

# Summer on A High Note

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PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13

Vanya Barrer, 11, of McLean, far left, gives a smile to the photographer as his colleagues in the cello section prepare to play their part of the piece the group is practicing for their upcoming concert. From left, Miranda Fletcher, 10, of McLean, Erin Villaronga, 10, of McLean and Bradley Kim, 10, of Vienna all agree with Vanya that the best part of camp is playing the music and learning new pieces.

## Immersed In German

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## Schools, Communities Go Wireless

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# NEWS

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

The light pole to the far left has been outfitted with wireless equipment. It overlooks the football field behind Langley High School, and serves as a nighttime illumination for the field, as well as wireless communication for the community and a revenue stream for the school.

The pole to the far left is a Smartpole at McLean High School. It has been placed right next to a light pole for the athletic field.

## Schools, Communities Go Wireless

Smartpoles provide increased coverage, neighbors raise safety concerns.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

As cell phone voice usage declines and smartphones like iPhones, BlackBerrys and Droids become increasingly popular, the current cell phone coverage is struggling to keep up with increased data use. That's where a company like Milestone Communications comes in, and as they help increase cell and Internet coverage, they can also help struggling public and private institutions.

According to the FCC, cell phone voice usage has been declining since 2007, while at the same time data consumption has risen and wireless networks have gotten almost six times faster.

"For the first time, consumers are driving the bus, and the providers are trying to play catch-up," said Milestone CEO Len Forkas. "People want to have information around them at all times. In the future, wireless communications are going to be utilities as important as power and water."

Since only so much data can go through a standard cell tower, Milestone has been searching for ways to get more coverage into an area. They came up with Smartpoles, which are wireless towers that can be adapted to existing facilities.

**PLACES** like schools and parks have the space to incorporate such towers, and they also are close to where the consumers live and work. Fairfax County Schools have started putting Smartpoles on their properties, adding them to places such as stadium light poles, which are already in place.

Milestone pays the schools for the right to put these poles there, and so far, they have made \$4 million for Fairfax County Schools. Milestone gives 40 percent of the revenue to the facility, which can average out to about \$36,000 a year per pole.

"It's a nice partnership, a win-win. The communities get coverage, and the schools get a predictable revenue stream at a time when it's needed," Forkas said.

Schools such as Langley, McLean, Centreville, South Lakes and Chantilly High Schools have already added these towers, and most of them blend in with regular surroundings. They've also been used in parks all around the Washington, D.C. area.

"It's been a positive experience for the schools, in these economic times, the money can go a long way,"

said Tom Casey, who coordinates the projects from the Fairfax County School side.

Sometimes the poles look like trees, or light poles, but Forkas said the main goal is to make it as invisible as possible.

"We pick a spot and we blend in with the environment as much as possible," Forkas said. "We can't make them invisible, but we can mitigate a lot of the visual impact."

With Milestone taking care of all installation costs, it also eases the burden on utility companies, such as the Northern Virginia Electrical Cooperative.

"Any new structure requires capital investment, and we end up not having to put that investment in place," said Michael Daily, vice president for business development for NOVEC.

**A MAJOR CONCERN** for parents and neighbors has been the safety of the poles. The concern is that the signals coming from the towers will have health impacts on the students who spend their days at the schools.

"As neighbors we are naturally concerned about property values and potential safety," said Cyndee Lord, who lives adjacent to Longfellow Middle School, where a tower had been proposed. "We were told that under federal law, we can't protest the tower on grounds of 'health hazards.' Still, we feel there will always be a perceived health hazard, which will affect our home values, never mind the possible dangers to children that might not yet be known."

Matt Butcher, the vice president of engineering and development for SiteSafe, a firm that provides compliance solutions for wireless carriers, said there are no safety issues created by the poles.

"We do analysis of radio frequency radiation in the vicinity of these types of poles," Butcher said. "There's very little energy that even reaches the ground immediately below the poles. It's so little that we have to use special equipment to even pick it up."

"The amount of frequency put out is much less than a wireless router, and there are more than 4,000 of those in Fairfax County Schools, so the towers are safe," Forkas said. "Our goal is to create as much transparency in the approval process as possible."

Additional towers have been proposed at local schools such as Sandburg, Longfellow and Irving Middle Schools and Madison High School. For more information on the Smartpoles, as well as a list of public meetings about future projects, visit [www.smartpoles.info](http://www.smartpoles.info).



George A. Sachs

## MCC Appoints New Executive Director

George A. Sachs appointed to the post.

The McLean Community Center (MCC) Governing Board named George A. Sachs the center's new executive director at the board's July 28 meeting. Sachs has served as acting executive director since April 1.

In February 2009, Sachs was hired as the center's intergenerational program director. In that position, he oversaw programming and services in all areas of youth, senior and family programming, including the Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC), a satellite facility. He's made several improvements to the management of the center's summer camp and after school programs and has overseen the upgrading of OFTC's computer lab and a number of renovations to the facility.

"George Sachs has made our decision to appoint him an easy one," said MCC Governing Board Chair David Sanders. "Under his leadership as acting executive director, he has performed at a very high level. Prior to that, George did an outstanding job in modernizing and improving the operations of our Old Firehouse Teen Center. George's experience, energy,

effectiveness and sound judgment will serve the Center well as we go forward with our plans to continuously improve the cultural, educational and recreational offerings to the residents of McLean."

Sachs previously served as the center's deputy director for four years (1991-94), administering the facilities, overseeing the operating budget and supervising program directors. Prior to rejoining MCC, he was co-owner and chief financial officer of LifeQuest Swim and Fitness Club in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where he directed operations and oversaw bookkeeping and contracts.

**"George Sachs has made our decision to appoint him an easy one."**

— MCC Governing Board Chair David Sanders

Under his administration, the club sponsored and supported several community events, such as the annual Columbus Day Sprint Triathlon, the Blue Crab Festival and the Shrimp and Jazz Festival.

In addition, he has occupied management positions with George Mason University (adjunct professor for Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services and associate athletic director for Recreation/Sports and Facilities), Fairfax County Department of Recreation and Community Services (recreation specialist) and Fairfax County Park Authority (manager, Wakefield Park and Recreation Center).

For more information on the center's programs and services, visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

# MPAartfest to Feature 44 Artists

Selected artists include 12 from McLean/Great Falls area.

**M**PAartfest juror Trudi Van Dyke has selected 44 artists to participate in the fourth annual MPAartfest on Sunday, Oct. 3, 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in McLean Central Park.

Van Dyke, an Independent curator and fine arts consultant said, "As always, the MPA is a magnet for all good things art and the applications submitted to MPAartfest were no exception. It was both an outstanding opportunity and awesome responsibility to select from a broad pool of artists. I am looking forward to joining the community in attending this great festival."

Of the selected artists, twelve are from the McLean/Great Falls area and sixteen are new to MPAartfest.

## MPAartfest artists for 2010 include:

Banks, Jill, oil painting; Barbieri, Ann, abstract painting and drawing; Brown, Tavia, jewelry; Bucci, Thomas, printmaking monoprints; Burke, Cynthia, painting; Burris, Eric, mokume gane jewelry; Campello, F. Lennox, drawing; Cassidy, Katie, oil and acrylic painting; Ciminio, Lisa, jewelry; Deans, Karen, oil on panel; Emrich, Hanna, mixed media and collage; Farrow-Savos, Elissa, sculpture; Fields, Laurie, mixed media paintings; Ganley, Betty, traditional watercolor; Green, Michele, landscape painting; Grisdela, Cindy, quilting; Hachey, Hilary, jewelry;

Hatfield, Jennifer Bernhard, whimsical ceramics; Hubacher, Karen, mixed media paintings and collographs; Jensen, Jill, handpainted and handprinted wallhangings, scarves, journals; Jolles, Ronni, layered paper and pastel; Katz, Lori, clay; Knott, Greg, photography; Lansaw, Julie Lea, landscape paintings; Lester, Cherie, painting/collage; Mahan, Val, nature photography; McGihon, Marty, mixed media; Michelle, Jenae, fiber, one of a kind handbags; Nimic, Gisele, ceramics/collage; Paredes, AnaMarie, metal sculpture; Peery, Laura, ceramics; Reiber Harris, Kristin, drawings/monoprints; Rosenstein, Lisa, mixed media paintings, white on white; Rosenstein, Loren, silk scarves; Rubel, Erika, mixed media; Saenger, Peter, ceramic; Singh, J.J., jewelry; Slack, Connie, abstract paintings; Staiger, Marsha, abstract collage; Trump, Novie, sculpture; Tsai, Irene, chinese watercolors on rice paper; Vardell, Mollie, oil paintings; Williams, Ann Marie, abstract paintings; and Woody, Curtis, mixed media paintings.

For more information about McLean Project for the Arts and MPAartfest, visit [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org) or call 703-790-1953.

## DiGennaro Appointed to Council on Higher Education

Joann DiGennaro, president and co-founder of the McLean-based Center for Excellence in Education (CEE), has been appointed to the State Council on Higher Education (SCHEV) by Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R). She will serve a four-year term of public service for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"Over the last 27 years, my goal has been to raise the gold standard in education through my commitment to the Center for Excellence in Education," said DiGennaro. "I am humbled to serve the Commonwealth of Virginia through my appointment to the State Council on Higher Education."

DiGennaro received her B.S. degree from Purdue University and her M.S. from the University of Maryland. She read the law at Oxford University and received her juris doctorate degree from George Mason University. She is the co-author of "The Prentice Hall Guide to Scholarships and Fellowships for Math and Science Students," and author of "Science Literacy: Essential for Decision Making."

## Correction

In the July 14-20 edition of The Connection under "Virginia's Newest Laws," Del. Barbara Comstock (R-Great Falls and McLean) was listed as having voted against a new law that would allow residents of assistant living communities to keep alcohol in their living quarters. Comstock actually supported the legislation in a committee vote, though was recorded as "not voting" during the overall floor vote.

## NEWS

# Immersed in German

Lauren Zimmerman, of McLean High School, attends Governor's German Academy.

BY KIM THORNTON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n a Monday afternoon in a Starbucks in McLean, Lauren Zimmerman, 17, speaks flawless English. Just one day earlier Zimmerman, a rising senior at McLean High School, was wrapping up her third and final week at the Governor's German Academy. The three-week full immersion program took place June 26-July 18 at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

Zimmerman is one of 45 students across Virginia to have been selected for this year's program after a long and competitive admissions process. After first being nominated by her German teacher, Karen Volpert of McLean High School, Zimmerman submitted essays and completed other written and oral assessments before eventually beating out several students for the opportunity to improve her knowledge of German language and culture.

Zimmerman started learning German in the eighth grade, partly to get more in touch with her German heritage, but mostly because her older sister took German first. "She would insult me in German, and I wanted to be able to understand what she was saying," Zimmerman said. In addition to classroom exposure, Zimmerman has also visited Germany twice: two years ago on a family trip and last spring as part of a two-week exchange program with some of her high school classmates.



Lauren Zimmerman

Volpert said that it is Zimmerman's willingness to learn outside of the classroom environment that makes her the perfect student. "She's the hallmark of a good language student," Volpert said. "You have to have a certain amount of courage to learn a language. You have to act like a fool first. When [Lauren] first started learning, she had no fear. She would speak German as much as she possibly could." When it came time to nominate a student for the program, Volpert considered Zimmerman an obvious pick. "I knew she would excel at the experience," she said.

While at the academy, Zimmerman and her fellow German students adhered to a strict schedule six days a week. Everything in Zimmerman's day was preplanned: meals times as well as recreational activities. "There was no free time," Zimmerman said.

**ZIMMERMAN** would start each day with breakfast at 7:20 a.m., followed by four 45-minute classes that alternated every day. Required subjects included

German culture through the Internet, German history of the East and West, German art, German humor and Russian. Russian class was especially interesting, Zimmerman said, because the class itself was taught in German.

"Now if I want to speak Russian, I need to go from English to German to Russian, because I don't know some of the direct translations," Zimmerman said, laughing.

After lunch, students had two elective classes, both of which were chosen at the start of the program. Zimmerman's electives were film and cooking. In film class, she and a small group of academy students wrote, produced and filmed a short skit to be shown to the rest of the academy at the close of the program. In

cooking class, Zimmerman learned to make German, Swiss and Austrian food like fondue and apple cake. Her favorite thing that she learned to make in cooking class? "Cheesecake, defi-

**"She's the hallmark of a good language student."**

**—Karen Volpert, German teacher, McLean High**

nately," she said. After electives, students would have one to two hours of physical exercise, usually

soccer or swimming, followed by dinner and a night activity.

Zimmerman's days weren't always spent in the classroom. One afternoon, she and the other students at the academy took a field trip to the Holocaust Museum in Richmond where they received a special tour from a German-speaking tour guide. A longer day trip to visit the German, Austrian and Swiss embassies in Washington, D.C. brought Zimmerman closer to home, although she was unable to tell friends and family she would be in the neighborhood. While in D.C., Zimmerman had the opportunity to meet several diplomats from the three nations, learning about each nation's governments and customs.

Because the German Academy is considered a full immersion program, Zimmerman was prohibited from using any English for the entire

SEE MCLEAN STUDENTS, PAGE 11

# BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 5

**PRS, Inc. (Formerly Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services) Open House.** 1-2:15 p.m. at PRS Tysons, 1761 Old Meadow Road, Suite 100, McLean. Welcome remarks by PRS President and CEO Wendy Gradison and Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust, and an update on PRS' new Recovery Academy by PRS Director of Day Programs Tom Schuplin. Light refreshments. Take a client-led tour of the facilities and learn more about the services PRS provides to adults

working to recover from serious mental illness. 703-531-6321.

## TUESDAY/AUG. 10

**Tyson's Corner Kiwanis Club Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. at George C. Marshall High School, Room 229A 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Meeting is public and Individuals looking to volunteer in their community welcome. [www.tysonscornerkiwanis.org](http://www.tysonscornerkiwanis.org).

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 11

**Jeff Barnett Town Hall Meeting.** 7-8:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Democratic candidate

for Congress in Virginia's 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, will hold ten town hall meetings across the District throughout August and early September. The public is invited. <http://jeffbarnettforcongress.com>.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 13

**VolunteerFest Project Proposals Due.** Volunteer Fairfax is now accepting project applications for this year's VolunteerFest to be held Saturday, Oct. 23. To participate in this year's event, qualifying projects must be within Fairfax County borders and require a minimum of five volunteers. [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org), 703-246-3825 or [ccoffey@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:ccoffey@volunteerfairfax.org).



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**PARK AUTHORITY SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application**  
**Acquisition of Lily Ruckstuhl Property**

The Fairfax County Park Authority is accepting public comment on the acquisition of parkland in the Providence District. The Park Authority is in negotiations with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust to acquire seven acres of residential land located on Idylwood Road in the Falls Church area of Fairfax County, identified on the Real Property Identification Map as Tax Map Nos. 40-3 ((1)) 59, 61A, 64 and 65. The Park Authority has applied for a federal grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to provide a portion of the acquisition cost. As part of the grant application, the Park Authority is required to solicit public input on the use of federal funds to support this acquisition.

After the conveyance, the new park will go through the Park Authority's regular master planning process to determine its possible uses and potential site amenities. There will be public meetings throughout this planning process to facilitate public involvement in the selection of recreational facilities for the new park. The Master Plan for the new park parcels will also have to undergo a public facility review by the Fairfax County Planning Commission in accordance with Virginia Code Section 15.2-2232 to determine its conformance with the Comprehensive Plan.

Public input on the proposed acquisition and grant application should be forwarded to the Fairfax County Park Authority. Public comment on the acquisition of this parcel will be accepted from July 31, 2010 through August 30, 2010. Please direct written comments to David R. Bowden, director, Planning & Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 406, Fairfax, Virginia 22035. You may also e-mail your comments to: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov).

For more information about the acquisition or the LWCF grant application, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/ruckstuhl.htm> or you may contact Mike Lambert at 703-324-8520 or [Michael.Lambert@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Michael.Lambert@fairfaxcounty.gov). For more information about the LWCF, please visit [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational\\_planning/vof.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/vof.shtml).

If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least ten working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354 703-324-8700 • ONLINE : [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) • E-mail: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)



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# Five Percent Off

Back-to-school sales tax holiday a reminder of other back-to-school rituals; buy some extra supplies for needy students.

**W**hile some of us are not sure how it got to be August, never mind time to start thinking about going back to school, the first day of school is more than a month away, Tuesday after Labor Day, Sept. 7.

Virginia families can take advantage of what amounts to a three-day coupon for five percent off many back-to-school items. Sales tax is suspended for the coming weekend, Friday through Sunday, Aug. 6, 7 and 8 (restrictions apply).

During this three-day period, purchases of qualifying school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item, and purchases of qualifying clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from sales tax.

The tax holiday should encourage more families to spend their back-to-school dollars in local stores rather than online. This is an excellent time to support local businesses, many suffering from the recession as well as competition from online businesses that offer tax-free shopping all the time. Local businesses that don't get their money from the federal government need local shopping support now more than ever.

LETTER

## A Highway Robbery

*Congressmen Wolf's letter to Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton*

Dear Sean:

I have been openly critical of the cost of the tolls on the Dulles Greenway for several years and the increase that went into effect on July 1 only added fuel to the fire. During rush hours, it now costs \$4.50 to use the road, and if drivers are coming from or going onto the Dulles Toll Road the rate is \$5.25. That means a daily round trip would be \$10.50. Over the course of a month, a daily commuter could spend the equivalent of a car payment. If you live in one of the communities just off the Greenway, you could easily get on and off the road multiple times a day.

I have said it before, and will say it again: this is highway robbery. And, as you well know, the Greenway's tolls are not going to improve transportation in Virginia but rather go to the bottom line of Australian-based Macquarie Group, the parent company of the

firm that owns the road.

While I am fully aware that the recent rate hike was approved by the State Corporation Commission (SCC) – against my strong objections, I need to add – drivers who use that road are being ripped off. The 14-mile Greenway is, or close to being, the most expensive toll road per mile in the country, and it is having a serious impact on people who live in Loudoun, Clarke and points farther west who use the road every day.

I write today for three reasons. The first is for you to consider supporting legislation that not only rolls back the previously approved toll increases, but provides consumers with greater protections as the state considers more public-private ventures to address the Commonwealth's transportation infrastructure. When the SCC approved the most recent toll increases in 2007, it readily admitted that its hands were tied when it came to making its decision, stating "the Commonwealth made a series of policy decisions that leave us little choice but to make the decision we make in this case." In my opinion, the current law protects the interests of the owner of the toll road rather than the con-

sumers of the road. At public hearings to discuss the recent rate increases, almost no one spoke in favor of the proposed increase. A law which allows no ability to consider the burden on my constituents and others who use the Greenway to commute to work, or to take their children to day care or soccer practice is a law in need of revision.

My second request is that the company, which owns the Greenway, be required to erect large signs at each of the entrances and exits of the road clearly stating the cost of the tolls. The signs should be large enough that drivers can read them regardless of what lane they are in, particularly as drivers approach the main toll booth from the east. The existing sign can only be read from the far right lane. There are large signs approaching the main toll plaza for the Dulles Toll Road. At minimum, the same signage should be at the main toll plaza of the Greenway.

Signs also need to be in place on local roads leading to the entrance ramps. For example, there is no sign listing the cost of the toll for drivers getting on the Greenway from the Route 7 bypass

lecting for its annual Back-to-School Supplies Drive, for children at Mondloch House II, a Fairfax County homeless shelter for families. Send donations by Aug. 26 to Fairfax Law Foundation, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 216, Fairfax, VA 22030.

❖ Our Daily Bread's Back to School program helped more than 350 receive the supplies they needed, 108 more children than in 2008, and they expect the demand for assistance this year to be greater than ever. See [www.our-daily-bread.org/Back\\_to\\_School\\_Program.html](http://www.our-daily-bread.org/Back_to_School_Program.html)

Back-to-school shopping for supplies is one of many important things to take care of before school starts. Students need up-to-date immunizations. Early in fall, flu shots will also be available. Add to the list of "safety" items: talk with your students about what they are doing online (hint: it mostly isn't shopping).

But probably the most important thing parents can do to ensure a successful school year is to make contact with your child's teachers, make sure they know who you are, how to contact you and that you care. Use the online tools to track your child's progress (but don't go crazy monitoring every blip).

One of the best ways to kick off this regular contact with your child's school is to attend back to school night. Most back to school events for parents are already scheduled; mark your calendar.

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

Sincerely,  
**Frank R. Wolf**  
Member of Congress

# FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Vacation Bible School SonQuest Rainforest** will be at the Alliance Church Centre of the Christian & Missionary Alliance, 12113 Vale Road, Oakton, from Wednesday, Aug. 18-Friday, Aug. 20. The Toddler Program will be 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Ages 3-12 will be divided in 3 age groups from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Songs and skits, Bible stories, games, arts and crafts. Children are to bring lunch; afternoon snack provided. Free. 703-264-1273 or 703-391-7819.

**Epiphany United Methodist Preschool**, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3-4-year-old students for the 2010/2011 school year. Contact 703-938-2391 or

[www.epiphanypreschool.com](http://www.epiphanypreschool.com).

**Vienna Assembly of God** has a ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on Sundays also available. 703-938-7736 or [www.ViennaAG.com](http://www.ViennaAG.com).

**Vienna Christian Healing Rooms**, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or [www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com](http://www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com).

**English classes at McLean Baptist Church** on Mondays, including

beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Advanced electives are Literature, U.S. Government, World Religions, and current events. Free class and registration, but students must buy their own books. 9:30 a.m. at 1367 Chain Bridge Road. 703-356-8080 or [www.mcleanbaptist.org](http://www.mcleanbaptist.org).

**St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean. The third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. Nursery is available at the 10:15 a.m. service. 703-356-7533.

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'Curtains' featured a cast of 43 teens from several middle and high schools in the area.



PHOTO BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/ THE CONNECTION

## 'Curtains' Presented at Langley High

McLean Summer Theatre Program brings middle, high school students together.

BY NIKKI CHESHIRE  
THE CONNECTION

When in search of summer activities to keep children busy over the summer, the most popular choices are traditionally summer camps and sports programs. But other areas of talent are often overlooked outside of camps and school. That is, until the McLean Summer Theatre Program came around.

Founded three years ago by a few teachers and theater lovers, including current program and production director Meg Baber, the McLean Summer Theatre Program provides an outlet for children who otherwise would have none over the summer, according to Baber.

The children are kept busy working up to their annual production, rehearsing five hours a day, five days a week for three weeks. "You really get to see how much the kids come together," Baber said. She added that it's beneficial for the middle school-aged children to meet with the high schoolers, and build a foundation of friends before they enter into a new school as freshmen.

Recently, the program, which is open to children from all over the area, put on a production of "Curtains," a "musical mystery" which takes place on a Boston stage and follows the story of a troubled cast who, enveloped in murders and scandals, look to the help of a detective to aide them in solving the crime as well as putting on a great play.

"We chose to do 'Curtains' this year because of how it gives opportunities to lots of different kids," said Baber. "It features kids who can sing, kids who can dance and kids who can act."

In the end, all the students' work seemed to pay off, as the actors left the Langley High School stage, embracing their castmates and bowing in front of a large audience and a several minute long round of applause following the performance last Thursday.

"I thought the show was great," said audience member Lisa Sullivan, a McLean resident. "Not only was it a great mystery, but it was also a subtle comedy."

The play is directed by Meg Baber from Cooper Middle School, assisted by Cristi Goldberg, choreographer; Lori Taylor, music director; Wendy Mueller, artistic director; and Hannah Goldberg, assistant choreographer.



Cast Members Becca Allen, Alex Don and Molly Moran in the McLean Summer Theatre Program's production of 'Curtains.'

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



They're 'In the Same Boat' in 'Curtains'. From left are Kathleen Welch, Sarah Larkworthy and Kaitryn Evans.



Jack Flatley plays Aaron Fox and Amelia Welch is Georgia Hendricks in McLean Summer Theatre's production of 'Curtains.'

## CALENDAR

Send announcements to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

### THURSDAY/AUG. 5

**Nottoway Park Concert Series: The Kusun Ensemble.** 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. West African dance. Free. 703-324-7469 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance).

**Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the Woods.** Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. PROJECT Trio: From Hip-Hop to Bach, 11:15 a.m. Wolf Trap Opera Studio: Instant Opera! Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Alex Band.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**NSO@Wolf Trap: The Music of James Bond.** 8:15 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Carl Davis, conductor, and Mary Carewe, vocalist. Tickets \$20-\$52. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### FRIDAY/AUG. 6

**Traveling Players Ensemble: Shakespeare's "Love's Labour's Lost"** 6:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Free admission. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Chairs available for rent for \$5 each; all proceeds go towards TPE educational programs. In case of inclement weather, the performance will be held at the Madeira School. [travelingplayers.pmailus.com/pmailweb](mailto:travelingplayers.pmailus.com).

**Summer on the Green: U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters.** 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring chairs or blankets for seating. No alcoholic beverages allowed. It is recommended that pets be left at home. 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**The Lydia Finale: A Goodbye & Farewell Tour, River City Extension and Analog Rebellion** at 6 p.m., John Eddie at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**'Narnia, The Musical.'** 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. The first and most famous story of the Chronicles of Narnia. \$13 general admission, \$11 for students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Junior Ranger Day.** 12-3 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Fun activities for children as they learn about the performing arts, Wolf Trap, and the National Park Service. Activities include a variety of ranger-led programs and a rubber stamp scavenger hunt. [www.nps.gov/wotr/forkids](http://www.nps.gov/wotr/forkids) or 703-255-1827.

**NSO@Wolf Trap: Bugs Bunny at the Symphony.** 8:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Created and conducted by George Daugherty. Tickets \$20-\$52. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SATURDAY/AUG. 7

**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Farm Show.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fryling Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, with a carnival open to 10 p.m. Old-fashioned country fun with games, rides and exhibits. Try milking a cow or shelling corn. Live entertainment, dog and horse shows and more. Free admission, parking \$5. 703-437-9101.



Two Car Living Room performs in Great falls Summer Concerts series on Sunday, Aug. 8, 6 p.m. at the Great Falls Village Centre, at the corner of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road Rock music. [www.gfcitizens.org](http://www.gfcitizens.org).

**Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the Woods.** Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. PROJECT Trio: From Hip-Hop to Bach, 11:15 a.m. Wolf Trap Opera Studio: Instant Opera! Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**NSO@Wolf Trap: Bugs Bunny at the Symphony.** 8:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Created and conducted by George Daugherty. Tickets \$20-\$52. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Nathan and The Gang Bang, Nunchucks and The Waves** at 1 p.m., Mary Fahl at 7 p.m., Passafire and Mojo at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**'Narnia, The Musical.'** 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. The first and most famous story of the Chronicles of Narnia. \$13 general admission, \$11 for students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Lego Brickfair.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Lego creations big and small. Build in the Stay & Play area, watch Brickfilms. [www.brickfair.com](http://www.brickfair.com).

**No Better Off.** 5 p.m. at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Alternative rock. Free. 703-288-9505.

**Healthy Responses to Anger.** 9:30 a.m. at The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Register at [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or 703-281-2657.

**Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.** 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Master Gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. 703-293-6227.

**Plant Clinic.** 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Masters Gardeners from the Fairfax County Cooperative Extension answer gardening questions. 703-790-8088.

**Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A special collection by the Friends of the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library. 703-790-8088.

### SUNDAY/AUG. 8

**Summer on the Green: Dagmar and the Seductones.** 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring chairs or blankets for seating. No alcoholic beverages allowed. It is recommended that pets be left at home. 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Farm Show.** 9 a.m.-5

p.m. at Fryling Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, with a carnival open to 8 p.m. Old-fashioned country fun with games, rides and exhibits. Try milking a cow or shelling corn. Live entertainment, dog and horse shows and more. Free admission, parking \$5. 703-437-9101.

**Hippifest: A Concert for Peace and Love.** 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Jack Bruce of Cream, War, Mitch Ryder, and Rare Earth and more. \$25-\$42. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**'Narnia, The Musical.'** 1 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. The first and most famous story of the Chronicles of Narnia. \$13 general admission, \$11 for students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Two Car Living Room.** 6 p.m. Great Falls Village Green, at the corner of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road in Great Falls. Rock music. [www.gfcitizens.org](http://www.gfcitizens.org).

**Butterfly Garden Guided Tours.** 3 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. An introductory guided stroll. Learn how the gardens attract butterflies. Members free, non-member adults \$4, seniors and age 7-17 \$1.50, under age 6 free. Rental binoculars available at the Visitor Center. 703-255-3631, ext. 0 or [www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark\\_botanical\\_gardens](http://www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens).

**Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Bingo.** 7 p.m. at the VVFD, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. Games held every Sunday in the Flame Room. [www.vvfd.org](http://www.vvfd.org).

**Lego Brickfair.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Lego creations big and small. Build in the Stay & Play area, watch Brickfilms. [www.brickfair.com](http://www.brickfair.com).

**Tea and See Benefit Auction Preview.** 1-3 p.m. at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. Preview of donated artworks to be auctioned to benefit the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Free admission, open to the public. 703-319-3971 or [www.viennaartsociety.org](http://www.viennaartsociety.org).

### MONDAY/AUG. 9

**Tracy Bonham, Bleu and Common Rotation.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Child and Spousal Support: The Realities Beyond Formulas.** 7 p.m. at The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Register at [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or 703-281-2657.

**Fun with Jonathan Austin.** 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Juggling, magic and unicycling fun. All ages. 703-790-8088.

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10969 Harpers Square.....\$385,000 ... Sun 1-4...Mary Bernard.....Coldwell Banker .....703-471-7220

11760 Great Owl Circle.....\$475,000 ... Sun 1-4...Nikki Ryan.....Keller Williams .....703-615-2663

11706 Great Owl Circle.....\$479,000 ... Sun 1-4...Timothy Savin.....McGrath Real Estate...703-863-1020

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**To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Trisha at 703-778-9419, or [trisha@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:trisha@connectionnewspapers.com) All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.**

# SCHOOLS

Send School Notes to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Christina Girardi** of McLean has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame, Ind. She is the daughter of Luigi Girardi of Falls Church and Alyce Girardi of McLean.

**Elizabeth Dion** of McLean has received a bachelor of arts in French and Art History from Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN. She is the daughter of Christine and John Dion.

**Daniel Clarke** of McLean has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Saint Joseph's University of Philadelphia, Pa.

McLean residents **Dominique Amiri, Sarah Leavitt** and **Tyler Stilwell** have been named to the spring 2010 dean's honors list at Connecticut College of New London, Conn.

**Mary Hurd** has been named to the spring 2010 honors list at Skidmore College of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. She is the daughter of Paddy Link and Timothy Hurd of McLean.

**Philip Diamond** has been named to the spring 2010 honors list at Skidmore College of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. He is the son of Robert Diamond and Amy Pullman of McLean.

**Santiago Arciniegas** of McLean has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is a senior majoring in biological systems engineering.

**Allison Hutchins** of McLean has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Roger Williams University of Bristol, R.I.

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**Saint Ann Catholic Church**

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# McLean Student Explores German Language, Culture

FROM PAGE 4

duration of the program. Cell phones, books, and iPods were all prohibited to help eliminate temptation. "I did not hear or speak one English word," Zimmerman said. In fact, it was literally against the rules to do so. "If we spoke English, we'd get a warning," she said. "For one warning you got one

yellow card. Two yellow cards equaled one red card, two reds equaled one black, and two blacks meant you were sent home." Zimmerman made it through the program without receiving a single card. She said the farthest anyone got was a red card.

**THE ONLY TIME** students were permitted to use English was during daily letter-

writing periods, as writing letters was the only way students were able to communicate with friends and family in the outside world. Even then, the effects of full immersion sometimes showed. "She wrote me a letter in English [during the first week] and a lot of words were erased," said Martha Simons, Zimmerman's mother.

Zimmerman eventually got so comfort-

able using German that she even remembers dreaming in German at one point during the three weeks. When it finally came time for her to start using English again, it took a little extra effort getting back into the habit. "It was funny when all the parents came," Zimmerman said, "because they were so excited to finally talk to their children in English, but we just couldn't do it."

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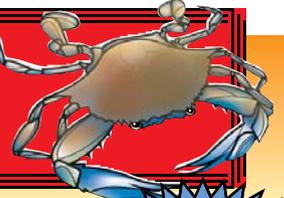
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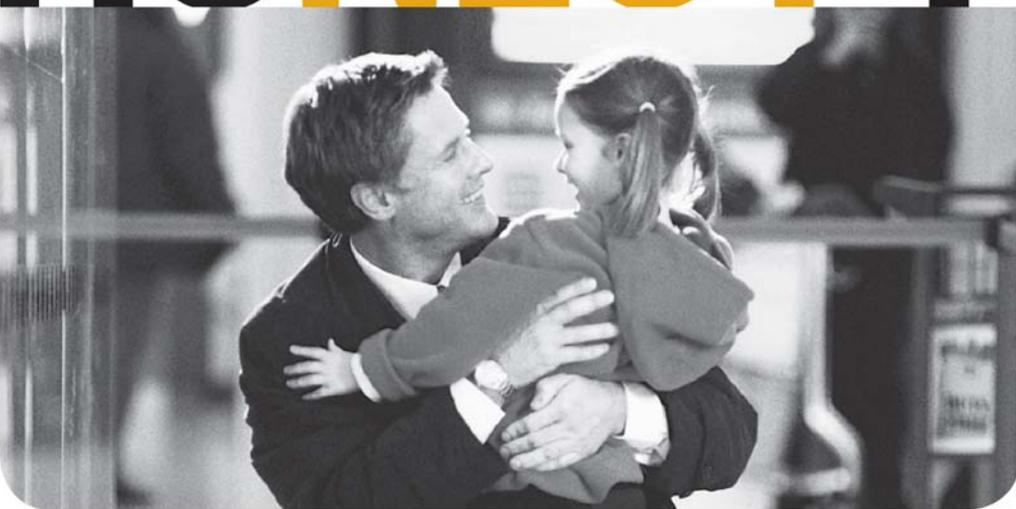
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# Rec Sports Leagues Provide Competition, Fitness, Friendship

Sports playing careers don't have to end after college for the athletic minded.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**C**rowing up in his hometown of Vienna in the 1970s, Rodger Melchiori of Chantilly had a love and passion for playing and following sports. Some of his greatest memories are of playing youth basketball for the Cougars within Vienna Youth Incorporated, as well as playing baseball for the Rebels within the Vienna Little League.

Melchiori continued to play and excel in athletics as he moved into his teens, always enjoying the competition and camaraderie that comes with being part of a team unit. He competed at the intramural level at James Madison University in Harrisonburg and, during the summers, loved playing slow pitch softball within the old Vienna Church Softball League as a member of the St. Mark's team.

As an adult, Melchiori, a 1981 graduate of James Madison High School in Vienna, played softball for years within Fairfax County as part of the Fairfax Adult Softball organization — one of the largest and best run adult softball programs in the country. He also played in Fairfax County-run basketball and flag football leagues.

One of the greatest benefits for athletic minded adults, like Melchiori, in Northern Virginia is the outstanding Fairfax County adult recreation sports leagues that allow individuals to continue their playing careers for as long as they wish. A sports venue is always available for men and women who love hitting the ball field or the hard wood.

"Fairfax County [for adult athletes] is excellent," said Melchiori, the father of three. "They do a fantastic job of providing opportunities to play, having well organized programs and having good playing facilities."

As Melchiori's children grew older over the year, he got more involved in their sports endeavors and "retired" as an active athlete himself.

"Once your kids start playing sports, their activities kind of take



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



**Fairfax County adult recreation indoor soccer provides participants a chance to compete while staying in shape and having fun.**

over," said Melchiori, with a laugh. "But I have always thought it would be fun to be in one of the 50-over leagues."

**FAIRFAX COUNTY'S** most popular adult sport venue is Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS), which has close to 10,000 participants — men and women combined — who make up more than 800 teams. The organization runs spring, summer and fall leagues. Ball players can compete in men's or women's leagues, as well as coed and senior divisions.

The long-running FAS organization is currently as popular as ever. "We have a whole lot of teams, from the [more] competitive level to recreation level for those who like that," said Christine Frece, FAS administrative assistant. "This year, we have increased teams for fall, spring and summer."

Frece, whose father played competitive tournament softball, said there are so many positives that come from playing adult softball or any sport.

"It's fun, you get exercise and you have the social aspect playing with friends and family," said Frece, a former girls' softball player at Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield. "It's funny who you'll run into on the softball field."

Frece also plays recreation volleyball.

"I like volleyball a lot," she said. "You play three games a night and it's fast paced."

Those interested in playing within FAS' upcoming fall league softball program should contact the FAS office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

Fairfax County adult sports programs that take place on outdoor fields across Northern Virginia in-

clude baseball, field hockey, flag football, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, kickball, softball and cricket. About 50,000 adults participate in those sports combined. The county sports programs that take place indoors include badminton, basketball and volleyball. Close to 13,000 participants take part in those sports.

Karen Avvisato, the Fairfax County's division director for community use scheduling for the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, said adults love competing in sports for numerous reasons.

"People want the socialization, and they want to unwind after their work day and get together with friends," said Avvisato, who works out of the Pennino Building in Fairfax. "Some [participants] have never played before and go out for the fun of it. But most people have played sports most of their lives and want to continue that."

"We live in such a fast-paced area," she said. "It's a tough time economically and people work hard for a living here. It's nice for people to unwind and to have that avenue to exercise and play sports with friends."

While adult softball has the most participants, Avvisato said soccer is also popular with more than 9,000 athletes having participated this past spring season and just as many likely to play this fall.

"There's lots of running and it's a way to get exercise," said Avvisato, of the cardiovascular strengthening sport of soccer. "Soccer helps you maintain fitness."

Fairfax County, for its sports programs, utilizes gym and field space at local schools and park sites, pro-

**Fairfax Adult Softball offers an opportunity to compete for a range of age groups and ability levels.**

viding quality playing venues for all those involved in adult recreation sports.

"It's our job to give everyone a [quality] place to play, to maximize all the facilities out there," said Avvisato.

## Lasting Memories

Dave Sanders, who grew up in Vienna and currently lives in Ashburn with his family, played within the Fairfax County recreation men's basketball and softball leagues for years, and currently plays hoops within Loudoun County.

Sanders, a former Madison High basketball player (Madison, class of 1987), has great memories of his 20-plus years on the ball diamond playing softball. He played for Emmanuel Lutheran Church's men's softball team within the Vienna Softball Church League in the mid-to-late 1980s and into the early 1990s. Eventually, the team moved into the Fairfax County league.

"Playing softball in Fairfax County was and has been a great experience," said Sanders. "It gave me the ability to connect with family, church and college friends on a weekly basis for 20 years. Memories include playing at Braddock Park, my favorite venue, during summer nights, nothing quite like the feeling of playing under the lights against tough competition. The most special experiences, however, were the teammates, guys trying to sustain the glory years, giving it their all, allowing us for just a moment to leave all the daily responsibilities behind."

"My memories include the feeling of hitting a line drive to the opposite field, relays to the plate,

guys taking shots off their chest from aluminum bats that became more difficult to navigate, calling the [FAS] rain lines and, most of all, the friendship and competition," said Sanders, who currently has cut down his athletic playing endeavors to basketball within Loudoun County. "Fairfax County always ran a good league."

**RESTON NATIVE** Anne Nichols, 21, plays for a social league softball team despite having no experience. She joked that she plays catcher to avoid being involved in the action.

"It just seemed like a fun opportunity, even though I'm really miserable and I've never played before," said Nichols, a student at Wake Forest.

Nichols' boyfriend's sister, Katie Flynn, started the team. Flynn, a 27-year-old Reston native, played softball at South Lakes High School and Seton Hall University. While Nichols is a newcomer along for some fun, the rest of the team has a different approach.

"As a team, we're outrageously competitive to a point where it's embarrassing and awkward for everybody," Flynn said.

Within Fairfax County adult recreation sports, there is a place for the highly competitive as well as those who come out strictly for social enjoyment and exercise.

"For me, it was more being with your friends," said Melchiori, of the greatest enjoyment he received over the years playing sports, both as a youngster and on into adulthood. "You develop such friendships playing youth ball and into high school [and beyond]. Playing sports is a great way to maintain friendships."

Reporter Jon Roetman contributed to this story.  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## "Fine."



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That's my standard answer to the most frequently asked question I hear: "How are you feeling, Ken?"

The problem is not with the question or the questioner, it's with the "questionee," yours truly. I never know if the question pertains to me in general or to me with cancer, in particular. Am I being asked about life or about death? Admittedly, I can't be objective and keep an open mind. Almost instinctively I think the question is being asked in the context of me having cancer. But sometimes, it's not (as I've found out). Sometimes, as they say, "a cigar is just a cigar." And so, to keep from making that very presumptuous mistake – and thinking the world revolves around me and my cancer – I simplify my answer and wait for a follow-up question, to be sure.

I don't need to talk about my cancer (apparently I need to write about it, though). I don't need – or want, quite frankly – to be Kenny with cancer and/or play the cancer card and receive pity/special treatment. I want (need) to be treated as normally as possible. However, given the fact that I am myself consumed (mentally, not physically; thank God!) by it, it is nearly impossible. Though I have tried, on occasion, not thinking about it for one minute; (it's akin to holding your breath – it doesn't work long term; heck, it doesn't exactly work short term, either), it's extremely difficult for me to not think others are, at the very least, aware of my condition and as a result, their questions must have something to do with the big picture (cancer), not the every day picture.

Therefore, after having given a few ill-advised and unanticipated answers to this standard question, I have decided to be simple-Simon rather than cancer-Kenny. Oh sure, I'll give somebody chapter and verse, if that's what they're really asking and interested in hearing, but until I know the depth of their inquiry, I won't bore anybody with the low lights of my diagnosis, prognosis, current treatment protocol and miscellaneous side-effect deficits. I want to be sure I'm answering the question that they're actually asking.

Now writing about it is something different entirely. I'm not writing these "cancer columns" (as I call them) because somebody asked me a question or because I'm trying to educate the general public (with some unique information that only I have had the good fortune to benefit from which I'm now able to share; I wish) about cancer as some time-honored – and unselfish – respectable, journalistic pursuit. Hardly. I'm writing these columns because I need to, probably for self-preservation, I imagine, but definitely as a means hopefully-not-to-my-end. And it's in these columns where I can indulge my fantasies of thinking how much my life (or my "journey," as one reader characterized it) might matter, maybe even benefit others.

In reality though, my life matters most to me, and that's why it is so difficult to take a question at face value. Given the severity and terminal nature of my original diagnosis/prognosis, how can anyone ask how I'm doing and not realize the gravity of the situation? But they don't necessarily. Why should they? They're just asking a simple question. And from now on, I'm going to give them a simple answer.

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

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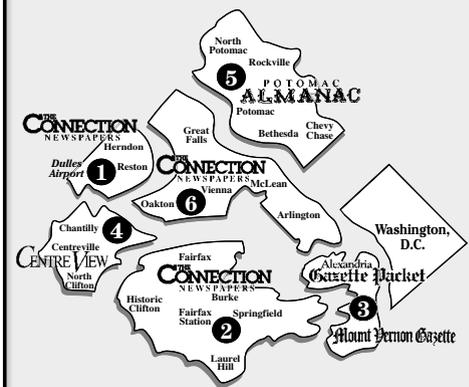
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## MOPS Registration now open!

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is a program for mothers of newborns through kindergartners where teaching is based on Christian principles. Enrolled children are included in a separate program called MOPPETS. We meet at McLean Presbyterian Church every other Thursday from Late Sept. 2010 - May 2011. Please visit [www.mcbapies.org/mops](http://www.mcbapies.org/mops) or contact Patricia Vane at [patriciavane@com.net](mailto:patriciavane@com.net). Register now and get ready to connect with other Moms!

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## NEWS



Rustin Abedi (in the blue shirt), 10, of Vienna, is all smiles while playing his viola with the group.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

## Summer on a High Note

Summer camps across the area have “Wacky Wednesdays,” “Freaky Fridays,” “Messy Mondays” and kickball-without-rules. But how many of those dressed for Messy Monday are also accomplished viola players or bassists? Meet the students enrolled in Ruth Donahue’s Summer Strings camp held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in McLean. Why encourage the campers to dress-up for camp? “It just makes it more fun,” said Donahue, who has been leading the camp since 1984.

— DEB COBB



The ‘bass line’ of the orchestra, from left, Patrick Welch, 10, Chase Bradshaw, 10, and Karl Holler, 11, all of McLean.



Ananaya Suri, 12 of McLean, is spending her second year playing viola at Summer Strings camp. She came back because the camp was challenging musically, but fun. Sitting to Ananaya’s right are cello players Ireland Digges, 10, of Vienna and Chase Trembly, 1, of Vienna. Chase has come back for his second year at camp. He wanted to improve on the cello, but admits the kickball games are a lot of fun.

## What happens when our corporate culture reaches beyond the office walls?



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