The Show Must Go On…

News, Page 3

A Clearer Picture
News, Page 3

Central Park Revisited
News, Page 4

Jonathan Leidenheimer, as the scholar Vadius, waxes philosophical about love, while Sinclair Daniel (Henriette - sitting); Amy Elfin (Belise); Claire Borthwick (the maid) and Maya Chapman Wong (Philamente) admire his poetry.
The Huckaby • Briscoe Group

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Karen Briscoe

Bill Detty
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Marlene Moonshine-Voelker
Lizzy Conroy
The Show Must Go On...

Traveling Players Ensemble perform classics at Madeira School.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

he unpredictable nature of outdoor theater is part of what makes it extraordinary and thrilling.

Last Friday, summer’s unpredictable weather forced the Traveling Players Ensemble, acclaimed for bringing “great theater to the great outdoors,” into The Madeira School’s auditorium to present its second festival of classic plays.

Jeanne Harrison, the founder and producing artistic director of the troupe, took the weather in stride and hopped on the stage to welcome the crowds entering their school’s theater.

“You’re not late. C’mon down, baby,” she said. “You’re here. It’s going to be fabulous.”

Before the 10 middle-school actors took the stage, Harrison had the crowd laughing and having fun.

“We’re going to have a cast party with s’mores after the performances,” she said.

THE FIRST performance was Molière’s “Learned Ladies.” Written in 1672, “Les Femmes Savantes” is considered one of Molière’s masterpieces. A hilarious satire on greed and academic pretension, “The Learned Ladies” takes us inside a bourgeois household overrun by a salon of women who swoon for sappy sonnets and other ecstatic pretenses of learning.

Director Lane Pianta updated the timely classic with a 1950s “comic-book” aesthetic. Think poodle skirts, saddle shoes, soda shops and beat poets.

Hugo Kessler, 13, a Longfellow Middle School student, played the pompous and put-upon father, Chrysale. “I loved doing the physical comedy in the show. I was really happy when I could crush my foot,” he said. “This is my first year at the camp, and everyone is really friendly. We all work together as a team.”

Maya Wong, 14, who is visiting McLean from See Travelling Players, Page 15

Student wins scholarship for algorithm to improve MRI contrast.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

McLean resident Alexander Gilbert was named a 2010 Davidson Fellow last week, and he will receive a $10,000 scholarship from the Davidson Institute for Talent Development. Gilbert—a rising senior at St. Albans in Washington, D.C.—developed a computer algorithm that improves MRI image contrast.

The Davidson Institute is a nonprofit organization based in Reno, Nev. dedicated to supporting gifted youth. This is the 10th year they have offered the Davidson Fellowships. Gilbert applied for the fellowship in March.

“We are thrilled to... recognize the 2010 Davidson Fellow not only for their incredible projects, but also for the journey they forged to reach this point,” said Bob Davidson, co-founder of the Davidson Institute. “Each year, the breadth and depth of the Fellows’ accomplishments overwhelm us.”

GILBERT, who attended Haycock Elementary and Longfellow Middle, has long been interested by math and science. He has been participating in competitions for years.

After a close relative was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, he became intrigued in the field of neuroimaging, which combined his love of calculus and computer science.

“I wanted to work on improving the detection of neurological diseases like multiple sclerosis. MRI is a powerful and complicated instrument and better image processing techniques can improve contrast and lead to accurate medical diagnoses,” Gilbert said.

“I had fun doing the project. I learned a great deal and I’m very humble that I was chosen for this prestigious award.”

Gilbert worked on the project while interning at the National Institutes of Health in the summer of 2009, and his lab work during the internship focused on neuroimaging. He continued his work during the school year.

This summer was a very good experience, instead of focusing on the computer science part of the MRI, I worked on synthesizing a stain that functions as a contrast agent,” Gilbert said. “I learned how to better see the brain, to see the effect diseases have on it. Hopefully this will help improve the monitoring of diseases and monitor how medicines affect diseased patients.”

In math and science.

HIS MOTHER, Elisabeth Vrahopolou, has been driving him to and from his various academic competitions when he was younger.

“We feel deep gratitude to the Davidson Institute for the great honor and the amazing experience of being a fellow. It will no doubt shape and inspire Alexander’s educational journey,” she said. “Over the years, we have been most appreciative of opportunities that continue to drive Alexander’s interests in math and science.”

More information about the Davidson Fellowship can be found at www.davidsongifted.org.

A CLEAVER PICTURE

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Central Park Revisited

Planning is underway for Fourth Annual MPAartfest.

MPAartfest artists whose work was selected for exhibition and sale at McLean Project for the Arts’ MPAartfest on Sunday, Oct. 3, gathered in McLean Central Park on Sunday, Aug. 1 to survey the park area where the event will take place.

Led by MPAartfest Logistics Co-Chair Dan DuVal, MPAartfest Director Elizabeth Salter and Visual Arts Committee Chair Ellen Rosenblum, the group toured the park learning about artist tent locations and other MPAartfest attractions. Also discussed was the artists load-in and load-out logistics which will be complicated somewhat by the construction at Dolley Madison Library.

ARTISTS also had a chance to view the McLean Community Center where MPAartfest will take place if the park grounds are soggy. Several artists who have exhibited at MPAartfest in the past and will be exhibiting again offered advice to those who are exhibiting for the first time. “MPAartfest is a wonderful event and the most well run art festival I’ve been in,” said artist Laurie Fields. “MPAartfest artists liaisons are so helpful.”

Presented by McLean Project for the Arts, MPAartfest lives up to its theme of Connecting Art and Community. Attendance has grown each of the three years MPAartfest has take place, with more than 6,000 art lovers attending last year. MPAartfest will feature line artists and crafters from the mid-Atlantic region exhibiting and selling paintings, watercolors, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture and photography which will appeal to all levels of collectors. Artists will keep 100 percent of their proceeds.

In addition to the artists, the event will include a Children’s ArtTent, a Children’s ArtWalk, a live model drawing demonstration and a variety of refreshments for sale.

THE EVENT is free to the community and will take place Sunday, Oct. 3, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in McLean Central Park or at the McLean Community Center in the event of soggy conditions.

McLean Project for the Arts is a non-profit organization that presents the visual arts program for the community in partnership with the McLean Community Center and Fairfax County. Donations from corporate sponsors and individual donors benefit McLean Project for the Arts, helping to fund MPAartfest and MPA’s museum-quality art exhibitions and educational programs at galleries located in the McLean Community Center.

Sponsorship opportunities are still plentiful. Small businesses, groups, such as book clubs and neighborhoods, families and individuals can sponsor one of the 42 artists tents for only $400. A sign at each artist’s tent will display the name of the sponsor. Eight other levels of sponsorship available ranging from $400 to $20,000, each with a variety of benefits. For more information, contact Debbie Jardot, MPA development director at 703-790-1953 or djardot.mpaart.org.

DiGennaro Appointed to Council on Higher Education

Joan DiGennaro, president and co-founder of the McLean-based Center for Excellence in Education (CxEE), 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.”

As a member of SCHEV, DiGennaro will make recommendations on higher education public policy to the governor and General Assembly with regard to capital and operating budget planning, enrollment projections, institutional technology needs and student financial aid.

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 also author of “The Prentice Hall Guide to Scholarships and Fellowships for Math and Science Students,” and author of “Science Literacy: Essentials for Decision Making.”
MCF Calls for Grants Proposals

The McLean Community Foundation is calling for proposals for grants to community organizations. They must be received by Oct. 1.

Prospective applicants should consult the McLean Community Foundation web site at www.mcleancommunityfoundation.org.

Parking Lot, Building Improvements Begin at Spring Hill

Two significant capital projects are underway at Spring Hill RECenter in McLean and the surrounding park, which will provide site improvements at this popular recreation spot. The Fairfax County Park Authority will begin work on both parking lot and building improvements this month. Although temporary closures of the facilities and park have started, it is anticipated that some disruption to parking and traffic flow will occur during the project.

The multi-faceted projects will result in a 260-space parking lot expansion with two underground stormwater management systems and also includes a bio-retention facility, a storm water management pond, walkways, parking lot lighting and site landscaping.

Building improvements include replacement of the pool dehumidification units, locker room energy recovery units, fitness room heating and air conditioning unit. The improvements will also include upgrades to the lighting in the pool, racquetball courts, repaint throughout the building and other upgrades to various rooms.

Total project costs for the parking lot improvements are $2.5 million. Total project costs for the RECenter improvements are $1.2 million. A total combined cost for the two projects is $3.7 million funded through the 2008 Park Bond and maintenance funding sources.

Completion of RECenter work is scheduled for mid-October 2010. For more information about the parking lot project contact Project Manager Isabel Villarroel at 703-324-7195. For information about RECenter improvements contact Project Manager Cecil Hardee Jr. at 703-324-8434.

MCC Offers Fall Culinary Classes

Children and adults can train themselves to be “top chefs” at the McLean Community Center (MCC) this fall. Class prices range from $42 to $243, depending on the subject, length and number of sessions of the class. Full session class registration begins on Monday, Aug. 23, for McLean tax district residents; Monday, Aug. 30, for all others. The center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

To register, or for more information, call the center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: www.mcleancenter.org, and click on the “Classes” tab.

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McLean Connection ☘ August 18-24, 2010 ☘ 5
Kemal Kurspahic, Connection editor, one of the original 50 press freedom heroes of the world.

Then after the communists were ousted and Bosnia’s first democratic elections held, one of Kurspahic’s first battles was to maintain his paper’s newly acquired editorial independence against a coalition of nationalist parties, through a constitutional court case in 1991. During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite snipers’ bullets, constant shelling, and newsprint shortages, the paper’s multi-ethnic staff of Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats — led by Kurspahic — worked day and night in a nuclear bomb shelter to put out a daily issue of the paper, providing one of the city’s only sources of information. The paper’s modern high-rise building was reduced to rubble by the shelling, and yet the paper was produced every day. Oslobodjenje was a symbol of coexistence and the struggle against intolerance and “ethnic cleansing.”

Between 1992 and 1995, more than 10,500 people were killed in the Sarajevo area. Five employees were killed and more than 20 wounded. Kurspahic himself was injured in a car crash in 1992 while eluding sniper fire. Throughout this period, Kurspahic and his staff never missed a day of publication, despite shortages of electricity, fuel, paper and ink.

Kurspahic was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University; Clark Fellow at Cornell University; and a Senior Fellow at the US Institute of Peace and worked for five years for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, first as the spokesman in Vienna (2001-2004) and then as the Caribbean regional representative, responsible for 29 states and territories. Kurspahic served as the managing editor of The Connection Newspapers from 1997-2001, returning in the spring of 2007 after his time with United Nations. Kurspahic has excelled at community journalism in Northern Virginia, winning many awards here, teaching editors and reporters by example, and serving the community by continuously increasing the number of local voices in the papers he edits.

He is the author of four books, including “Prime Time Crime: Balkan Media in War and Peace” (US Institute of Peace Press, 2003) and “As Long as Sarajevo Exists” (Pamplona’s Press, 1997). Sometimes in the last two years during the US Institute, it has taken what feels like heroic efforts to continue to publish independently owned, hyper-local newspapers that have to operate on current revenues. But the biggest physical threat to reporters here is probably the automobile accident. As for intimidation, it is garden variety, officials who threaten to withhold information when they don’t like what we write.

Here at the Connection, we have Kemal Kurspahic to remind us about true heroic efforts of journalists.

Sources: www.freemedia.at/awards/kemal-kurspahic, www.mediamademocracy.org

Kurspahic

Thursday, August 19

Beulah Road Al-Anon Group, 7:30 p.m. at the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Practicing the Twelfe Steps, welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics, and giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic. revkuk@cox.net.

Saturday, August 21

Northern Virginia Community College Saturday Registration. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge. Talk to counselors, apply to the College and register for fall semester courses beginning Aug. 23. Additional classes start Oct. 20. Students may apply and register at any time online at www.nvc.edu. 703-325-3000.

T’ai Chi Beginners’ Practice. 9 a.m. on the outdoor basketball court behind Dolley Madison Public Library at 1244 Oakridge Ave., Mclean. 703-759-9141 or www.T’aiChi.org.

Wednesday, August 25

Support Group for Survivors of Clergy Abuse. 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Tyson-Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7684 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A monthly peer support group for survivors of others and others. Free. Confidential. No registration required. 703-948-2728.

JSSA Parent Support Group for Young Adults for the Autism Spectrum. 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Tyson-Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7684 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A monthly peer support group for parents of young adults. Free. Confidential. No registration required. 703-948-2728.

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Publisher
Mary Kimm 703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Executive Vice President
Michael Woloshin 703-778-9443
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Director of Development
Alex McVeigh 703-778-9444
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Sales
Lech Kozlowski 703-778-9440
lorakoz@connectionnewspapers.com

Advertising
Mary Kimm 703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

CIRCULATION
703-778-9426
Linda Pequignot circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, 1605 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns, Call: 703-778-9410 e-mail: mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor 703-778-9414 kemal@connectionnewspapers.com
Alex McVeigh
Community Reporter 703-778-9414
amcveigh@connectionnewspapers.com
Julia O’Donoghue
Education & Faith 703-778-9416
jodonnigh@connectionnewspapers.com
Rich Sanders
Sports Editor 703-778-3031
rsanders@connectionnewspapers.com

EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Mary Kimm 703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Steven Maren 703-778-9444
smaren@connectionnewspapers.com

MANAGING EDITORS
Michael Woloshin, Kemal Kurspahic

PHOTOGRAPHY
Joe Baur, Craig Sterbutzel

DESIGN
Graovac Flores, Jamie Foong, John Heilny, Wayne Shipp, John Smith

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Jim Caudill

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Linda Pequignot circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS
4775 Boulder Ridge Drive, Suite 200 McLean, VA 22102

703-778-9412
mabarker@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm Publisher/Chief Operating Officer 703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon Executive Vice President jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DelRosse Controller

Debbie Funk Classified Ads 703-778-9413
dehfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Employment ads 703-778-9413

ART/DESIGN
Forschner, Flores, Foong

ADMINISTRATION
John Smith, John Heilny, Beth Flowers

CLASSIFIED
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comes to the original 50 press freedom heroes of the world.
TJ Employee Sentenced For Stealing School Funds

Susan Thanh Litwin was sentenced to 15 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for stealing more than $279,000 from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. The former finance technician at Jefferson received her sentence Aug. 13, according to the U.S. Attorney’s office for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Litwin was responsible for overseeing funds that had been donated for student activities like clubs, athletics and dances. She pleaded guilty to theft from an organization receiving public funds on May 6.

Litwin stole the money from the school by writing checks to herself and making unauthorized withdrawals ranging from $2,500 to $35,000 over approximately a two-year period, according to the U.S. Attorney’s press release.

In an interview with law enforcement, Litwin said the money was used to support a gambling habit and funding trips to Las Vegas, Nev. and Atlantic City, N.J. She also used the stolen funds to help cover extensive credit card debt and a large mortgage on her home in Prince William County, Va.

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McLean Connection  ❖  August 18-24, 2010  ❖  7
As we are approaching the beginning of yet another school year, The Connection has asked area schools’ principals to respond to the following three back-to-school questions:

1. What is the most exciting news in your school approaching a new school year?
2. What is your single most important goal (in a new school year)?
3. Some of the upcoming events at the school?

Roger Vanderhye, Principal, Spring Hill Elementary School

1. Our most exciting news is that, thanks to the generosity of Fairfax County voters, the School Bond issue passed last November and we will be starting a 10 classroom addition to Spring Hill in the fall.

2. Our goals each year are similar in that we strive to challenge children to not only master the basic academics but also to think critically and divergently. In addition, we try to instill the values of working together harmoniously and to be good stewards of our local, national and global environments.

3. Upcoming events include:

A. Our New Family Orientation held in the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 1, with families that have a last name A-L coming at 6 p.m. and M-Z at 7 p.m.

B. Thursday, Sept. 2, from 2-3 p.m., an Open House where children and parents can come and meet their teacher.

C. Wednesday, Sept. 15 (kindergarten-3) and Thursday, September 16 (4-6) are our Back to School Nights from 6-8 p.m.

We will keep you posted on other events as they happen.

Robert C. Fuqua, Principal, Chesterbrook Elementary School

1. We are excited about a num
The Brethren will perform at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 22 at Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road in McLean. Many members of the group are from the Army chorus, the Navy SeaChanters and the USAF Singing Sergeants. Free, donations accepted. Contact 703-893-5330 or providencedaytoday.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 20
The Irish Tenors: Finbar Wright, Anthony Kearns and Domhnall Tyman. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Tickets $26-$65 at 703-988-9250 or www.wolftrap.org.

The Civil Wars and Madi Diaz at 7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 22 at Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road, Vienna. $22 at Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road or www.providencedaytoday.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 21
Open Mic Saturday. 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.

The Temptations and The Four Tops. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. $38 in-house, $48 lawn. 703-988-9250 or www.wolftrap.org.

DC Fest with MercyMe, Amy Grant and more. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4400 Patriot Blvd., Fairfax. Christian rock. $19-$99 at 703-573-7EAT or www.mcleancommunitycenter.org.

No Stars Over California, Decent To Daylight, Bourne Of Ash and Rockabilly/swing/Blues Concert with Cathy Ponton King. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. $35 in-house, $45 lawn. 703-988-9250 or www.wolftrap.org.

The Brethren. 7 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road in McLean. Many members of the group are from the Army chorus, the Navy SeaChanters and the USAF Singing Sergeants. Free, donations accepted. Contact 703-893-5330 or providencedaytoday.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 23
Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. at Nottoway Park, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-293-6227.

SUNDAY/AUG. 22
Great Big Sea, 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. $35 in-house, $45 lawn. 703-988-9250 or www.wolftrap.org.


Summer on the Green: Redstone. 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Classic rock. 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.

THE FAKE MADWOMAN. 7 p.m. at Vinson Hall, 1051 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The Traveling Players Ensemble present a commedia dell’arte style play. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Free admission, chairs available for rent $5. All proceeds benefit TPE educational programs. playingtravelers.pmailus.com.
**McLean**

6625 Dryden Dr. ... $665,000 ... Sun 1–4 ... Cecilia Lofthus ... Weichert ... 703-556-5989

1118 Chateau Ct. ... $699,000 ... Sun 2–4 ... JD Callander ... Weichert ... 703-866-7601

**Great Falls**

11543 Tralee Dr. ... $1,795,000 ... Sun 1–4 ... Vivian Lyons ... Weichert ... 703-406-9009

6502 Dryden Dr. ... $665,000 ... Sat 1:30–4:30 ... Cecelia Lofton ... Weichert ... 703-508-3968

46605 Hampshire Station Dr. ... $489,900 ... Sun 1–4 ... John McCambridge ... Samson Properties ... 703-906-7067

10407 Hunt Country ... $739,000 ... Sun 1–4 ... Alan Cavacas ... Coldwell Banker ... 703-627-6493

504 Stephen Cir., SW ... $499,900 ... Sun 1–4 ... Jeremy Cunningham ... Redfin Corp ... 703-955-1832

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**RESTON**

11543 Tralee Dr. ... $1,795,000 ... Sun 1–4 ... Vivian Lyons ... Weichert ... 703-406-9009

**VIENNA**

612 Truman Creek ... $489,900 ... Sun 1–4 ... Dave Lloyd & Associates ... Weichert ... 703-594-2548

504 Stephen Cir., SW ... $489,900 ... Sun 1–4 ... Jeremy Cunningham ... Redfin Corp ... 703-955-1832

10407 Hunt Country ... $739,000 ... Sun 1–4 ... Alan Cavacas ... Coldwell Banker ... 703-827-6490

9625 Squires Crest Ln ... $1,861,000 ... Sun 1–4 ... May Wenk ... Fairfax ... 703-456-6066

9658 Maymont Dr. ... $1,868,450 ... Sun 1–4 ... Mike & Jenny O’Bar ... Lang & Foster ... 703-437-6110

**STERLING**

22467 Morningside Terrace ... $329,000 ... Sun 1–4 ... John McCambridge ... Samson Properties ... 703-906-7067

4988 Herndon Station Dr. ... $489,900 ... Sun 1–4 ... John McCambridge ... Samson Properties ... 703-906-7067

46951 Backridge Place ... $559,900 ... Sun 1–4 ... John McCambridge ... Samson Properties ... 703-906-7067

**LEESBURG**

41045 Indigo Place ... $715,000 ... Sun 1–4 ... Debbie Moure ... Weichert ... 703-856-4766

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**HOME SALES**

**July 2010**

$2,700,000 ~ $739,500

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**REAL ESTATE**

To have real estate information listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

**J.D. Callander**

of the McLean/Dolley Madison office was recognized for outstanding results in June as it led the region for sales and the region for resales.

Bruce Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors announced the McLean/Old Dominion office for outstanding results in June as it led the company for outstanding results in June as it led the region for re-
sale dollar volume - Bruce Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors announced the region comprises offices located throughout Virginia.

Keller Williams Realty Interna-
tional announced its annual “Family Reunion” Conference in New Orleans that the McLean office won top honors nationally among more than 30 new Keller Williams offices for 2009, with $6.5M in gross commission income.

Keller Williams was awarded the #1 Launch in the nation for 2009. The McLean office launched 18 months ago with 30 agents and has today 100. Keller Williams International also surpassed Re/MAX to become the #1 Largest real estate company in the U.S. by agent count. This is the first time in 20 years that the order has shifted.

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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 All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.
Our new Academic Focus involves our new Intervention/Enrichment period in the school day known as “Resource and Enrichment at Chesterbrook” (REACH). This will be a daily 20 minute block of time for students to have three to four opportunities a week to have individual and/or small group attention working with intervention and enrichment identified by common assessments within the school day.

Another Academic Focus will be expanding our Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (FLES). We will be focusing on the Chinese culture and language for first to fourth grade this coming school year.

Our Life Skills and Community goals this year will be focused on expanding our partnership with Vinson Hall Retirement Community, where we are enjoying a multigenerational experience with the residents of Vinson Hall and George Washington University students. We will also expand our Wellness Committee made up of community and faculty members to include nutritional facts and tips.

To create instructional opportunities that can view student as individual learners with unique strengths and needs. New this year will be our REACH program along with a block of time set aside in the school day for intervention and/or enrichment. We will also continue our before and after school study programs to assist us in providing smaller class groupings to assist children’s unique learning styles.

Some of the upcoming events at the school include:

- Open House on Sept. 3 to meet and greet students in grades 1-6 beginning at 2 p.m. Kindergarten students will have their open house on Sept. 3, with the a.m. class attending from 9:30-10:15 a.m. and the p.m. class from 10:15-11:00 a.m.
- On Saturday, Sept. 11th Chesterbrook will partner with the Vinson Hall Retirement Community and George Washington University students for an outside work day on the school grounds/gardens.
- Chesterbrook’s Back to School Night for our parent community is on Sept, 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
Longtime summer season team members move on at age 19.

By Rich Sanders
The Connection

The conclusion of the summertime swim season for organizations such as the Northern Virginia Swim League (NVSL) also marks the end of the individual summer season swim careers for older team members who have often been a part of their respective clubs for 30 or more years.

Numerous older teenagers who have grown up enjoying the social and competitive benefits of being part of a summer season swim team finally reach the age where they are no longer eligible to actively compete in the weekly meets.

This is a bittersweet time for the young men and women, who are often preparing for their first or second years of college in the upcoming fall while also enjoying one last hurrah with the summer teams of their youth.

NVSL swimmers, according to league rules, become ineligible to swim for their teams once they turn 19 years of age. The ripple effects of older swimmers moving on is a natural progression, but also one that hits programs hard as those veteran team members have often served as leaders and good role models to their younger teammates.

Adam Pennington, 18, just completed his final full season as a member of the Cardinal Hill swim team in Vienna. Pennington, who graduated from James Madison High School this past June, will swim within the Ivy League this upcoming school year as a freshmen member of the Columbia University (New York City) swim team. Next summer, he will be allowed to swim for Cardinal Hill until his 19th birthday comes on July 9. At that time, his summer swim career will be officially ended and he will no longer be allowed to compete in his team’s meets.

So Pennington, who was a star high school swimmer in recent years at Madison, tried to enjoy this recently completed summer season the best he could.

“Next summer I won’t be able to swim for Cardinal Hill the whole year,” said Pennington, who just completed his 13th year as a team member. “When you’re 11 or 12, you kind of take for granted being part of a team like this. But the last year or so I started thinking, ‘Wow, I want to get the most out of my remaining years with the team.’”

Pennington, who has been a part of the McLean Fish club team since 2001, made his swim mark at Madison, as a junior, he was part of two Warhawk relay teams — the 200 and 400-free relays — that set Virginia state high school records. During his senior year, Pennington, in individual events, finished second in the state in the 500-freestyle and third in the 200-free.

During his career at Cardinal Hill, Pennington has broken five team records, some of which have since been broken by others. He said he has competed in at least seven season-ending All Star meets. At this summer’s All Stars on Aug. 7 at Broyhill Crest Pool in Annandale, Pennington finished second in the 50-back and fourth place in the 50IM.

He said he consciously stepped up into more of a team leadership role this summer.

“Definitely this year more than other seasons,” he said. “In prior years there were always older team members than me so I didn’t assume as much leadership until this year. Being a leader is a lot of fun. We got blown out in a few meets and I told the kids it’s not all about the winning. I think good sportsmanship is the biggest thing.”

ELIZABETH HALL of the Poplar Tree team in Chantilly turned 19 on July 31. She competed for the Pirates most of the summer until her birthday. Thereafter, she could not participate in any of her team’s postseason events, including All Stars.

In her final meet as an eligible swimmer several weeks ago, Hall, in a home meet, broke an NVSL record in the girls’ 15-18, 50-back event at the league mark in the boys’ 15-18, 50-back, Fletcher said, “It was very emotional knowing it was my last race,” said Hall, of the McLean Fish, concluded his NVSL career by breaking the league record in the boys’ 15-18, 50-back event with a time of 25.82, ahead of second place Pennington (28.04). He also was first in the 50-fly (25.07).

Fletcher, who swam at Madison High (where he was a teammate of Pennington), is a rising sophomore and team member at the University of Michigan.

Of his record-breaker in the 50-back, Fletcher said, “It was a pretty smooth race for me. I’m really happy with it and wanted to get under 26 (seconds). It was real nice to go out with a ribbon in my last swim. I’ve been swimming (for Hunter Mill) a long time so this is bitter sweet. The whole team atmosphere here has been a lot of fun.”

Fletcher said the swim competition at Michigan was fierce during his freshmen year. His final summer within the NVSL was much less stressful.

“A lot of [NVSL swimming] is mostly fun,” said Fletcher, one of the Northern Region’s top swimmers during his high school career. “For me, this is about relaxing and having a good time. This summer I wanted to jump in, swim fast, and see what happened.”

Fletcher said he’ll likely serve as a Hunter Mill assistant coach next year. Now, he is preparing for his second year of swimming collegiately for the Wolverines.

“I’m looking forward to it and to bettering my times,” he said, of the upcoming college season. “I just want to enjoy the season.”

Adam Pennington of Cardinal Hill will be swimming this upcoming school year at Columbia University.

SEAN FLETCHER of Division 3 Hunter Mill (Vienna) completed his NVSL career with a bang at All Stars by breaking a league record in the boys’ 15-18, 50-back event with a time of 25.82, ahead of second place Pennington (28.04). He also was first in the 50-fly (25.07).

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Sports editor Jon Roodman contributed to this story.
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WEDDINGS

Katherine Lois Swedo, John Patrick Beatty
Married

Katherine Lois Swedo of McLean and John Patrick Beatty of Vienna were married on June 26, at St. John the Beloved in McLean. The bride was given in marriage by her father, Dr. Gregory Swedo, father Paul Scalia of St. John the Beloved officiated. Music at the ceremony was provided by Alison Combes.

The bride is the daughter of Drs. Susan and Gregory Swedo of McLean. She is a senior at Virginia Tech majoring in mathematics with a concentration in education. She will graduate in December. She is also a graduate of Oakcrest School.

The groom is the son of Daniel and Jean Beatty of Vienna. He graduated from Virginia Tech this past spring with a B.S. in computer science. He is also a graduate of The Heights School. He is presently employed at comScore in Reston.

Stephanie Nguyen of North Potomac, Md., friend of the bride, was the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Elizabeth Swedo of Atlanta, Ga., sister of the bride; Emily Swedo of McLean, sister of the bride; Amanda Vermaaten of Midlothian, Va., friend of the bride; Julia Crowley of Oakton, friend of the bride; Colleen Beatty of Vienna, sister of the groom; and Marybeth Beatty of Vienna, sister of the groom.

Sgt. Juelharte, MPO Burchfield and PFC Simon began attempting to locate the woman. Johnson asked the woman to open her front door and turn on all her house lights to make locating her easier.

Juelharte then asked officers to activate their blue emergency lights in hopes that the woman could see the lights and direct officers to her home. The woman was unable to speak coherently and was not able to successfully direct officers to her home.

Attempts to locate the woman’s phone number and house address continued to prove fruitless and Dispatcher Burchfield began searching the Internet for solutions.

The woman’s address was eventually discovered through the diligent work of the two dispatchers and the phone company. The officers and Fairfax County EMS units were able to successfully locate the woman and render aid.

The officers and dispatchers of the Vienna Police Department utilized very creative methods and much persistence in their attempts to locate the woman. In the end, the woman was able to receive the treatment she needed.
OVER 50 HOMES SOLD SO FAR THIS YEAR!

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# 1 AGENT - COMPANYWIDE

#1 Listing Agent  #1 Selling Agent
#1 Total Volume    #1 Total Transactions
Weichert, Realtors (Dolley Madison Office)

McLean—Dominion Hill

1553 Dominion Hill Court
McLean $1,325,000
Beautiful CUSTOM home with no detail overlooked! Gourmet island kitchen with granite; 4' bump-outs; stunning MBR w/ sitting room!

McLean—Chesterbrook Woods

6011 Balsam Drive
McLean $875,000
Rarely oversized 4br/3 bath rambler in gorgeous park-like setting! Large bedrooms; hardwood floors; fin. LL w/ rec room, br and full bath!

McLean

1718 Chateau Court
McLean $699,000
BEAUTIFUL 4 br/3 full bath all-brick 2-level rambler on GORGEOUS treed lot in park-like setting! Updated kitchen; spacious walkout LL!

6564 Snowbell Lane
$539,900

6039 Franklin Park Road
$1,589,000

1276 Beverly Road
$1,099,900

1716 Kirby Road
$515,000

7211 Arthur Drive
$599,900

1343 Kirby Road
$1,499,000

2104 Hutchison Grove Ct.
$449,900

6522 Cedar Lane
$469,000

212 Buxton Road
$899,000

1703 Oak Lane
$1,994,400

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