galleria

Actress and artist Jane Seymour will be appearing at two art exhibitions presented by Wentworth Gallery at the Tysons Galleria. **Jane Seymour: A One Woman Show** includes original oils, acrylic and watercolor paintings, as well as limited edition artwork, all available for purchase. Guests will have the opportunity to meet Seymour on Friday, Feb. 12, 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, Feb 13, 6-9 p.m.

handmade jewelry. Admission \$3. A \$1 discount coupon is available at www.mcleancenter.org/special-events.

Dancing to the Helmuth Licht Band. 9 p.m. at Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Ballroom, latin and swing music, including a Samba lesson at 8 p.m. prior to the dance. Lesson \$5; dancing \$12. Snacks, available for purchase. 703-795-2003 or www.colvirun.org.

Chocolate Lovers Festival. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. Taste of Chocolate, Chocolate Challenge, pancake breakfast, craft show and bake sale, children's activities and Chocolate Caper. Open Houses include the Fairfax Museum, Ford Building, Legato School and Ratcliffe-Allison House. www.chocolatefestival.net or 703-385-1661.

The Smart Split: Legal Aspects of Separation and Divorce. 10 a.m. at 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. \$45 non-members, \$35 members. www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-2657.

Starshine Theater of Great Falls performs 'Zorro: Legend of a Hero.' 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange Theater. With local actors, dancers and singers, ages 6 through high school. Reserve at 703-790-9050 or www.starshinetheater@aol.com.

The Vagina Monologues. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$25. Part of the Vday campaign to end violence against women and girls. sas.gmu.edu.

Light and Dark: Playing with Form and Feeling. 8 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Over 20 hand-crafted lithographs and drawings portraying moods from light to dark by artist W. R. Tuthill. 703-759-2810.

TUESDAY/FEB. 9

An Evening with Davine. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Wednesday/FEB. 10

Canibus Melatonin Magik Tour. 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$12 advance, \$15 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 7

Ensemble Gaudior: Soggiorno Italiano Concert. 4 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian church, 124 Park St., Vienna. Italian sonatas by Corelli, Vivaldi and more in a benefit concert for New Hope International. Free, the public is invited. Donations accepted. Reception to follow. 703-395-2899 or ensemblegaudior@gmail.com.

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McLean Highlanders 2010 Winter Cheerleading Clinic. Two-day clinic, 5-7 p.m. on Feb. 10-11 at McLean High School in the cheer/dance studio, with a performance Friday, Feb. 12 at the Girls varsity basketball game. \$75 includes 2 clinic sessions, admission to game for participant and one parent, and a t-shirt for the performance; \$60 for returning participants who already have the t-shirt. Register at www.mcleanactivities.org.

By The Bog of Cats. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Tickets \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/cats.

Sonorus, Virginia's 1st Wizard Rock Festival. 11:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Charlie Zahm and Tad Marks: ballads and fiddle. 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. \$15. Reserve at 703-759-3309. www.oldbrogue.com.

Green River Ordinance and Sleepstar. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 11

McLean Historical Society: George Washington's Mind or, A General's Genius. 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. William M. Ferraro demonstrates the potency of

The Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society. 2:30 p.m. at the Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church. A slide program reviewing 2009 ODCS Mum Show winners and

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12



introducing the new Exhibition Mums offered by King's Mums. Open to the public. Free Admission and refreshments. 703-560-8776.

AuPairCare Share-A-Bear Campaign. 3 p.m. at the Tyson's Corner Center Build-A-Bear Workshop, McLean. Over 30 au pairs from 14 different countries make bears for children in need at National Institutes of Health. www.aupaircare.com.

ely, including a bracelet that can be personalized with a child's fingerprint in fine silver. R.E. Piland, Goldsmiths (www.repiland.com), one of the area's leading crafters of handmade Celtic jewelry, will display silver and gold pieces at the show. Rob Piland has worked for many of the country's major jewelry stores, including Bailey, Banks, and Biddle, and each of his handmade pieces is

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MONDAY/FEB. 8

An Evening with Davine. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/FEB. 9

Canibus Melatonin Magik Tour. 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$12 advance, \$15 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 10

'Danger Between the Lines: the Civil War History of Hunter Mill Uncovered.' 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The film includes authentic period music by the 2nd Carolina String Band, and features local historian Tom Evans. Jim Lewis of the Hunter Mill Defense League will introduce the film and conduct a question and answer session.

www.gflibrary.org

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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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McLean Hosts Jewelry Showcase

Designers, artisans bring their creations in time for Valentine's Day.

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, more than 42 juried jewelry designers and artisans will offer a variety of quality, handmade jewelry at the McLean Community Center's Fourth Annual McLean Jewelry Showcase. The show takes place Saturday, Feb.

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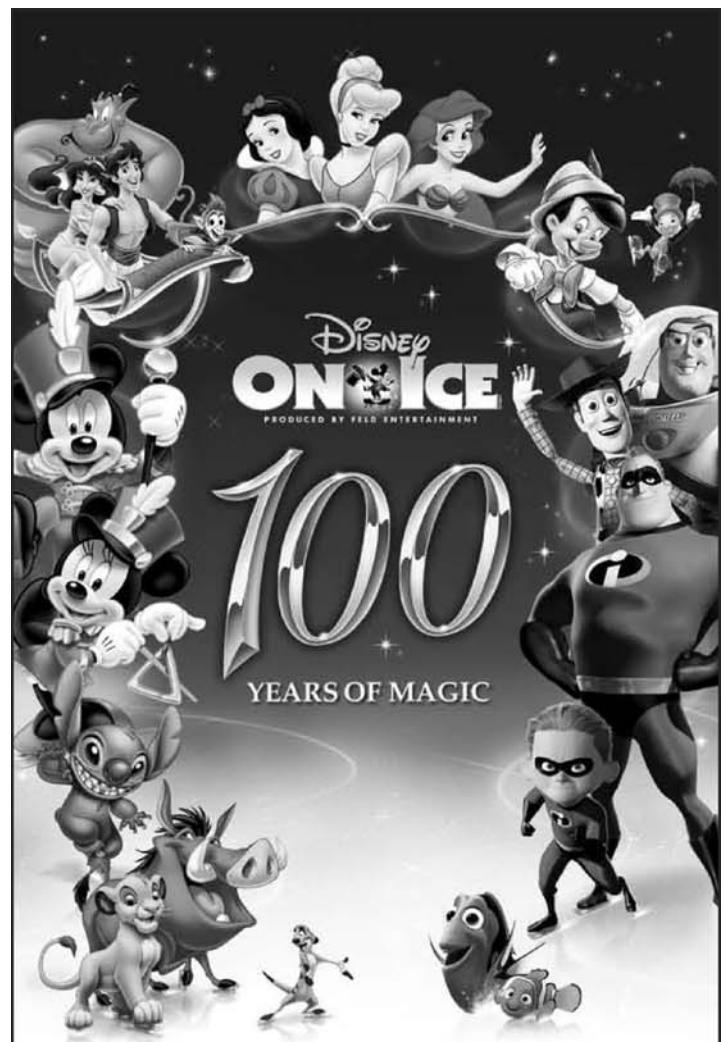
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Washington's mind and the centrality of Washington's intellect to his achievements through an analysis of Washington's correspondence, especially his Revolutionary War letters. Ferraro is an assistant professor and assistant editor with the Papers of George Washington at the University of Virginia. Free, the public is invited. 703-442-9370 or www.mcleancenter.org.

Cracker (acoustic) and Michael McDermott. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Dan Dietz's "tempODYSSEY." 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater in the Performing Arts Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 for students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by phone at 703-993-8888.

FRIDAY/FEB. 12

Benefit Chocolate Festival. 6-9 p.m. at Epiphany United Methodist Church, 1014 Country Club Drive N.E., Vienna. All proceeds to benefit Doctors Without Borders. Dinner served from 6-7 p.m., including pasta, salad, bread and beverage; desserts and coffee served until 9 p.m. The cost for dinner is \$5 per person, \$20 maximum per family; 50¢ tickets will be sold to purchase desserts and treats at the Chocolate Shop. A Craft Station will be available to make Valentines. 703-938-3494 or office@epiphanyumc.com.

Philadanco. 8 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-0123.

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Nothing is too small to know, and nothing too big to attempt.

-William Van Horne

21 Announcements

Wilmah A. L. Dando

(Age 83)

Educator



A longtime resident of Alexandria, on January 25, 2010 died of complications from COPD. A public school teacher for 37 years, Wilmah taught at all grade levels from K-12, including private tutoring. She was born and raised in Pavilion, NY. In 1926 she married Thomas O. Dando and together they raised two children. She loved theater and dance and volunteered at the St. Clement Thrift Shop. Wilmah spent her retirement years traveling and enjoying the company of her husband, Thomas, and her children and grandchildren. The Dandos celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last August. Wilmah is survived by her beloved husband, Thomas, and numerous family members. A funeral service will be held at the Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane Alexandria, VA 22302 on February 6 at 3:00. In lieu of flowers, Wilmah requested donations to the Church of St. Clement Outreach Fund, Capital Hospice, or the American Lung Association.

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Strength in Numbers



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

My wife, Dina, and I found out the other day that a friend in our social circle was recently diagnosed with lung cancer. It's the first friend/acquaintance of ours so diagnosed since I was similarly informed last February. Naturally I was sorry to hear of another person joining this less-than-exclusive cancer club. However, since I knew this new member, its effect on me was more personal. I called her the next day to offer any insights, answer any questions, share a few anecdotes, some of which hopefully she might find helpful. And in so doing, I felt another sensation, the sensation of not being alone, vis-a-vis the whole honor/camaraderie-amongst-cancer-patients thing.

Initially, upon hearing this friend's news (after she had called and confided in Dina), I again felt the all-too-familiar fear, shock and anxiety I had felt a year earlier when I was told my biopsy confirmed a malignant growth in my lung. And so I could certainly appreciate, although I hadn't yet talked to this friend and learned of the particular set of cancer-related circumstances (X-Ray, scans, biopsy), which lead to this diagnosis, to learn what she had been going through and for how long (it's not exactly share and tell in the beginning, or in the middle or the end, either).

Respecting her privacy and understanding full well the whole private/public, want to talk/need to talk/don't want to talk/don't need to talk cycle, I decided nonetheless to call the next day (not that previous evening when the initial call to my wife had been made). Our friend was very receptive to my call and eager even (can't really say happy) to discuss her health-related deficiencies of late which ultimately lead to her cancer diagnosis.

Similar in some respects to my experience and different in others, still it was comforting (to me) in some ways to not be the one providing the details and discussing medical matters of such severity and sensitivity. I felt as if in making the call I was providing a public service, almost, to someone in need. And in feeling good I began to feel selfish about feeling good. What was wrong with me? Here I am talking to a friend who is sharing intimate – and very personal – details, and life-changing details at that, that very few others in our group have been privileged/entrusted to hear about her tumors, life expectancy, inoperability and so forth, and I'm feeling a kind of serenity and strength, rather than sympathy and sorrow. How, why, do I feel anything other than sadness, especially considering all that I know that lies ahead, for this friend?

I think the explanation has to do with her future now being a part of my present/future, sort of. It's another connection I have in the cancer world. And from what I've read, what I've felt, what I've been encouraged and reminded to pursue during this whole cancer thing is, to find and maintain, connections. And having another member in the club (some club!), a member who so far exhibits all the attributes of a positive force for good/overcoming evil, I feel empowered, emboldened even by her membership. Not that either one of us is particularly interested in fighting this fight. Nevertheless, her attitude and willingness to do so, and her desire to take on all comers in the process, makes me feel stronger, more capable, more determined than ever to win this war.

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

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NEWS

1st Stage Kicks Off Fourth Production

'By the Bog of Cats' opens Feb. 5 in Tysons Corner.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

1st Stage of Tysons Corner kicks off its February production with a Helen Hayes honor and a charitable contribution. "By the Bog of Cats" opens on Friday, Feb. 5, and 1st Stage will donate 20 percent of ticket sales to the American Red Cross Haitian relief efforts during the opening weekend, Feb. 5-7.

"We've gotten a lot from the community. You have to give back as well," said Artistic Director Mark Krikstan.

Krikstan called "By the Bog of Cats" the best script he had read in years. "As soon as I read it, I was so moved by this play, the dialogue, I knew we had to produce it."

Based loosely on Euripides' Medea, "By the Bog of Cats" mixes human tragedy and comedy, misfits, witches and ghosts in a rural Ireland setting. The production features a cast of 12, including a professional 10-year-old actress from Ashburn.

When Krikstan retired from a career teaching drama at George C. Marshall High School, he looked at the homegrown talent leaving the area and decided to create an institution that would beckon local professional actors home. It worked.

Many of the cast and crew are former students of Krikstan's while he taught at George C. Marshall High School. They went away to college or to drama school in New York City but returned to the Vienna area to help build 1st Stage into a top-quality professional theatre.

Peter Van Valkenburgh of Vienna graduated from Marshall in 2003, studied acting in New York and came back to Vienna two years ago expressly to work with Krikstan and help develop 1st Stage. For "By the Bog of Cats," Van Valkenburgh is doing computer graphics to simulate background scenery.

Ryan Tumulty graduated from Marshall in 2005 and from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill last spring. He moved to New York, hoping to crack the theater industry there. After a few months, he decided it wasn't the right place at the right time for him. He came home and 1st Stage was there for him.

"1st Stage is the embodiment of the importance of maintaining an appreciation of the arts and a sense of community," Tumulty said. "It's home, a place I belong, a place where anyone who wishes to can belong. Theater is for everyone."

THE HELEN HAYES AWARDS announced on Jan. 25 that 1st Stage would be honored with the John Aniello Award



PHOTO COURTESY 1ST STAGE

Kelly Slagle and Ryan Tumulty, a George C. Marshall High School graduate and Vienna resident, in a scene from 1st Stage's fourth production of the season.

1st Stage Theatre

1st Stage Theatre is located at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Suite LL, McLean, in an industrial center near Leesburg Pike. Phone 703-854-1856 for information on tickets and volunteering.

Performances are Fridays at 8 p.m. Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The production runs through Feb. 28. Tickets are \$25. Student tickets are \$15. Tickets are available online at www.1stStageTysons.org/ or as walk-in patrons.

for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

"It's interesting that the much older artistic community in Washington, D.C., is recognizing a brand new suburban group as part of the metropolitan theatre community," said Van Valkenburgh of the Helen Hayes award. "It's nice that high art can spread to the suburbs."

While it has been a slow climb in this economic climate, 1st Stage has gathered great support from the community, Krikstan said. Only in its second season, 1st Stage has gotten the attention of theatre critics, theater aficionados and local residents looking for live theater.

"When Tysons Corner is redeveloped, when it becomes the arts and entertainment center of Fairfax County, we will already have been here, established, the first Fairfax County theatre company to put on professional plays with paid cast and crew," said Krikstan.

REMAINING SHOWS on the 2009-10 schedule for 1st Stage are "Humble Boy," a musical "The Last Five Years" and "Suburban Motel" closing the season in June.

SCHOOLS



Marshall High School won second place with the play 'Tongues,' directed by Trena Weiss-Null and Mera O'Malley.

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION

Talent on Display at Marshall High

Host school wins second place, goes to regionals.

Shakespeare's "Henry V" were displayed.

Stone Bridge High won first place with the play "The Bald Soprano," directed by Glen Hochkeppel. Marshall High School won second place with the play "Tongues," directed by Trena Weiss-Null and Mera O'Malley.

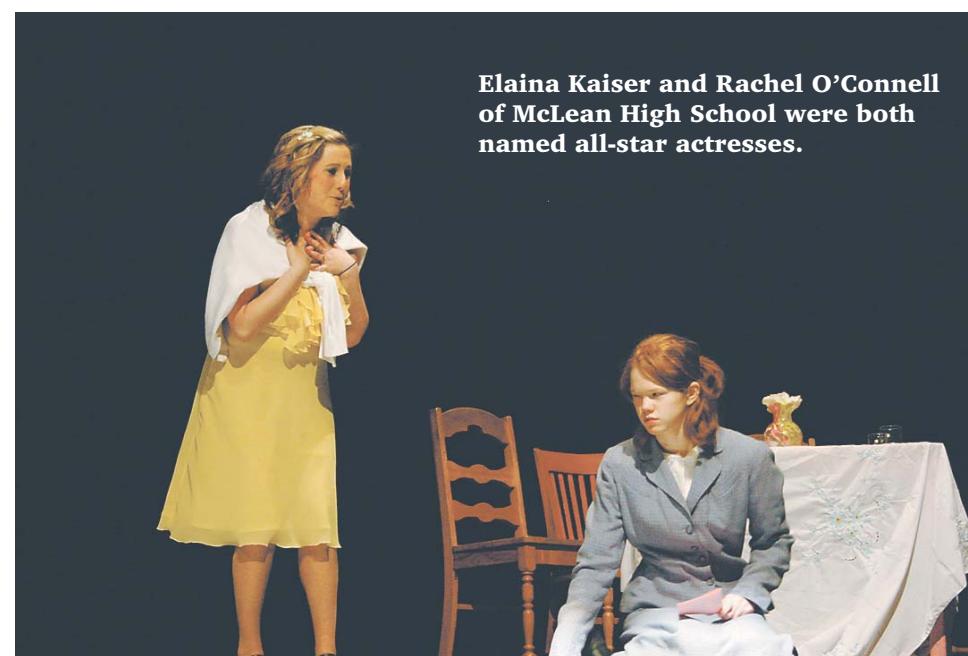
The Northern Regionals take place Saturday, Feb. 6, at Lake Braddock Secondary and are free to the public.

The judges at the festival at Marshall High chose eight "all-star" actors and actresses, whom they felt displayed the best individual performance. The winners of that award were; Nick Gagliano (Stone Bridge), Harper Franklin (Stone Bridge), Jason Francis (Stone Bridge), Dylan Halpern (Fairfax), Rachel O'Connell (McLean), Jeff Davis (Stone Bridge), Elaina Kaiser (McLean) and Jess Rawls (Fairfax).

The next award announced was the top actor and the top actress. The winners, Jason Francis and Harper Franklin, were both from Stone Bridge.

— STEPHANIE KNAPP

Elaina Kaiser and Rachel O'Connell of McLean High School were both named all-star actresses.



COMMUNITY

McLean Celebrates Year of Tiger

Peking Imperial restaurant to ring in Lunar New Year 4708.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, Peking Imperial Restaurant is once again ringing in the Lunar New Year with festival cheer with a four-course New Year dinner and a traditional Chinese Lion Dance show.

David Lo, owner of Peking Imperial Restaurant for 28 years, will lead the Wong People Kung Fu Association Lion Dance Team, the Official Lion Dance Team of the 2009 Presidential Inauguration Parade, to celebrate Lunar New Year 4708, the Year of the Tiger.

"The Tiger is the king of all beasts in Asia, and represents power and energy. The Tiger is also renowned for its bravery and independence. Hopefully, the guardian of the year will bring everyone prosperity and good health this year," said Lo.

Seating for the New Year dinner and show will begin at 5:30 p.m. and festivities will start around 6



Reservations

Reservations are recommended as previous celebrations have led to a full house. The evening performance and four-course menu featuring Chinese New Year specialties with soup, appetizer, entrees and dessert will cost \$19.95 per person. Call 703-448-0928 to make reservations for parties of four or more.

Peking Imperial Restaurant is located at 6827 Redmond Drive, McLean, and is around the corner from the Giant Food store in downtown McLean. The Pub will also be offering drink specials for the celebration.

p.m. with synchronized lion dancing, music and firecrackers in the parking lot then activities move into the restaurant. The lion will make its rounds in the dining area and be capped off by the payment

to the Lion Dance Team through the traditional choi cheng or "Eating of the Green (lettuce)," which symbolizes money in the U.S. The hong bao, lucky red envelope, contains the payment, but is strung together with the "Green." The lion will pick up the choi cheng in its mouth and chew it, first removing the hong bao and keeping all the bad luck, then throwing out the "greens" and spreading the prosperity in all directions. The lion will continue its work into the main kitchen and complete its dance in The Pub that adjoins the restaurant.

The Lion Dance has been used for centuries to chase away evil spirits and bad energy (chi).

Peking Imperial Restaurant is a family-owned restaurant founded by long time McLean residents, David and Alice Lo, in 1982. The Los emigrated from Taiwan more than three decades ago and have lived in McLean for a majority of those years. The couple raised their three sons in McLean and has been participants and supporters of the McLean community.

FAITH

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

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, has a Fellowship Hour after the 10 a.m. services. On Feb. 7, the Winter Sunday will focus on children, with hot chocolate with marshmallows and a long frieze of snowmen and other winter-oriented crafts. On Feb. 14, Valentine Sunday will focus on love and friendship, as children and adults make Valentine's cards for the residents of the nearby Sunrise Assisted Living home. A chocolate fountain will be operating. www.stthomasmcleanva.org.

Episcopal Church Women of St. Thomas Episcopal Church Lace & Grace Tea

2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13. With a variety of tea delicacies and sweets, and live music by local instrumentalists, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Hudson Hall, 8991 Brook Road, McLean. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Alternative House in Vienna. \$30 per person. Reserve tickets at 703-442-0330. Group sales welcome. 703-272-7796 or mollieegan@verizon.net.

McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, will host LifeWay Women's Going Beyond with Priscilla Shirer, at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26 and 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27. Shirer encourages women to go beyond everyday life to walk with Christ. Tickets are the two-day event are \$45. Register at www.lifeway.com/goingbeyond or 800-254-2022.

ciated with Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Shoreview, Minn. Page is serving through MCC's Serving and Learning Together program for young adults. MCC is a relief, development and peace organization of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches in Canada and the U.S. mcc.org.

Antioch Christian Church Youth will collect one-dollar donations in large soup pots for the **Souper Bowl of Caring**, at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, Feb. 7, at Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Each group gives their donation directly to the charity of their choice; no money is sent to Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. Organizers simply ask that groups report their collection amount so a national total can be determined. www.antiochdoc.org.

Emmaus United Church of Christ will offer the lecture series "Nurturing the Body through Nutrition." Classes will be 7 p.m. in the parlor of Emmaus Church, 900 East Maple Avenue, Vienna. Free and open to the public. Contact Dana Krauskopf, 703-272-8675 or hamanasi@bellsouth.net, or Marsha Komandt, 703-938-1264 or mgkomandt@verizon.net.

♦ Monday, Feb. 8. Learning to Reconnect to Your Body in Healthy Ways: Weight Management.

♦ Monday, Feb. 22. Learning to Reconnect to Your Body in Healthy Ways: Energy Enhancement.

♦ Monday, March 8. Sugar: The Unsweet Truth.

♦ Monday, March 29. Food is Medicine.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide 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.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

TUESDAY/FEB. 9

National Association Active and Retired Federal Employees Monthly Meeting

1:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Stories of Yesteryear: Members Profile with Don Wiesnet, Elaine Fitzpatrick and Gayle Reed. 703-698-1838 or shirleykeyes@aol.com.

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. 5:30 p.m. at the Brio Tuscan Grille, 1961 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. With officer installations and remarks. 240-527-0180

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 10

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group.

7 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. A group for anyone with multiple sclerosis and/or their family and friends. Sponsored by the National Capital Chapter of the MS Society. Free. 703-768-4841.

THURSDAY/FEB. 11

VTRCC Valentine's Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 16

VTRCC Monthly Mixer. 5:30 p.m. at the Lebanese Taverna, Tysons Galleria, 1840G International Drive, McLean. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

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FRIDAY/FEB. 19

VTRCC Brown Bag University. 12 p.m. at the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, 8300 Boone Blvd. #450, Vienna. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

Republican Club of Greater Reston Annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner. Hidden Creek County Club, Reston. 703-406-9740.

SUNDAY/FEB. 21

NAACP Fairfax County Youth Council Meeting. 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Johnson Center, Robeson Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Meetings are open to youth ages 10-20. restonbell7@gmail.com.

MONDAY/FEB. 22

Haven of Northern Virginia Six-Week Suicide Bereavement Support Group. 7:30 p.m. at 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Free. Registration required at 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org, or e-mail havenofnova@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/FEB. 27

Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Casino Night & Taste of the Town. 7pm-12 a.m. at Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave., E., Vienna. Samples from area eateries, cash bar, live auction, casino games and more. Prizes include trips, gift certificates, gift baskets, jewelry and more. \$75 in advance, \$85 at the door. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

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SCHOOLS

Pictured, front row, from left, are kindergarten to grade 3 winners Jacob Smith (second place); Yurim Kim (outstanding finalist); Celine Ham (outstanding finalist); Hana Yu (third place); and Gaku Ogawa (first place). Back row, from left, are grade 4-6 winners Elizabeth Li (first place); Lyric Yu (outstanding finalist); Jane Lee (third Place), Elizabeth Kim (outstanding finalist); Anya McKee (outstanding finalist); and Linda Diaz (second place).



PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

Students Promote Safe, Drug Free Community

Over the past month, more than 600 Churchill Road Elementary School students participated in the Fairfax County Public School's "Building our Community to be Safe and Drug Free" bookmark contest. The artwork was judged by an independent panel of judges and a total of 11 students received honors for their entries. The two first prizewinners,

Gaku Ogawa, for kindergarten through grade 3, and Elizabeth Li, for grades 4-6, will have their entries sent to FCPS' Student Safety & Wellness Office. Their entries will be judged along with entries from other elementary schools. If chosen, the students' artwork will be made into bookmarks, which will be distributed throughout the county.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

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.

Steven A. Christopher of McLean has been named to the headmaster's list at Virginia Episcopal School. Christopher is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew M. Christopher.

Four Marymount University students from McLean, including history education major **Charles Abel**, business administration major **Sednam Asem**, interior design major **Rebecca Leon** and fashion merchandising major **Julia Rouse**, have been named as national outstanding campus leaders and included in the 2009 edition of Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Matthew Thomas Valecourt has been named to Episcopal High School's academic honor roll for the first quarter of the 2009-10 school year. Valecourt is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery T. Valecourt of McLean.

Caroline Rothrock of McLean has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Ripon College of Ripon, Wisconsin. Rothrock, a sophomore global studies major, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald D. Rothrock of McLean.

Brigid Donovan, a senior at Saint James School of St. James, Md., has been named to the honors list for trimester 1. Donovan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Donovan of McLean.

Leah Gross of McLean has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Tufts University in Medford, Mass.

Gurden Batra of McLean has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Ga.

Andrew R. Rademaker of McLean

has received a bachelor of arts degree in international studies and modern languages & cultures from Virginia Military Institute of Lexington, Va. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen G. Rademaker.

Kathryn A. Anwyll of McLean has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at McDaniel College of Westminster, Md.

Dominic Ferrari of McLean has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at the University of Portland in Oregon. Ferrari is a freshman business major.

Philip Diamond of McLean has been named to the fall 2009 honors list at Skidmore College of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Diamond is a member of the class of 2013 and the son of Robert Diamond and Amy Pullman of McLean.

Peter N. Kalis II of McLean has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Drexel University, Philadelphia. The 2008 Langley High School graduate and Eagle Scout is majoring in information systems. Kalis is the son of Nicholas Kalis and Dr. Mary Papadopoulos of McLean.

Pinnacle Academy Team Wins Future City Competition

The Oakton-based Pinnacle Academy's Future City team was awarded first place at the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area Future City Competition last Saturday. Pinnacle Academy will represent the region at the 2010 Future City Competition National Finals, Feb. 13-17.

Team members included Selin Altintas, Nurbanu Simsek, Zehra Yilmaz and Madina Khurishanova, with faculty advisor Hatice Evcı and mentor Emre Ozkan. For more information about this event, visit <http://www.pinnacleacademyva.com>.



CONTRIBUTED

Nur Banu Simsek, Selin Altintas, Zehra Yilmaz and Madina Khurishanova display their first-place trophy.

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SPORTS

Overlooked Marshall Team Could be a Region Factor

Statesmen, behind 21 from Watts, defeat McLean in Liberty boys' basketball.

By RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Bobby Forst, the Marshall High boys' basketball coach, had a challenge for members of his team's backcourt prior to the Statesmen's Liberty District home game versus McLean Friday night, Jan. 29. Simply put, he wanted his key perimeter players to step up their scoring in order to take some of the pressure off of talented big men Will Simonton and Daniel McClain, the teams' inside senior duo that had been carrying the bulk of Marshall's offense of late.

"We hadn't gotten a ton of production from our perimeter players," said Forst.

But following Forst's strong, pre-game "pep talk," Marshall's guards stepped up in big-time fashion against the Highlanders. Led by 21 points from senior shooting guard Stanley Watts, and 19 points from junior off-guard Shelton Hardy, the Statesmen rolled to a 55-40 victory.

The win improved Marshall to 10-7 overall and an impressive 8-2 in district play. It's a far improvement from Marshall's six-win season of a year ago. McLean, meanwhile, slipped to 7-11 and 3-7.

Marshall's torrid outside scoring ability was the key to the win. With McLean's defense intentionally dropping back in order to make things more difficult inside the paint for Simonton — Marshall's talented, 6-foot-9 inch center and catalyst player — perimeter players Watts and Hardy had more open looks from beyond the three-point arc. The result was both players converting five long range treys on the night. In all, Marshall connected on 10 three-point shots to McLean's two.

"It's good to know as a coach you can win in different ways," said Forst. "Stanley [Watts] hadn't been shooting the ball real good recently. But he's a [true] scorer."

Simonton, who finished the game with seven points, eight rebounds and a dominating nine blocks, was thrilled to see the big backcourt contributions.

"They sure as heck were lighting it up," he said, of Watts and Hardy's play.

Kevin Roller, McLean's head coach, went into the contest focused defensively on slowing down both Simonton and fellow inside player McClain, a 6-4 forward. The Highlanders, in fact, kept the Statesmen big men in check fairly well as the twosome combined for just 10 points. But the tradeoff was that Marshall's guards got decent looks and made their shots.

"We wanted to make sure their big guy [Simonton] didn't beat us and we did a good job on him," said Roller. "But they hit their three's, while we hit two's."

ONE OF THE GAME'S biggest baskets came when Watts, from the left wing, nailed a deep three-pointer at the buzzer to end the third quarter, extending the home team's lead from 34-31 to 37-31. From that moment on, Marshall controlled the contest, outscoring McLean 18-9 in the final quarter to gain the win. Watts scored 12 of his points in that final



McLean's Phil Bouchard (34) puts up a shot as Marshall center Will Simonton (1) goes for the block.

quarter.

"Stanley made some big plays in the fourth quarter," said Roller.

McLean, which received 15 points from senior forward Phil Bouchard and 14 from sophomore guard Gordon Rogo, trailed just 21-20 at halftime. But seven three-pointers allowed in the second half made it difficult for the Highlanders to stay close to Marshall.

Marshall is not one of the teams generally talked about when the discussion of Northern Region contenders is brought up. But the Statesmen are now in a battle for the district crown with such teams as two-time defending district champion Langley and Stone Bridge and could be one of the surprise teams at the 16-team region tournament later this season.

"We know we're going to have to keep proving ourselves," said Forst, whose team has won four straight since a 48-42 district road loss to Jefferson on Jan. 15. "People aren't going to hand us stuff. But we're starting to expect to win."

Simonton said Marshall, which has a seasoned roster with eight seniors, believed from the start that it could have a breakout season.

"We're expecting to win and going out there with confidence," said Simonton, who hopes to be playing collegiate basketball next school year. "We have good players. We're kind of underrated by a lot of people."

Marshall was scheduled to play at Langley earlier this week on Tuesday, Feb. 2. The Saxons (15-3) lost their first district game last Friday night at Stone Bridge, 64-62. The Statesmen are scheduled to play at Madison this Friday night.

McLean was scheduled to play district home games this week against Madison on Tuesday and South Lakes on Friday.

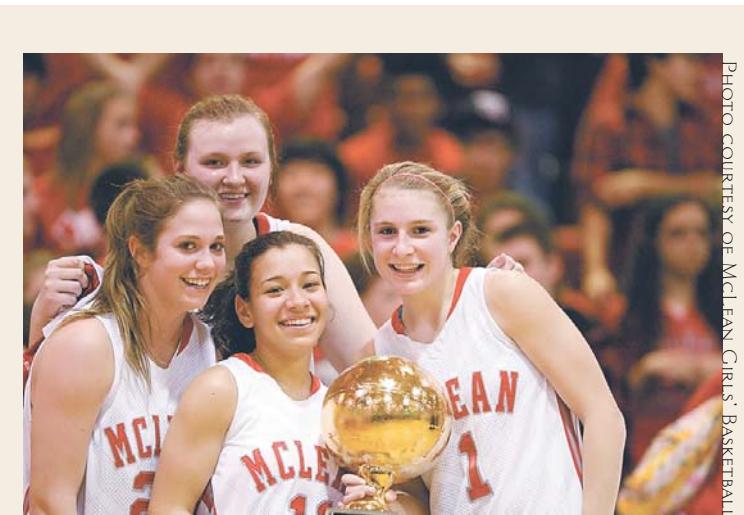


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCLEAN GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Four seniors on the McLean High girls' basketball team, from left, Lauren Sutherland, Melissa Wilson, Brittany McCray and Caitlin Baker, helped the Highlanders capture the Rotary Cup trophy by defeating cross-town rival Langley last week.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The McLean High girls' basketball team beat cross-town rival Langley, 55-34, two weeks ago to claim the Rotary Cup for the second consecutive year. The Highlanders played outstanding pressure defense the whole game. McLean's scoring leaders in the win were Melissa Wilson (17 points) and Andie Romness (12). Other scoring contributions came from Brittany McCray (8 points), Erin Mundy (7), Caitlin Baker (6), Shelly Kaniut (3), Kristina Bettner (1) and Caroline Gray (1).

The McLean High boys' swim and dive team was a 175-111 winner over Stone Bridge High in a recent late season meet. Triple event winners for the Highlanders were Charlie Putnam, Colin Fitzgibbon, Bill Kim and Ben Southern. Kevin Geiger was a double event winner for McLean.

The McLean girls' team was also victorious over the lady Bulldogs, 179-107. Quadruple winners for the Highlanders were Margaret Harlow and Annie Springsteen. Katie Yensen, meanwhile, won three events and McLean double winners were Adrienne Harlow and Eva Greene.

The McLean High ice hockey team beat Woodson High, 8-7, two weeks ago to improve its record to 5-2. Following the win, the McLean squad was two points behind first place Langley in the league standings.

McLean, in the win over Woodson, got a hat trick (3 goals) from Ajmal Behsudi. Other scoring contributions came from Connor Gilmartin (1 goal, 1 assist), Julian Kell (1 goal, 1 assist), Tommy Borman

(1 goal, 1 assist), Matt Stewart (1 goal), Nick Baker (1 goal), Maury Winter (1 assist) and Max Alm (1 assist).

Point leaders this season for the young McLean team include the following: junior Matt Stewart (17 points on 10 goals, 7 assists); sophomore Nick Baker (15 points on 2 goals, 13 assists); sophomore Connor Gilmartin (13 points on 8 goals, 5 assists); and sophomore Maury Winter (12 points on 6 goals, 6 assists).

McLean Youth Soccer (MYS) Spring 2010 registration has begun on MYS' web site at www.mcleansoccer.org. Returning players as well as new players are welcome to register. MYS offers various programs for children ages 4 through 18. MYS programs include - recreation, travel, McLean Premier Soccer Travel, U5 for Pre-K players, and TOP Soccer for children with special needs. The season will begin the week of April 5 and extend through mid-June. Be sure to register no later than Jan. 30 to take advantage of the early discounted registration fees. Contact the MYS Administrator at admin@mcleansoccer.org. For more information, call the MYS office at 703-506-8068.

The Thomas Jefferson High girls' swim and dive team's quest for an undefeated season ended two weeks ago with a loss to Langley in the final dual meet of the regular season. The Saxons were victorious, 174-141. Both Langley and the Colonials finished the regular season with 6-1 records.

Three of Jefferson's top swimmers are McLean residents Anna Lan (team captain), Aedan Collins and Leah Gonzalez.

NEWS

McLean Rotary Awards Scholarships to Pimmit Hills Students

The Rotary Club of McLean awarded scholarships to two Pimmit Hills High School students earlier this month as part of its ongoing activities to support education and provide community service in Northern Virginia and throughout the world.

Abdi Mahamed and Jaime Monterroso each received \$1,000 scholarships from the McLean club to continue their education at the college level. Since 1996, McLean Rotary has awarded 26 scholarships to Pimmit Hills students totaling \$17,750.

A native of Somalia, Mahamed works fulltime to support himself and to send money to his family while attending Pimmit Hills. Mahamed walked 300 miles with his family to get to a refugee camp at the border of Somalia and Kenya. He spent 10 years there before being selected to immigrate to the U.S.; his family is still in the camp in Kenya. Mahamed says he



Pictured, from left, are Abdi Mahamed; Didi Crowder of Pimmit Hills; Paul Frank, president of the Rotary Club of McLean; and Jaime Monterroso.

is looking forward to attending college.

Monterroso, an immigrant from Guatemala, works more than 50 hours a week at a Tysons Corner restaurant while attending Pimmit Hills. He supports himself while fulfilling his dream of getting a good education. Monterroso also is involved in several volunteer projects at Pimmit Hills.

Located in Falls Church, Pimmit Hills is one of just three alternative high schools in the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) system. It offers a learning environment specifically designed for older students who are not eligible for traditional high school because of age, language

proficiency or other life circumstances.

Downtown Faces Long-term Changes

FROM PAGE 3

would be available to the general public and transit to Metro stops could be provided.

McLean Properties is proposing a mix of retail, residential and office uses in buildings ranging from one to four or five stories tall, with a landmark, six-story building on the north end, toward Beverly Road. The buildings would surround parking garages, hiding the parking from view, and the streets would be lined with 15-foot-wide sidewalks. Under preliminary plans, Redmond Drive, previously considered for the site of the future Main Street, would be closed and developed, with new streets running through the block now occupied by McLean Shopping Center.

THE OLD FIREHOUSE Teen Center would be demolished and replaced by a new community center building in much the same location, anchoring the south end of the new Main Street on Chain Bridge Road. Since October, Sasaki planners had shrunk the proposed footprint of the community center and created an adjacent plaza. Both would sit on county-owned land, and Montgomery said the land use there would be up to the community and county, but McLean Properties would like to help incorporate it into the surrounding area.

Ward noted that few mixed-use developments include community-owned uses. "There's a kind of civic life to this place as well as a commercial life," he said.

He and Montgomery presented a drawing of possible buildings along the east side of the new Main Street. "It's very rough. It's very much in just the beginning," Montgomery said.

Ground floors would be restaurant and retail uses, with office or residential space above. The community center was imagined as a broad, three-story and a narrow, four-story structure connected by a stairway with a small atrium. The first floor of the three-story portion would consist of gallery space, with the meeting space above surrounded in glass. A swooping, tent-like tensile structure covered the rooftop terrace. "The artist here may have been a little, ah, aggressive," Montgomery said of the rooftop structure, which ended up eliciting a mixed reaction. Offices would occupy the four-story portion of the building, and a black-box theater would be housed below ground. The total square footage, not including the sheltered rooftop, would be about 20,000 square feet, compared to the Old Firehouse's 9,000.

"You obviously put in a lot of effort, and you listened, too," said planning committee Chairman Scott Monett.

"It's very attractive," said Jim Turner, a member of both the MCA board and the MPC.

Don Borcherding of the MCA board remarked that traffic in the area was already a problem and said he was concerned that the increase in density would "make traffic in the downtown prohibitive."

Bill Sudow, a member of the McLean Revitalization Corporation board, wanted to know how much of a destination the redevelopment was intended to be.

"It's really about serving the town of McLean," Montgomery said, noting that the development would not and could not compete with Tysons Corner. The fact that it wasn't a destination would draw some people to have their offices there, he predicted.

Asked about how the project would be phased in, Montgomery said, "If this ends up happening, we would see it happening over a long period of time in many phases." He said this would allow attention to be paid to each new building, and also noted that most of the property was currently leased. For example, he said, "Giant has a very, very long-term lease and they will be in McLean for a very long time."

He said McLean Properties had not yet set a timeline for applying for an amendment to the county Comprehensive Plan to allow the redevelopment.

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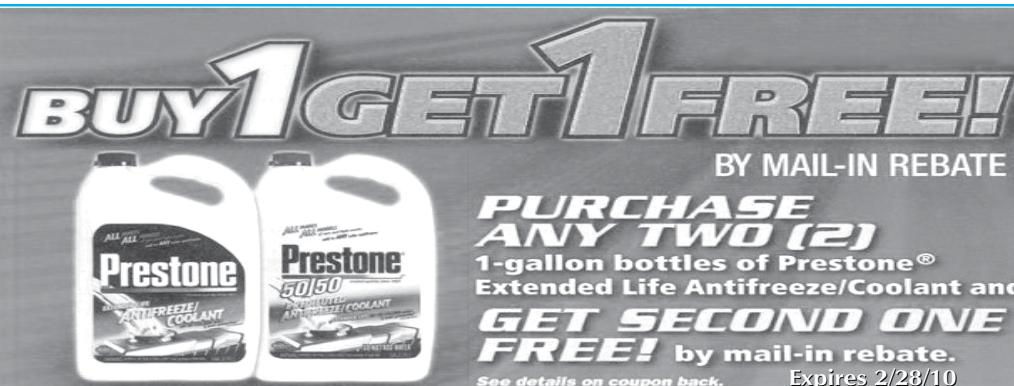
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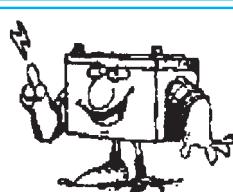
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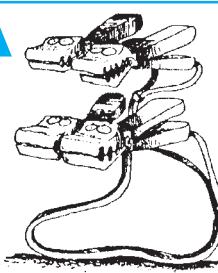
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