

McLean Businesses Weather Storms

NEWS, PAGE 3

McLean Hardware manager Danny McMahon helps Ellie Clark, 11, and her mother Stacey select a sled. The store was one of few businesses that benefited from recent, record-breaking snowfalls.

Fairfax Schools See Ups and Downs in Funding Fight

NEWS, PAGE 4

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Metro Yard Noise
Limit Recommended
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PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 11

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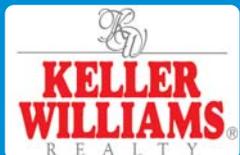
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PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

As in parking lots across the region, mountains of snow occupy many of the parking spaces in McLean Shopping Center, causing some problems for retailers.

McLean Businesses Weather Storms

Most, but not all, are hard-hit by brutal weather.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

By Valentine's Day, four days after the last flakes of the Blizzards of 2010 fell, the Old Book Company of McLean owner Phil Hanson said he was seeing a few customers here and there — "some people looking for entertainment besides watching the Weather Channel," he said. But he thought most people were still preoccupied with ice dams in their gutters or worrying about whether all the lanes in their roads would ever be cleared.

The record-breaking snowfalls have been hard on most businesses, particularly specialty boutiques selling collectibles and other nonessential items. "Having snow on three different Saturdays this winter has not been so great for business," Hanson said, adding that one of those had been the "Super Saturday" before Christmas, when about 2 feet of snow fell on the weekend of Dec. 19.

He said his store had been forced to close for a number of days during the more recent back-to-back storms but had been able to open occasionally, "when the snow wasn't blowing in every direction and the other," because one employee lived nearby and could walk there. Hanson, meanwhile, had spent days snowed in at his Montgomery County neighborhood, where he had shoveled his way to a neighbor's house because his home had no electricity.

"Obviously, the first two weeks of this month have



Phil Hanson, owner of the Old Book Company of McLean, waits patiently for business to return to normal following a week of historic snowfalls.



Kazan Restaurant owner Zeynel Uzun prepares to set the mood with kerosene lamps on Valentine's Day. Normally, the restaurant is not open on Sundays, but Uzun decided he needed to make up for the days he had lost to snowstorms.

been horrible for business. But one just soldiers on," he said. Now, he said, his main concerns were the parking that McLean Shopping Center had lost to mountains of relocated snow, watching out for ice falling from the rooftop and watching the rest of the month's sales.

Meanwhile, McLean Hardware had cashed in on the weather, selling truckloads — literally — of what manager Danny McMahon called "the four S's." Those were shovels, sand, salt and sleds. "It's been crazy," McMahon said.

BEFORE THE STORMS, he said, lines ran to the back of the store. Employees with pickup trucks made trips to Beltsville, Md. to bring sleds and shovels back from one of the store's suppliers. The forklift was

SEE ROAD TO RECOVERY, PAGE 5



The Planning Commission recommended that noise from the West Falls Church Metro Yard, once it expands, be limited to 55 decibels, with certain exceptions.

Metro Yard Noise Limit Recommended

Noise ordinance, however, is under review.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Neighbors of the West Falls Church Metro Yard may have won a victory on Thursday, Jan. 28, when the Fairfax County Planning Commission voted to recommend that noise at the train yard's property line be limited to a maximum of 55 decibels, although there are exceptions to the restriction, and it may change in the future.

The requirement will still have to make it past the county's Board of Supervisors and will not take effect until the yard expands to accommodate Metro's coming Silver Line.

NEIGHBORS of the Metro yard, which is located across Idylwood Road from Lemon Road Elementary School, have complained for more than a decade about noise from the station, especially the high-pitched "wheel squeal" that results from train cars running around the yard's track loop. As part of its expansion, Metro will be required to build a sound box over the loop.

However, the yard expansion spurred a debate as to whether the maximum of 55 decibels that the county noise ordinance sets for residential areas was to be interpreted as "55 dBA Lmax" — an absolute maximum — or "55 dBA Ldn" — an average noise measurement. Metro balked at the absolute maximum, while neighbors pushed for it.

The commission was set to

approve the yard's special exception with the limit set as "Lmax" — with exceptions for certain activities such as the use of horns, the use of heavy equipment to repair tracks and the coupling of rail cars — at its Jan. 21 meeting, when Commissioner Frank de la Fe (Hunter Mill) introduced an amendment that would make the maximum only an average noise reading.

At the Jan. 21 meeting, De la Fe said he thought a maximum allowance of 55 decibels was "well beyond what's reasonable" and would likely delay the opening of the Silver Line. He said Metro had sent a letter saying it might not be able to open the yard until 2017 under such a condition, while the first phase of the new line is to be operational by 2013.

Commissioner James Hart (At-large) agreed. "The numerical value of 55 Lmax is unrealistically low," he said, adding such a standard did not appear to have been applied to any other Metro facility, and that he did not think it was enforceable.

Jay Donahue, commissioner for the Dranesville District, where the rail yard is located, said he had understood that county staff and the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority had agreed on the standard, and he said staff members had told him that a 55 decibels as an absolute maximum was an acceptable standard in the county.

A WEEK LATER, the commission voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that noise from the sound box be limited to 55 decibels and that noise at the yard's perimeter remain "in accordance with the noise or

SEE NOISE, PAGE 7

Library Closes For Renovation

The Dolley Madison Library will close Saturday, March 6, at 5 p.m. for renovation. The bookdrop also will close at that time. Renovations to the branch are expected to take a minimum of 16 months.

While the Dolley Madison Library is closed, customers can visit any of the nearby branches including Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, 703-790-8088 or Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, 703-757-8560. For directions or hours of operation, visit the library's Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

"Our Dolley Madison customers have been eagerly awaiting these renovations and finally the time is at hand," said Edwin S. "Sam" Clay III, director of the Fairfax County Public Library. "Their patience and loyalty will be well rewarded with a state-of-the-art library branch."

Material borrowed from Dolley Madison Library can be returned to any Fairfax County Public Library branch.

Renovations will include an additional 8,348 square feet, additional parking spaces, multiple meeting rooms with additional capacity, modernized facilities and 24 public access computers.

A temporary site for the Dolley Madison Library while it is undergoing renovation has not been confirmed. Updates will be posted to the library's Web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library when new information is available.

MCC Seeks Board Members

The McLean Community Center (MCC) is seeking candidates to run for open seats on its 2010-11 Governing Board. MCC's board provides oversight and guidance for MCC programs and facilities, including the Robert Ames Alden Theatre and the Old Firehouse Teen Center. MCC is a special tax district agency of Fairfax County Government, with its primary location at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

Candidates must be residents of the Center's tax district (Dranesville Small Tax District One) in order to be eligible to run for a seat on the 11-member board. In order to have their names placed on the ballot, candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 McLean tax district residents in their respective categories, either adult or youth. Nominating petition forms will be available at the Center on Monday, Feb. 22, beginning at 9 a.m. The deadline for filing completed petitions is on Friday, March 26, at 5 p.m. Voting will take place during McLean Day on Saturday, May 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road. Absentee Voting also is permitted from Monday, April 12, to Wednesday, May 12.

Four adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Adult candidates must be at least 18 as of McLean Day. Youth candidates must be 15-17 years of age as of McLean Day. One youth member will be elected from the area represented by the McLean High School boundary area and one will be elected from the area represented by the Langley High School boundary area. Youth candidates are not required to attend either school; however, they must reside in the boundary areas served by these schools as defined by Fairfax County Public Schools.

For more information on the MCC Governing Board Election, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Deadline Extended for Play Competition

The McLean Drama company has extended the deadline for the 10-minute play contest to March 1. The winning play will be presented at the Alden Theatre in mid-June following the matinee performance of a full production of "Florida Days".

Entry fees are: McLean residents — \$15, Fairfax County residents — \$20, Washington, D.C., Montgomery County and surrounding areas — \$25.

Submit play accompanied by cover letter with the title and author's resume. Play must not have been presented in any previous performance. Script may only have title of play.

Entries should be mailed to:

McLean Drama Company, PO Box 1103, McLean, VA 22101

Details: <http://www.mcleandramacompany.org>

NEWS

Fairfax Schools See Ups And Downs in Funding Fight

School board lays out budget and Gov. agrees to give Fairfax schools more money.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

While Maryclaire Ramsey appreciates the Fairfax County Public Schools is in a difficult budget position, she also wishes she saw more outside-the-box thinking from the school administration and school board members.

"I don't feel like they are taking a good, hard, long look at operations on a higher level," said Ramsey, who lives in the Fox Mill area of Oak Hill.

Instead of being creative, the school board and schools Superintendent Jack Dale are trotting out the same list of potential cuts — popular programs like elementary school foreign language instruction — that they do whenever they face a budget downturn, according to Ramsey.

A skeptic might think the school board does this because it scares parents and motivates them to go to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to advocate for more money to be transferred to the school system.

Ramsey, for her part, resents the fact that releasing a list of vulnerable programs tends to pit one parent community against another at a time when the school advocates should be working together.

"Everybody is going to have their favorite program. How do you tell parents that freshman sports is more important than band?" she said.

Instead, Ramsey wishes the school board offered more creative solutions to solving the current budget crisis. She would like the school board to explore "revenue generation" or offer more cuts to the central administration for example.

For her and many others, the current school budget proposal offers the same, old-way of thinking.

STARTING NEXT YEAR, it seems almost certain that Fairfax County students have to pay a fee to play high school sports and advanced placement tests.

The Fairfax County School Board voted on its initial budget request to the Board of Supervisors at a Feb. 4 meeting, laying out those programs it intends to ask the county to fund and those it will

The Fairfax Schools Budget So Far ...

The Fairfax County School Board took its first pass at its operating budget for the 2010-2011 school year during a Feb. 4 meeting, tacking on approximately \$23 million in additional spending to the plan originally proposed last month.

Schools Superintendent Jack Dale had presented a \$2.3 billion budget for Fairfax County Public Schools in January. Dale's plan included \$100 million in spending reductions and a request for the Fairfax County government to provide \$57.8 million more to the school system than it did last year.

Fairfax County already devoted more than 50 percent of county revenue, approximately \$1.7 billion, to the school system last year.

The school board amended Dale's proposal slightly, deciding it could not live with some of the cuts that the superintendent had proposed, and asking for more from the county. The school board increased the public schools' funding request to the county by \$81 million over what was provided last year.

During its own budget deliberations, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will decide how much of the county's total revenue to give to the school system. If the amount of funding is less than the school system requested, the school board will have to make additional cuts to the budget currently proposed in the late spring.

The following are some of programs and services the school board would use the additional \$23 million from the county to fund and those programs they have agreed to eliminate.

The school board voted to put the following programs and cuts into the budget:

- ❖ \$17.1 million added to avoid increasing class size by an additional student per teacher
- ❖ \$1.4 million added to keep assistant principals positions
- ❖ \$800,000 added for instructional assistant positions
- ❖ \$1.6 million added for instructional coaches positions
- ❖ (\$900,000) reduction via additional cuts for central administration
- ❖ \$2.2 million added for the Foreign Language in Elementary Schools program
- ❖ (\$110,000) reduction, cutting a fifth grade field trip to the International Children's Festival
- ❖ \$250,000 added to help students from Pimmit Hills Alternative High School transition to another campus or program

The school board has agreed to eliminate the following programs:

- ❖ \$1.2 million for "Focus," a special academic program in place in schools with high-risk student populations
- ❖ \$1.3 million for the Extended Learning Program known as Excel, also in place in schools with high-risk student populations
- ❖ \$6.3 million for summer school
- ❖ \$200,000 for two internal auditor positions
- ❖ \$150,000 for a student suspension program

reluctantly agree to cut at this early stage.

There will be new student fees to participate in high school athletics and to take Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests. The school board is moving forward with a plan to eliminate Pimmit Hills Alternative High School and two academic programs in elementary schools with large populations of poor students.

Though the school board can restore such programs after the supervisors approve the public school money transfer in the late spring, it is unlikely board members will have the luxury of restoring funding to programs cut this early on in the budget process.

"We are going to be fighting for any money we can get," said School Board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill).

CURRENT CLASS SIZE, foreign language in elementary schools and freshman sports are among the programs threatened by cuts that so far are still funded.

The school board budget includes a request for \$81 million more from the county than the approximately \$1.7 billion the supervisors gave the school system to operate last year.

Schools Superintendent Jack Dale had originally suggested the school board only ask the county for an additional \$57.8 million and include several more cuts in the budget.

But school board members found several of Dale's cuts — including freshman sports, foreign language in elementary schools and larger class size — to be too drastic. The school board also restored \$3.8 million in funding for instruction assistants, instructional coaches and assistant principals that Dale had proposed to eliminate.

Without full funding, including the extra \$81 million, the school board will argue that many of the undesirable cuts they have avoided will have to be made, said school board members.

SEE FORMULA, PAGE 15



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Total Wine merchandiser Thomas Matecki, left, and assistant manager Brandon Goodworth stayed in town overnight to keep the store open during the snowstorm on the weekend of Feb. 6.

Businesses on Road to Recovery

FROM PAGE 3

frozen behind the store, so he and a few other employees had to unload a dozen pallets of de-icer from a truck by hand. "It's been great for business, don't get me wrong, but it's been taxing," he said.

McMahon said the store's business this time of year, before the planting season begins, is primarily weather-based, and the numbers from last year's February "don't even come close" to this year's. This is in spite of the fact that the store closed over the weekend of Feb. 6 and opened late the following Wednesday, after the second storm. "The only reason we didn't open Saturday and Sunday was that we were out of everything," McMahon said. "I've been here 15 years and I've never seen anything like it."

The nearby Total Wine also saw a rush before the first storm hit, but it was not quite enough to offset the ensuing decline in sales, said assistant manager Brandon Goodworth. He said there had been some concern that the store would lose out on the huge beer sales that normally accompany Super Bowl Sunday. But on Thursday, Feb. 4, when the store was expected to do \$60,000 worth of business, customers spent \$140,000. "It was huge," Goodworth said.

Friday stayed busy until the snow began to fall and, upon closing that night, Goodworth, who lives in Frederick, Md., and a few other employees packed up and spent the night at the nearby Staybridge Suites so the store could reopen the next day. Saturday saw only about \$400 worth of business, much of it from other people staying at the hotel, Goodworth said. Sunday re-

mained slow, and then business picked up a bit until the store shut down due to snow on Wednesday.

ALL TOLD, Goodworth figured sales were down roughly 15 percent across the board. "It hasn't killed us," he said.

The snowstorms even managed to close down Kazan Restaurant, the only restaurant that had remained open while a terrific storm sent all of downtown McLean into a blackout in June of 2008. Owner Zeynel Uzun said Kazan, normally closed on Sunday, had also shut down on Friday, Feb. 5, the following day and last Wednesday due to the snow.

"After 30 years in the restaurant business, I was finally planning to take my wife out to dinner," he said last Sunday. "But since we closed for three days, I decided to open on Valentine's Day." Over the course of this historically snowy winter, he figured he had lost about 10 days' work, and business for the last two months was down about 20 percent. "It's going to be hard to recover," Uzun said.

In order to avoid further losses, he had kept a low inventory throughout the storms so he would not end up throwing away food, he said. As a result, "Some dishes we were out of, and we told [customers] we were out," he said, noting that he had run out of swordfish, among other items, during the storms.

But he said he had taken many reservations for Valentine's Day even though he hadn't advertised the fact that he would be open, and he expressed confidence that the restaurant's long relationship with the community and loyal clientele base would help the business recover from the blow struck by the area's snowiest winter on record.



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New Housing Blueprint

Ending homelessness, moving beyond preservation of affordable housing.

BY SHARON BULOVA

Several years ago, on a freezing February morning, I rode the VRE into Washington, D.C. for a Council of Governments meeting. As I was leaving Union Station, I noticed a middle-aged woman, with sacks of belongings and bedding gathered around her. She was clearly a person with mental illness, muttering to herself and batting the air at imaginary objects.

I remember thinking, "I'm so glad I live in Fairfax County. We have social services programs that would help someone like this woman." But later that week, while jogging down an old alignment of a road near my home, I spotted a tent tucked way back in the woods. It was a homeless person's encampment.

Fairfax County has established a "hypothermia program" to shelter homeless individuals during the cold winter months. The program is a partnership among county agencies, area houses of worship and nonprofit organizations. The hypothermia program has served to crystallize how inadequate our human services network is for dealing with homelessness.

In March 2008, our Board of Supervisors endorsed a "Housing First" strategy to end homelessness as we know it. Working with houses of worship and charitable organiza-



Sharon Bulova

tions, Fairfax County has adopted a strategy for making sure people in our community have a roof over their heads and receive the help they need to get back on their feet.

At our Jan. 26 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a new Housing Blueprint to address the challenge of ensuring there is accessible, affordable housing for all members of our community. Affordable housing was a key topic when the Board considered our current Fiscal Year 2010 budget and the Board dedicated considerable time to discussing housing issues at our post-budget retreat last June.

At the retreat, we agreed that our housing programs must emphasize serving those with the greatest needs, that affordable housing represents a spectrum of needs, and that we can be most effective in accomplishing these goals by working with Faith Community and non-profit partners in the community.

The Housing Blueprint is a strategy for addressing these priorities and represents a new direction compared to the previous policy of

Blueprint Highlights

Resolved: End homelessness; provide affordable housing options to those with special needs; cut the waiting lists for affordable housing in half; produce workforce housing to accommodate projected job growth.

preservation. The new goals stated in the Blueprint are comprehensive: to end homelessness in 10 years, to provide affordable housing options to those with special needs, to cut the waiting lists for affordable housing in half over 10 years, and to produce workforce housing to accommodate projected job growth.

The Blueprint is the product of impressive collaboration by county agencies, concerned citizens, houses of worship and local non-profits. Because of the metrics it includes, the Blueprint sets short and long term goals and can be used to evaluate our programs.

TO VIEW the Housing Blueprint, please visit <http://www.e-ffordable.org/>.

If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer in efforts to address homelessness, the County's Office to End Homelessness can be reached by going to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless>.

Sharon Bulova is chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Voice Vote' vs. Accountability

To the Editor:

In many ways Virginia is a progressive state; it's rated as the best managed state and so forth. But in the area of our state legislator's transparency we are stuck in the past century.

The strong message the voters sent last November is that it's time for a change. During the campaign, candidate McDonnell introduced a "good government" plan to bring more responsibility to Richmond in the way the state budgets and

spends money. Polls show voters favor transparency. The voters have responded well to this.

In the current session of the General Assembly, our signature issue is to stop using Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) federal block grant funds for everything under the sun. Because funds are distributed through "earmarks," we support Del. David Englin's (D-45) proposal (HB 80) for good government and transparency by moving to a competitive TANF Funding Pool. HB 80 would ensure scarce dollars are targeted to effective and efficient programs and would

de-politicize the allocation of these funds. Additionally, the McDonnell Administration and the Department of Social Services supported the bill as a needed accountability reform.

Regrettably, to avoid accountability, on Monday Feb. 8, HB 80 was "tabled by a voice vote" in the House Appropriations subcommittee. Without a recorded vote, it is impossible to know who voted to table. Unfortunately, the legislators who currently have the power to direct "earmarks" are also the legislators who must approve reforming the earmark process.

It is amazing how legislators

who profess to support accountability will not vote yes for good policy. They can get away with this because with "the voice vote" their votes are never recorded. Unless you get up at the crack of dawn and are lucky enough to get into the meeting room to see the vote occur, or have a video recorder it's nearly impossible to know what happened. Even being in the room is no guarantee.

The question is one of accountability. The public ought to know what happened.

John Horejsi

Coordinator, Social Action Linking Together, Vienna

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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.

SATURDAY/FEB. 20

McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women Monthly Meeting. 9:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The program will focus on being a Muslim woman in Northern Virginia, with speaker Wafika Albani, Fairfax County Public Schools Translator and Parent Liaison. The community is welcome. 703-830-6503 or www.mcleanaauw.org.

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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

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To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
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NEWS

Noise Ordinance Reviewed

FROM PAGE 3

“The noise ordinance was written in terms of Lmax, not Ldn,” Donahue said in a later interview, adding that the condition had been waived when the Metro yard was first approved in 1985. “We wanted to make sure the ordinance was applied as it was written.”

Commissioner Walter Alcorn (At-large) said the noise ordinance had been the subject of much discussion lately. “I very much encourage staff to expedite that review,” he said.

He said any changes to the noise ordinance would also be brought before the Planning Commission.

“The noise ordinance was written in terms of Lmax, not Ldn,” Donahue said in a later interview, adding that the condition had been waived when the Metro yard was first approved in 1985. “We wanted to make sure the ordinance was applied as it was written.”

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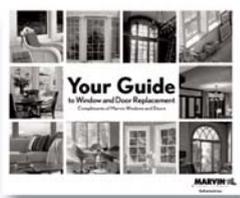
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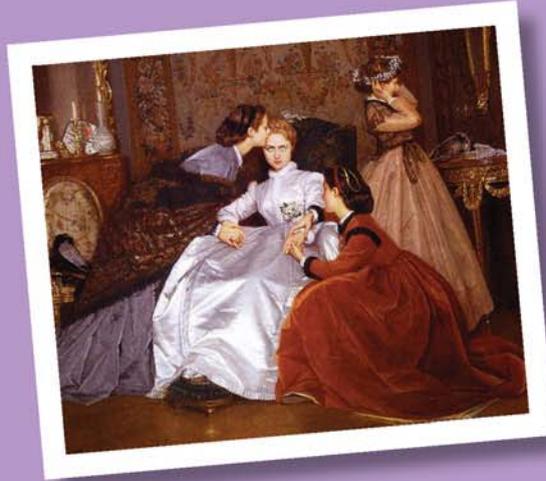
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PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER GOVERNING BOARD

SMALL TAX DISTRICT ONE OF THE DRANESVILLE DISTRICT

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

NOTICE is hereby given to residents of Small Tax District One of the Dranesville District, Fairfax County, Virginia, of an election to select members of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center, which is a Special District Agency of Fairfax County, Virginia. The election is authorized by a Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on February 8, 1984, and will be held on **McLean Day**, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia, at the following date and time:

Saturday, May 15, 2010, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Residents also will be able to vote by absentee ballot. Absentee Ballot Applications will be available at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia, beginning on **Monday, April 12, 2010**, at 9 a.m. Absentee ballots must be returned by **Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at 5 p.m.**

The election will determine which Small Tax District One residents will join the 11-member Governing Board. The number and categories of Board seats to be filled through the election are as follows:

Four (4) adult residents of Small Tax District One who are at least eighteen (18) years of age as of McLean Day. The candidates who receive the three-highest vote counts will serve three-year (3) terms; the candidate with the fourth-highest vote count will complete a two-year (2), unexpired term.

Two (2) youth residents of Small Tax District One between fifteen (15) and seventeen (17) years of age (as of McLean Day) will serve one-year (1) terms. One youth resident shall be elected from the area represented by the McLean High School boundary area, and one youth resident shall be elected from the area represented by the Langley High School boundary area. The high school areas are set out in the current edition of the Approved Boundaries of the Fairfax County Public Schools. Youth candidates need not attend either school, but, are required to live within the Approved Boundaries of the aforementioned schools as defined by Fairfax County Public Schools.

All residents seeking election to the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center shall file a completed petition to be received at the address below **on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, March 26, 2010**:

McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

Nominating Petitions may be obtained at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia, beginning at 9 a.m. on **Monday, Feb. 22, 2010**.

Individuals seeking to become candidates for a seat on the Governing Board shall obtain the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small Tax District One. For youths seeking to become candidates for a seat on the Governing Board, the signatures shall be from ten (10) residents of Small Tax District One who are between 15 to 17 years of age as of McLean Day, and who reside within the boundaries of the high school area in which the candidate lives.

All petitions will be certified on **Friday, March 26, 2010**, by the Election Committee, and names of candidates will subsequently be published in newspapers having general circulation in the Dranesville District.

Candidate photos will be taken at the McLean Community Center on **Saturday, March 27, 2010**, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Alternatively, candidates may submit their own (passport-type) color photographs to the McLean Community Center not later than 5 p.m. on **Friday, March 26, 2010**. High-resolution (300 dpi) headshots (no larger than 4"x 6") may be E-mailed to mail@mcleancenter.org, by the same date.

All residents of Small Tax District One of the Dranesville District are eligible to vote for candidates in their respective categories: adult and youth.

***Adult:** Any resident who is eighteen (18) years of age or older as of McLean Day; and

***Youth:** Any resident who is fifteen (15) through seventeen (17) years of age as of McLean Day. Youths may vote for one candidate from each high school boundary area.

Verification of age and residence shall be determined from driver's license, student identification card, birth certificate, or other satisfactory evidence. A verification process also is required for residents choosing to apply for absentee voting.

The complete results of the election will be reported by the McLean Community Center's Election Committee to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at their next regular meeting following the election. At that meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, after determining that it is in the public interest to do so, shall appoint those persons receiving the greatest number of votes in their respective categories (adults and youth) to the McLean Community Center Governing Board. Said certification for this election shall be effective upon action by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Chair
Election Committee

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/FEB. 18

Potomac Rose Society Meeting and Rose Growing Program. 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Recommended roses for 2010, hybrid teas, floribundas, old garden roses and more. Free and open to all. 301-869-4948 or www.potomacrose.org.

VTGCC Valentine's Luncheon with the Vienna Choral Society. 11:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. Enjoy a Valentine treat for your heart, soul and appetite. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

Sharon G. Flake: You Don't Even Know Me. 7 p.m. Barnes & Noble Books, 7851L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. crm2238@bn.com.

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

Artisan Jeweler JJ Singh. 7 p.m. at McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Working with outdated or broken jewelry, Singh redesigns pieces into one-of-a-kind statement necklaces. At the end of the presentation she will do a real time 're-design' demonstration. \$10 per person. 703-790-1953.

Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.' 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances canceled due to snow will be



Brittany's Singer Nolwenn Monjarret performs on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls.

honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

FRIDAY/FEB. 19

The Bigger Lights, Sing Me Insomnia and Action Item. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

The D.R.A.M.A Kings and The Blackjacks. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.' 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances canceled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

SATURDAY/FEB. 20

Simply Sinatra, with the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra and Vocalist Steve Lippia. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4500 University Drive, Fairfax. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$21-\$42. Charge at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

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.

Minh 'Dreamgirl's Heart' CD Release. 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Rocknecros Family Happy Hour. 7

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

Middle East MicFest Tour 2010. 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$12 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Line dance lessons at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11:00 p.m. \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members, and \$5 for ages 16-20 with student ID. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

Family Reunion Workshop. 7:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Premiere Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Co-hosted by Reunions Magazine, the workshop includes a presentation by Edith Wagner, as well as tips in planning a family reunion. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all attendees. Pre-register by email to dmiller@fxva.com.

Langley High School Fashion Show. 7 p.m. at Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Tickets \$10. tricia.poythress@fcp.edu.

Washington DC Childhelp 5th Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show. 10 a.m. at the Sheraton Premiere, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Vendors, raffle, silent auction and more. www.childhelpdc.org/fashion-show.

Legal Aspects of Child Support, Custody, and Visitation. 10 a.m. at 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. \$45 nonmember, \$30 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657

Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.' 2 p.m.

and 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances canceled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

SUNDAY/FEB. 21

Unchained Memories. 2 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. A movie and discussion on slave narratives. With historian Felicia A. Bell, Ph.D., Director of Education and Outreach for the U. S. Capitol Historical Society. Age 12 and up. Free, register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-293-6227.

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.

Singer and dancer Nolwenn Monjarret. 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.

The Northern Virginia NTRAK Model Train Club. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. N Scale Model Trains will be running in both the station and the caboose. \$2 for adults, \$1 ages 4-10. 703-425-9225.

Alternative Takes: An Acoustic Evening with The Verve Pipe. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$17 advance, \$20 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

The Year of the Tiger Celebrated

Peking Imperial Restaurant celebrates Chinese New Year.

By WILLIAM MARTIN
THE CONNECTION

McLean's Peking Imperial restaurant was host to some strange visitors: Two richly adorned Chinese lions, accompanied by drummers, wandered through the dining area and adjoining pub, granting good fortune to all attendees in celebration of the Chinese New Year.

Whether there for the luck or for the spectacle, residents were especially keen on coming this year, and the dining hall found itself completely booked despite icy road conditions.

"It's a very family oriented event," said Charles Lo, whose father manages the McLean restaurant. "People flock from all over every year ... [they come here to] celebrate with family and to eat home-style Chinese and share with food."

The restaurant had lion dances every year until it was discontinued in 1996. "Last year, with the huge recession we thought it would be a good opportunity to bring it back," said Lo.

The din of crashing cymbals, drumming and chanting coupled with the strange yet graceful lions is a rare spectacle in McLean. Each customer was given a hong bao, a lucky red envelope, which the lions would gobble in a way reminiscent of a shy animal.

The Lo family also own the pub, simply known as "The Pub" next door, so the lion dancers would occasionally move the festivities over there.

The restaurant has customers who come every year for Chinese New Year. Customers like Josh Gill, who has been a regular for five years, had planned on coming especially for Chinese New Year. "I bring a lot of friends," he said.

Many of the customers remembered the lion dances a decade ago and remembered bringing their families. "We come here every new year if we can," said customer Walt Hall said.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM MARTIN/THE CONNECTION

The two lions are pictured here, facing each other. The dancers occasionally put on some acrobatics, such as balancing on the other dancer's knees.

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Concerts at the Alden

Sunday, Feb. 21, 3 p.m.

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Run for a Seat on the MCC Governing Board!

Nominating petitions will be available beginning on Monday, Feb. 22

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

Closure Notice:

The Old Firehouse Teen Center is closed and all activities and events have been canceled due to the recent snowstorm. For updates on when the facility will reopen, check the OFTC Web page or call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY 711.

The McLean Community Center
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Burke-Fairfax, VA Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc., Black History Forum 2010. 3 p.m. at the Flint Hill School, Olson Theatre, 10400 Academic Drive, Oakton. Black history trivia competition and celebration of African-American history with contestants from area high schools. Speaker, Dr. Greg E. Carr, Chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies at Howard University. Free. Register at Black.History.Forum@gmail.com.

Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.' 2 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and

seniors \$3. Tickets to performances canceled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

MONDAY/FEB. 22

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

TUESDAY/FEB. 23

Paul Elliott: 60 Hikes Within 60 Miles, Washington, DC; including Suburban and Outlying Areas of Maryland and Virginia and Easy Hikes Close to Home. 6 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple

Ave. East, Vienna. Free, register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-938-0405.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 24

Steve Moakler, Ben Rector and Andrew Ripp. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

Trevor Hall and Jer Coons. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.



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Snow Day Make Ups Considered

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale was scheduled to release his plan for coping with instructional time lost to snow days at the local school board's Feb. 17 meeting. The school board will vote on a final solution March 4.

Virginia requires school system to provide approximately 180 days — or an equivalent number of hours — in instruction. Fairfax County builds 183 days of instruction into its calendar in anticipation of snow cancellations.

But the school board said it exhausted its three "extra" snow days in December, when another large snowstorm hit. Legally, it will have to find a way to make up many, though not necessarily, all of the snow days missed since then.

According to School Board president Kathy Smith (Sully), the fourth and fifth days of school missed because of snow in one year have to be made up.

"I have never seen us miss this many snow days. We had one year where we went through 10 days but I think we are going to have more than that," said School Board member Jane Strauss (Dranesville), who has served since the early 1990s.

Several school board members are concerned that another major storm may hit the region, causing students to miss even more class.

"Virginia says we have to have 180 days. I don't know what we do if this keeps going," said Smith.

Dale had not released his proposal at the time The Connection Newspapers went to press but several school board members said he was probably considering lengthening the school day for the rest of the year as well as adding on school days in June.

According to Strauss, any solution is likely to irritate parents.

In the past, parents and teachers have not been willing to give up parts of spring break to make up snow days. They have also been unhappy about an extension to the school day when it was used in prior years. Simply adding extra days onto the end of the school year also doesn't seem viable.

"I am pretty sure we are not going to extend the school year into July," said School Board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill).

Just adding school days onto the end of the year would also do very little to assist high school student who have to prepare for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams in the late spring. The tests take place on a national schedule and cannot be moved back as a result of the snowstorm.

"I think you are going to see some high school students coming into school on Saturdays so they can be ready for those AP and IB tests," said Strauss.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

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Qualifications: 7+ yrs. experience in electrical, emergency power systems, energy management, general repairs and fire safety; good understanding of MEP and architectural drawings; Good written & verbal communication skills and proficiency w./MS office suite; Knowledge of life safety codes preferred; valid driver's license required; Employment contingent upon successful drug test and criminal/background check.

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Via email- HRMail@MountVernon.org,

or fax- 703.780.8320. Applications may be downloaded and printed from the website (under employment) at www.MountVernon.org

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A Mutiny on this Bounty



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Now I don't want to pick on a paper towel any more than I have to, especially when it comes to First Amendment rights, but if they can print it, I can certainly talk about/object to it; Fletcher Christian (Clark Gable) wouldn't have it any other way. I don't know if anybody's noticed, I only have of late, but on some of the paper towel rolls in my last "8-like-getting-12" jumbo pack, there were sayings, expressions, philosophical points of view (albeit with a garden theme for some reason), about how to live that I found somewhat objectionable. Not quite intrusive or offensive, but inappropriate somehow.

Who exactly is a paper towel manufacturer to advise me on how to live my daily life, in or out of the garden? What follows are their exact words: "No two days are the same in one garden." "No two gardens are the same." "You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt." "The flowers of all tomorrows are the seeds of today." "Friends are flowers in a life's garden." As my recently deceased mother might have said, and I quote, "Puke city." Is there a reason why, as a paper towel-buyer, I am being subjected to, proselytized to even, concerning my life (with the garden serving as some kind of metaphor)? I'm not looking for absorption here, I'm looking for absorption, not some observance to some subtle code of conduct. Hubris could not be more clearly evident than when a paper product, a disposable "quicker picker upper," presumes to pontificate in print for its buyers, who are presumably not yet aware. Caveat Emptor has just taken on a whole new meaning, for me. I used to be careful what I wished for; now apparently, I have to be careful about the reasons the manufacturers are selling their products for.

I naively thought that their reasons were product performance, market share, profitability, jobs, retirement, maybe even improving/enhancing their buyers' quality of life vis-à-vis the use of an affordable and effective product. I never thought it was for mind control. Who do they think they are? They're making paper towels (napkins, toilet paper, tissue, etc.); they're not feeding the homeless/changing the world. They're providing goods and services for it, not providing answers to philosophical questions. Have they all of a sudden begun to think of themselves as role models of altruism? Has the pursuit of the almighty buck empowered them to believe they have powers beyond their receipt of dollars and the sense that it accrues? Is there some sort of entitlement which their success has created/spawned? I realize money is paper (linen, actually), but what do they hope to gain (other than more paper/currency) by preaching more than cleanliness?

Oh, I just got it. Since cleanliness is next to Godliness, I suppose the manufacturer figured that they would straddle that blurry line between business and religion (the commercial equivalent of church and state) to win friends and influence lots of people, and hopefully generate profits in the process. "Not a sermon, just a thought."

Whether I'm tilting at windmills here or making much to do about nothing is for readers/buyers to assess. My objection to this paper-towel ploy is really about abuse of power. Just because your product makes it into my home on a regular basis, don't think for a minute that you can influence what we think before or after we actually use it. However, if I have any philosophical questions or concerns in the interim, I'll make sure to call the 800 number listed on your package.

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

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SCHOOLS



Pictured from left, first row, Belen Dentzel-Helmy, Reese Bernstein, Jacque Im, Eliza Soutter and Olivia Herbolich; second row, Sam Yi, Zhenya Dodzin, Colleen Boyle, Deena Daneshvaziri and Dillon Kaldez.

Churchill Road Students Celebrate China Day

On Jan. 28, Churchill Road Elementary third graders celebrated China Day as the culminating activity for their inquiry study of Ancient China. Students presented their research projects in the morning, followed by a quick tutorial on how to use chopsticks, and then a feast of take-out Chinese food. Students also drew Chinese characters on their placemats and cups while Chinese music played in the background. Colleen Boyle's students shared in a special treat. The children enjoyed the homemade spring rolls from Yue Gerrard and the dessert of green tea and mandarin cups, courtesy of Trish Yi.



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).

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.

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SPORTS

Ready Or Not, High School Sports Teams Enter Playoffs

Following a week-plus of inactivity due to snowfall, Northern Region squads must immediately turn it on again for the postseason.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

For Fairfax County high school sports teams, last week's snow storm brought seasons to an abrupt halt just as they were preparing to wind down regular season schedules and head into district postseason competition.

The momentum and continuity of the winter athletic seasons evaporated as snow continued to rise in accumulation and intensity. Most student-athletes remained at home over the week-and-a-half period as schools closed and extracurricular activities, including sports practices and contests, were postponed or canceled.

"We played last Thursday [Feb. 4]. Then there was no contact with the kids until Saturday [Feb. 13] when we practiced," said Jim Smith, the Chantilly High boys' basketball coach. "I would send out e-mails [to the team] and things like that."

Since late November, local high school teams throughout Northern Virginia have practiced almost daily and competed in games or meets once or twice a week. Then, all of a sudden, it all came to the weather-related halt. Coaches or players could do little except to stay at home and wait for things to clear up outdoors. Fairfax County schools were closed throughout last week. Monday, Feb. 15 was President's Day so students were not expected to get back into school until the following day.

At Centreville High, members of the indoor track and field team had actually considered the possibility of weather problems later in the season.

"We have discussed all season how unpredictable the weather can be and how flexible we must be with our training [and] how we must be diligent about keeping our fitness levels up," wrote Kelley Devlin, a Centreville track and field assistant coach, in an e-mail. "We can't afford to take multiple day breaks. Our team is very good with using cross training machines — ellipticals, treadmills, bikes — if not in their own home, at a neighbor or friend's close by. Or when the roads are safe, they get to a gym or find some safe streets that are close to clear to run on."

Devlin was pleased with how the Wildcat athletes responded to the school and activities' shutdown.

"They have done a wonderful job sticking together and using indoor track facilities in the area to get track workouts in when possible and the parents have been extremely supportive with transporting them," she said.

Centreville, along with the other track programs in the area, concluded their respective postseason district championship meets on Thursday, Feb. 11, just before the latest snow fall hit the area in what has been



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The No. 4-seed Langley High Saxons will be at home versus No. 5 McLean in a first round Liberty District girls' basketball game on Thursday night, Feb. 18, at 5:45 p.m.

a record-breaking winter of accumulation in this part of the state. The Northern Region track and field championships are scheduled to take place this Saturday, Feb. 20 at the George Mason University field house.

"We are incredibly thankful to have gotten our district meet in," said Devlin, who saw the Wildcat boys' team garner a first place tie with Robinson at districts. "The runners are highly motivated after much success at the district level. They know they have unfinished business at the regional meet, and are prepared to race hard to get to the Virginia State meet."

BASKETBALL DISTRICT tournaments are slated to begin this week. In the Concorde District, teams' district records over the first round of the regular season schedule are being used to determine tournament seeding. Any games played over the second half of the regular season district schedule do not count toward postseason seeding. In the case of the Chantilly boys' team (13-6 overall record), that meant recent district wins over Oakton on Feb. 4 and Robinson on Jan. 28 got wiped off the board in regards to tournament seeding.

The top-seed Herndon boys and the No. 2-seed Centreville team both were scheduled to receive first round byes in this week's six-team Concorde tournament. Chantilly, the No. 3 seed, was scheduled to host No. 6 Robinson in a district quarterfinals round game on Wednesday, Feb. 17, while No. 4 Oakton was set to host No. 5 Westfield in the other quarterfinals. Wednesday's winners will advance to Friday's semifinals round and a seeding at next week's 16-team Northern Region tournament. Meanwhile, Wednesday's district

quarterfinals round losing teams will see their seasons end.

It might not seem fair that teams that have not played in 11 days all of a sudden have to compete in a do-or-die district playoff game. But that's the way it is for teams in the Concorde and elsewhere. Teams are in the same quandary as a result of the final week-and-a-half of the regular seasons being wiped out.

Smith, the Chantilly coach and the former head coach at McLean High, said it was good to get back onto the practice floor on Saturday. Like other coaches across the region, he hopes his team will be ready to jump into playoff action following the long layoff.

"It's kind of hard to gage the emotional tempo of the team," said Smith. "But I thought we had a great practice [although] the kids got tired quickly and the conditioning was a little bit of a factor."

Smith told his players, weather problems or not, just one district champion will be crowned in each of the region's four districts — the Concorde, Liberty, Patriot and National.

"The thing I said to my kids on Saturday [at practice] is that there will be four district champions, and the following week there will be one region champion," said Smith. "The teams that win [championships] will be the teams that navigated best and did not allow [the schedule disruptions due to the snow] to be a distraction. There is nothing we can do about [the past two weeks] or change. Our next step is to get ready for Robinson."

Tim Anderson, the Langley High girls' basketball coach, said the biggest factor going into district tournament play following the less than ideal conclusion to the regular season is to excel in basics.

"The bottom line is to execute on the floor," said Anderson, whose Saxons were set to host cross-town rival McLean in a Liberty District tournament contest Thursday, Feb. 18, at 5:30 p.m. "And, if you don't win, your season's over."

Anderson said his squad, which had its first practice in over a week this past Saturday, was not overly distracted by the unusual end to the regular season.

"Our girls on the varsity team practiced on Saturday and we had a normal practice," he said. "They seem to really roll with things pretty well when they know [the weather is] something they can't control. The thing that is frustrating for them is that they have missed school and classes, and they've missed the practices and games."

The following Liberty District girls' basketball tournament first round games were scheduled for this Thursday night, Feb. 18: No. 8-seed Jefferson at top seed Madison (7 p.m.); No. 5 McLean at No. 4 Langley (5:45 p.m.); No. 6 Fairfax at No. 3 Stone Bridge (5:45 p.m.); and No. 7 Marshall at

No. 2 South Lakes (7 p.m.).

The girls' semifinals will take place the following night (Friday) at Madison High School. The first game will start at 5:45 p.m.

The Liberty District boys' first round playoff games will also take place on Thursday and are as follows: No. 8 Madison at top seed Langley (7:30 p.m.); No. 5 South Lakes at No. 4 Fairfax (7 p.m.); No. 6 McLean at No. 3 Stone Bridge (7:30 p.m.); and No. 7 Jefferson at No. 2 Marshall (7 p.m.).

The Liberty boys' semifinals games will be held on Friday night at South Lakes. The first game will start at 5:45 p.m.

The boys' and girls' district finals will take place next Monday evening, Feb. 22 at South Lakes. The girls' title game will be at 5:45 p.m., followed by the boys' championship.

WRESTLING, as a result of the long layoff, was scheduled to forego its district tournaments and, instead, have an expanded Super Regional's tournament on Tuesday, Feb. 16 and Wednesday, Feb. 17 of this week at Fairfax High School. Then, in a quick turnaround, the state AAA tournament is set to take place this Friday and Saturday at Robinson Secondary School.

This week's region meet was to consist of 32 wrestlers competing at each weight class with the top four advancing to states. The field of 32 wrestlers at each weight class is double the usual number of 16 wrestlers who would compete at regionals in a normal year.

Wrestlers were set to miss school on Tuesday for the first round of region matches. Many of the athletes were planning to report with their teams to Fairfax as early as 6 a.m. And some will be there as late as midnight. Those wrestlers who qualify for states later in the week will miss school on Friday as well.

Mike Gonzales, the Herndon High wrestling coach, said his team members were getting emotionally geared for the postseason districts and regionals before the snow storm buried the end of the regular season and forced cancellation of districts. The coach said his Hornets have done a good job of re-grouping for the revamped postseason.

"There was a lot of momentum going into the postseason," said Gonzales. "Then you get a week off and feel you have to get back in shape again. But they're ready. The kids who are [usually] motivated will still be motivated. The kids I have are motivated and see the opportunity of making it to states."

Other region wrestling tournaments across Virginia took place this past weekend. Those wrestlers will have close to a week to get ready for the state meet. Northern Region wrestlers, on the other hand, still have to compete at regionals and then, for those who qualify, get right back into action again two days later at states. "This wacky schedule will work as a disadvantage, especially at a high level of wrestling," said Gonzales, of Northern Region wrestlers who qualify for states. "They'll only have one day off."

Formula for Partial Relief

FROM PAGE 4

SEVERAL SUPERVISORS said it is unlikely Fairfax will give the school system an extra \$81 million, especially when other county agencies and departments are seeing cuts in their funding.

"I think trying to provide an extra \$81 million in funding would be extremely difficult to do in this economic climate. Our board has to be sensitive to taxpayers who are struggling to pay their mortgages and stay in their homes," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D- At-large.)

Fairfax County already allocates more than half of its general funding to the public school system annually. Since the residential real estate tax generates most of the county revenue, an increase in schools funding would most likely correspond to an increase in real property tax rate for homeowners.

According to county officials, \$81 million is equal to increasing property taxes approximately four cents per \$100 of assessed property value this year.

Some supervisors questioned

whether the school board had really made all the cuts it could, particularly when it came to central administration staff.

"Until the school system looks at their administrative costs, I think this school board will be hard pressed to spend an additional \$81 million on the school system," said Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield).

When compared to Dale's budget proposal, the school board did vote to reduce spending on central administration functions by \$900,000 in order to fund other programs, according to school system documents.

Still, other supervisors appeared to be questioning whether the school board had looked at all of its options.

"I have serious questions about cost and whether there are things not on the table to be cut," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

GOV. BOB McDONNELL (R) did offer a silver lining in the discussion about schools funding late in the day on Feb. 8.

McDonnell supports restoring

the Virginia state education funding formula to its original 2010 proportions, which means Fairfax will get a larger slice of the financial pie of education funding coming out of Richmond.

Last December, former Gov. Tim Kaine (D) proposed "freezing" the education funding formula to proportions used last year, protecting funding for several school districts downstate from losing money but costing Fairfax County Public Schools \$61 million.

It is unclear whether Fairfax will receive the full \$61 million now that McDonnell has "unfrozen" the formula. In light of a massive budget shortfall, the Virginia General Assembly could cut education funding overall, meaning the pool of money for all school districts may shrink.

But Fairfax County will still receive more money than the locality would have, if McDonnell had stuck to Kaine's original proposal.

"By unfreezing the formula, the Governor had made sure we will see additional money or, at least, some more money that we would have otherwise expected for our school system," said Bulova.

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Churches- Unitarian Universalist
Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
703-892-2565

Churches-United Methodist
Charles Wesley United Methodist
...703-356-6336
Calvary United Methodist...703-892-5185
Cherrydale United Methodist...703-527-2621
Chesterbrook United Methodist
...703-356-7100
Clarendon United Methodist...703-527-8574
Community United Methodist...703-527-1085
Mt. Olivet United Methodist...703-527-3934
Trinity United Methodist...703-356-3312
Walker Chapel United Methodist
...703-538-5200

Churches- United Church of Christ
Bethel United Church of Christ
...703-528-0937
Rock Spring Congregational
United Church of Christ...703-538-4886

Metaphysical
Arlington Metaphysical Chapel
...703-276-8738

**Presbyterian Church
in America Churches**
Christ Church of Arlington...703-527-0420

Synagogues - Conservative
Congregation Etz Hayim...703-979-4466

Synagogues - Orthodox
Fort Myer Minyan...703-863-4520
Chabad Luvavitch of Alexandria-Arlington
...703-370-2774

Synagogue - Reconstructionist
Kol Ami, the North Virginia
Reconstructionist Community
... 571-271-8387

Saint Ann Catholic Church

SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM
1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy
5312 North 10th Street
Arlington Virginia 22205
Parish Office: (703) 528-6276

DAILY EUCHARIST:

Weekdays
Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM
Saturday, 8:30 AM

All Are
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PARISH WEBSITE:
www.rc.net/arlington/stann

To highlight your Faith Community call Karen at 703-917-6468

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