

McLean CONNECTION

From left, Claire O'Brien, playing Janet van de Graaf, listens to Lisa Anne Bailey, playing the Drowsy Chaperone, during a rehearsal of "The Drowsy Chaperone," which is being staged by the McLean Community Players.

Dancing to The Music

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Langley High Hosts 'Race to Nowhere'

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Resolutions 2011

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Funding for the future infrastructure of Tysons Corner redevelopment is one of the topics that the McLean Citizens Association plans to tackle during 2011.



PHOTO BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

McLean Looks Ahead

Tysons Corner, McLean Community Center issues a focus in 2011.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

As 2011 approaches, McLean faces many issues ranging from the future of Tysons Corner to the next steps for the McLean Community Center.

As Tysons Corner redevelopment is searching for funding, the McLean Citizens Association continues to advocate a position that would require the landowners to pay for 75 percent of the infrastructure, much like the arrangement that was reached on the Route 28 redevelopment. MCA president Rob Jackson said it's only fair that the landowners pay for the bulk of the costs since they are the ones who will be benefiting from the increased income.

"The Tysons landowners and developers will likely make enormous profits from the added density that is enabled by the increases in public facilities," Jackson said. "It is only fair, therefore, for those who profit to pay the bulk of the costs that enable those profits. It seems unconscionable for the residents and other businesses in Fairfax County to pay higher taxes or see program reductions so that a few businesses can make windfall profits."

Jackson also said the MCA will be seeking to make sure the City of Falls Church refunds residents for overcharging them on their water service. Last year a Fairfax County Circuit Court judge ruled that Falls Church was charging more than it cost to produce the water, thereby making a profit.

According to the office of Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) many of the 110,000 Fairfax County residents served by Falls Church Water Service reside in McLean, particularly those who live inside the Beltway.

"If a court concluded that a private business overcharged its customers but refused to pay refunds, most government officials would be up in arms," Jackson said. "But when the shoe is on the other foot, too many government officials just cannot give up

money that doesn't belong to them. This is simply wrong."

THE MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER also has some changes in store for 2011, most notably the pursuit of a downtown location. A possible location could be a renovation or expansion of the Old Firehouse Teen Center, located on Chain Bridge Road. "We're determining whether or not to build a new facility downtown or simply expand the teen center to include programming for the entire community, not just teens," said David Sanders, chairman of the MCC board. "There are a few options. Do we redevelop that site, a major renovation, or look at other sites downtown? And if so, where are those sites? We want to do this in the most efficient and fiscally responsible way."

David Sanders called 2010 "the most successful year in the community center's history. We had very high participation in the range of programming and record participation in many of the events we held."

The MCC just concluded a survey of more than 600 residents of the tax district to gauge the community's thoughts on expansion, programming and other relevant information.

Secretary of the board and chair of the communication committee Risa Sanders said the survey would also gauge interest in any future programming.

"We really want to know what people want to see here," she said. "And there's always a segment of the population that doesn't know what we do."

To that end, Risa Sanders says the MCC is planning a renovation of the sign that sits at McLean Central Park, at the corner of Dolley Madison Boulevard and Old Dominion Drive. The new sign will be more aesthetically pleasing, she said, and will incorporate the center's new logo.

"It will look fresher, brighter, more polished," Sanders said. "And the raised lettering will be replaced with an LED sign, which will enable more text and allow it to be changed at a moment's notice, ensuring the information remains fresh and current."

Sanders also said the Alden Theatre will be outfitted with new seats and a new HVAC system to make it quieter and more comfortable. She said she also hopes that a downtown location will offer a black box location, allowing more groups to use a stage when the perennially-booked Alden Theatre is unavailable.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS



Sen. Janet Howell (D-32)

Casting all my votes in the long-term best interest of Virginians rather than for short-term political gain is my resolution. This is always my goal but it will be especially challenging this year: It is an election year and I will be chairing the redistricting committee. With divided government the pressures to look for partisan advantage will be intense.

An important corollary is to be the first to extend a hand across the aisle. The only way to accomplish anything in Richmond is to work collaboratively with

legislators from other parties and regions.

Losing 15 pounds and getting in shape would also be nice!



John W. Foust, Supervisor (D-Dranesville)

To continue to provide the quality service and assistance my constituents deserve and also to reserve quality time for family and friends during what promises to be a very challenging year.



Margaret Vanderhye, former state delegate

My resolutions are as follows:

1: I will re-engage in public service at all levels of government and community life.

2: I will go through accumulated papers and photos of five generations of family members. The store rooms and closets of my house will be cleaned and sorted and our "archives" will be in order. I have already started! Just last week I came across 20-year-old files from state level projects I champi-

oned. The major recommendations were to clean up the Bay, provide more funding for transportation and promote better links between land use and transit opportunities. It all sounded familiar!



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Tyson's Disney store manager Kim Greenlee (right) and assistant manager Angelique Pierce help Marine Master Sgt. Richard Shoemaker load up plush toys that will be donated by the store's "Buy One, Get One, Give One" campaign, which allowed customers to purchase a Disney plush toy, get one free and have one donated on their behalf to the Toys For Tots Program.

Spreading Christmas Magic Disney store in Tysons Corner donates plush toys to Marines Toys For Tots program.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

More than 200 children in this area will wake up with a Disney plush toy Christmas morning, as a result of the Disney Store in Tysons Corner Center teaming up with Toys For Tots. The store's "Buy One, Get One, Give One" campaign resulted in more than 20,000 toys (about \$300,000 worth) being donated around the country.

The campaign allowed customers to purchase a plush toy of various Disney characters between Nov. 29 and Dec. 7, and receive a free one while one would be donated to Toys For Tots.

"It's a wonderful thing to be able to do, most of us here have children and we're lucky enough to have jobs, so it's nice to be able to share with those that don't," said Angelique Pierce, the store's assistant manager. "The customers here at Tysons Corner are so generous, they were very supportive of this campaign, as they are with similar things throughout the year."

Customers who chose to donate filled out tags to be put on the toy they donated, so the children receiving it would get a more personalized gift.

Master Sgt. Richard Shoemaker, who is assigned to Marine Corps Base Quantico, picked up the boxes of donated toys Dec. 16 before the store opened.

"Every time I get to do this it's unique, we really take to heart that there are kids out there that wouldn't have toys if it weren't for this program," Shoemaker said. "It's a pleasure to be able to make it possible for them to enjoy Christmas, every toy is going to make a difference for someone's Christmas."

Shoemaker is one of the Marines who have been making pickups throughout the season, and he says that while every stop is a memorable occasion, there is always something in common.

"There are always people there who are very dedicated to helping kids who are less fortunate than others," he said. "The Disney stores are very big into volunteering, into giving back, and our cast members really take that to heart," said Tyson's store manager Kim Greenlee. "And I think our customers liked knowing that they were able to help just by doing their regular shopping."

Disney has been involved with Toys For Tots since the organization began in 1947. Disney animators designed the group's first logo as well as the very first Toys For Tots Poster.

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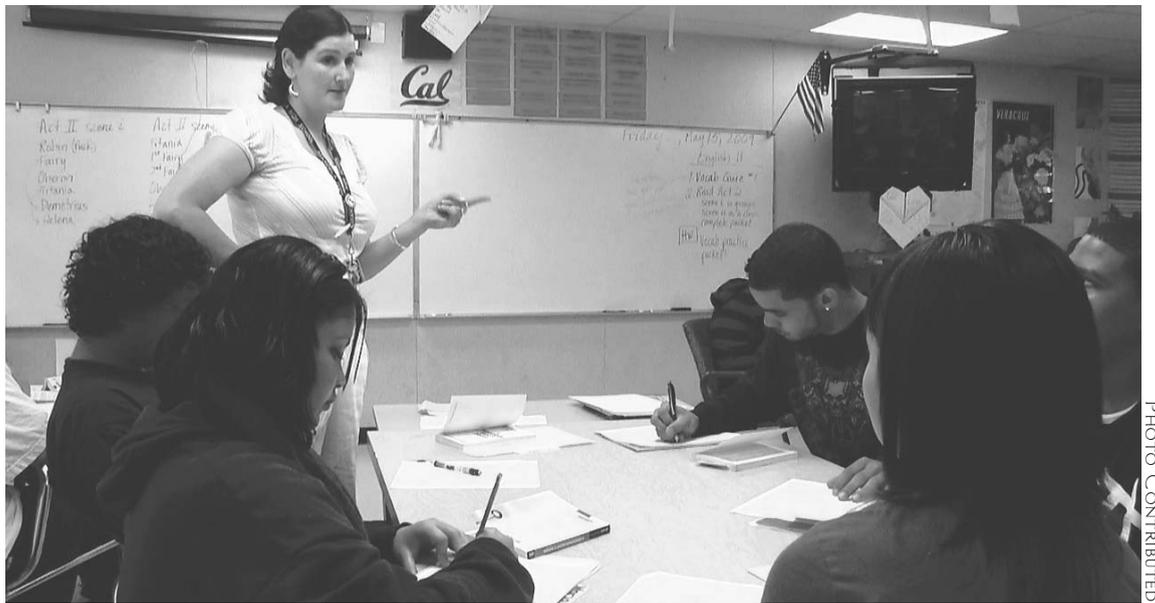


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

"Race to Nowhere" deals with the stress-induced problems, including drug abuse, depression and suicide, that can come with over-competitiveness in education.

Langley High Hosts 'Race to Nowhere'

Film depicts effects of stress on student mental and physical health.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Tradition holds that childhood is a time to be without the stresses of jobs, mortgages and other adult concerns. But that's not so much the case anymore. At least, that's the view of the Safe Community Coalition, who is sponsoring a showing of "Race to Nowhere," a movie that details the stresses placed on today's children.

The coalition, which offers resources to help parents and children make safe decisions, decided to show the film Jan. 11 at Langley High School to help ease the pressures faced by students in this area.

"We see this as a great opportunity for this documentary to show what sort of stress-related illnesses happen when students are thrust into such a fast-paced, competitive environment," said Nyka Feldman, executive director of the SCC. "It's an interesting way to see the intersection of physical and mental health and education."

THE FILM was made by Vicki Abeles, a mother of three who worked as an attorney on Wall Street. After her 12-year-old daughter began treatment for stress-related illness, she saw how pressure to perform was affecting the youngest members of society.

Betsy Shomaker, head of the Langley High School's PTSA Family Network Committee, said the film "is an important vehicle to begin a dialogue between parents and educators." Parents said that between prepping for tests, bulking up college applications and playing varsity sports, the children are not taking time to enjoy being a kid.

"It's like running. Kids have to be able to choose their pace. If you start too fast on the first lap, you're dying by the third lap," said Louise Epstein, presi-

dent of the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology PTSA. "But if you take it at the right speed, you'll finish the race just fine."

Several members of the Langley, McLean and Thomas Jefferson High School PTSAs said that their children spent almost the entire day of winter break catching up on homework that had been assigned for the break.

In an area as affluent as Northern Virginia, SCC board member David Crystal said that the pressure from parents can be even greater, even if it's unintentional.

"This is a high-achieving community, with parents who have high expectations," Crystal said. "Whether they're aware of it or not, parents put those high expectations on children, which makes this film particularly relevant here."

Susan Mayman, first vice president of the Langley PTSA, said "the film doesn't place blame on anyone. It just poses questions to administrators, teachers, parents and students."

Feldman said the showing of the film is the first step in changing the culture.

"It's a jumping off point to see what we can do to support teachers, and school administrators regarding the changes in school-life balance that we all want to talk about," she said.

LANGLEY HIGH has already scheduled a follow up session featuring Dr. William Stixrud, a clinical neuropsychologist specializing in training and supervision of learning specialists. He will facilitate a discussion March 22 at 7 p.m. at Langley High School to discuss follow up strategies.

"Everyone is trying to do their best for their kids, families and students, but there can be unintended consequences," Feldman said.

The SCC serves the area around McLean and Langley High School and their feeder schools, including private schools. They offer a variety of programs and resources to help parents and children create a safe, healthy and drug and alcohol free environment. More information can be found at www.safecommunitycoalition.net.

SCHOOLS

Longfellow Middle Wins Knowledge Master Open

On Dec. 8, the quiz bowl team of Longfellow Middle School in Falls Church placed first in the nation in the Knowledge Master Open, beating out over 500 schools. Coached by Eugene Huang, the winning team consisted of: Kate Salamido, Bobbie Sheng, William Liu, Raymond Yang, Renee Wah, Rebecca Hall, Anna Tursi, Tajin Rogers, Junyoung Hwang, Ross Dempsey, Ryan Golant, Allen Cheng, Matthew Steelberg, Tiger Zhang, Emma Fan, Ari Ghasemian, Khoi Tran. This is Longfellow fourth KMO national championship in a row.



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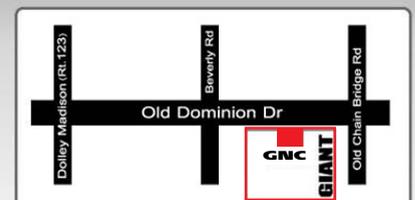
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Resolved: Pick One Way to Get Involved

New Year's resolutions? Go ahead, let's pledge to lose weight, exercise regularly, spend less, recycle, save and read more. The turn of the calendar really does provide an impetus to make small and large changes in the way we live.

One item to add to the list of resolutions is to get involved locally. Volunteer one time for one day, or give a few hours a week to something that interests you. Pick one place where you can make a difference. The experience will enrich you (and your family) as well, connecting you to the community in new ways. Making time for even a single volunteer effort communicates an invaluable message about your values to your children in a powerful way that words cannot match.

Most local nonprofits and church groups that provide emergency food and services for families in need are overwhelmed right now by the dramatic increase in demand for food, emergency help with rent to prevent homelessness and much more. See sidebar for some suggestions.

Volunteer Fairfax connects volunteers of all kinds to organizations in need of help, providing flexible weekend and evening opportunities including packing emergency food kits for families in crisis, tutoring adults in alternative learning programs, reading to elementary school children after school, socializing with seniors or planting trees to prevent erosion. Volunteer Fairfax will hold its annual Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day on Monday,

Places to Volunteer

- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**, Oakton, 703-385-3267
- ❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org
- ❖ **Reston Interfaith**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, 571-323-9555, www.restoninterfaith.org
- ❖ **SHARE of McLean**, 703-284-2179, www.SHAREofMcLean.org
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-391-0105
- ❖ **Food for Others**, 2938 Prosperity Avenue, Fairfax, 22031, 703-207-9173

Jan. 17, 2011 at George Mason University, an opportunity to work on service projects with your family. See www.volunteerfairfax.org.

The Arlington County Volunteer Office promotes civic engagement and active volunteer participation, coordinating volunteer opportunities from hundreds of nonprofit and government agencies. Visit www.co.arlington.va.us and type "volunteer" into the search box.

The Alexandria Volunteer Bureau recruits and coordinates volunteers and matches their interests, skills and availability with the needs of service-providing nonprofit organizations and public agencies. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org.

The Literacy Council Northern Virginia is in need of volunteers who will devote several hours a week to helping adults master reading and writing skills; visit www.lcnv.org.

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer is a trained citizen who is appointed

by a judge to represent the best interests of a child in court. CASA volunteers help children who will have their home placement determined in juvenile court. See www.casafairfax.org.

The Alexandria/Arlington Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program has helped hundreds of children have a voice within the court system. See <http://www.scanva.org/casa.htm>

Some other suggestions:

Get involved in state and local political campaigns. Every seat in the Virginia General Assembly, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and School Board and many other state and local offices are about to enter campaign mode, with some races hotly contested. Volunteer with a candidate, with the League of Women Voters or with your local electoral board.

The public school or library closest to your house is also in need of volunteers. Homeowners associations need activists to learn about a variety of local issues and coordinate neighborhood response. Your church or house of worship could use a hand. Animal shelters and animal rescue groups are also over extended with families giving up pets due to the economy, in addition to their usual work. Environmental groups like Audubon Naturalist Society and the Nature Conservancy offer many kinds of volunteer opportunities, as do local parks.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

Q & A

Dulles Rail, HOT Lanes, Tysons Top Supervisor's Agenda

John Foust shares his 2011 priorities.

In this Q & A column, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) discusses some of the District priorities in the 2011.

Q: What issues will you be addressing on the County Board of Supervisors as your own mission?

A: During 2011, I will focus a substantial amount of effort on the county budget. My emphasis will continue to be on reducing costs and holding the line on property taxes while adequately funding essential services. I will also be active in working with community partners and other stakeholders to develop an equitable plan for financing much needed county infrastructure, including the infrastructure that is needed to serve Tysons Corner.

Another focus of my efforts will be on implementing the newly adopted Tysons Corner Plan, including advocating for public parking near one or more of the Metrorail stations so that residents in McLean, Vienna and other surrounding communities will be able to use the rail. I will also work with the Town of Herndon to prepare for the coming of Dulles Rail to Herndon and I will continue to work on the revitalization of downtown McLean. I have gotten numerous trail and sidewalk projects

approved and funded and will be focused on seeing them constructed in 2011.

As Chairman of the Board's Audit Committee, I will continue to work with the auditor to monitor and evaluate the budget and schedule for the Dulles Rail project and to search for ways to improve the cost effective operation of the county. As Chairman of the County's Economic Development Commission I will continue to work to make Fairfax County attractive to good employers and to strengthen and diversify the county's economy.

My staff and I will continue to work to mitigate the impact of Dulles Rail and HOT Lanes construction and Tysons Corner development on surrounding communities. We will always seek to provide excellent constituent services and to seek constituent input on decisions that impact their communities.

Q: What are the most pressing needs that are facing the county?

A: The most pressing needs include providing adequate funding for essential services including education, public safety, transportation and human services while controlling the tax burden on homeowners, supporting the School Board's efforts to maintain an outstanding public school system, providing adequate work force and affordable housing and being sensitive to the county and school workforce as we manage our way through the 'Great Recession.' Also, replacing aged infrastructure and provid-

ing new infrastructure to serve the growth the county has and will continue to experience, expanding transportation options and reducing reliance on single occupancy vehicle trips as the primary means of transportation and preserving the quality and character of our existing neighborhoods as the county continues to grow.

Q: How will the Dranesville District be affected by transportation decisions?

A: During 2011, construction of the Dulles Rail and HOT Lanes projects will continue to have an adverse impact on traffic in and around Dranesville. In addition, inadequate transportation funding by the State of Virginia will mean that much needed road maintenance and road improvements will not be done. Residents along Georgetown Pike will benefit from our efforts to limit the scope of the Route 7 widening project to a single left turn lane. Numerous pedestrian and bicycle projects should be completed or under construction in Dranesville. We will continue to implement traffic calming projects. Planning will begin on several intersection improvements I had approved to address cut-through traffic around Tysons. I also obtained board approval to make Route 7 widening from Tysons Corner to Reston Avenue a high priority transportation improve-

SEE Q & A, PAGE 7

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Q & A

FROM PAGE 6

ment and planning for that project will commence when funds are available.

Q: What positions are you taking on behalf of your constituents regarding Tysons redevelopment and traffic around Vienna?

A: At my request, the board authorized a study of approximately 18 intersections around Tysons Corner to determine what improvements were needed to handle current and anticipated traffic. Implementation of those improvements was included as a transportation priority in the Tysons Corner Plan. Also at my request, the board included widening of Route 7 from Tysons Corner to Reston Avenue as a high pri-

ority transportation improvement in the Tysons Corner Plan. In addition, at my request, the board has directed staff to find public parking around one or more of the future Tysons Metrorail stations so commuters from surrounding communities will be able to use the Metrorail when it opens in 2013.

I will continue to insist that additional development in Tysons Corner be phased so that the necessary infrastructure, including roads, transit, schools, parks, athletic facilities and other public facilities, is in place as new development is constructed. And I will continue to support improved and expanded bus transit options in and around Tysons Corner and surrounding communities as well as improved and expanded bicycle and pedestrian access to and through Tysons Corner.



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THURSDAY/JAN. 6

Elizabeth and The Catapult, The Last Monarchs and Ceceilia Jeffrey. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 7

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap". 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1ststage.com or 703-854-1856.

The Capitol Steps. 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Topical comedy. \$40-\$45.

The Michael Clem Trio and Peyton Tochterman. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

U.S. Navy Concert Band. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Professional Bull Riders Tour. 7:30 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$20-\$65. Age 2-12 years old and excluding top price seats \$10. Available through www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

"Reviving Ophelia". 7:30 p.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Four girls

learn to overcome their differences. \$5. madisondrama.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 8

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap". 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1ststage.com or 703-854-1856.

The Capitol Steps. 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Topical comedy. \$40-\$45.

Langley HS Theatre Honor Society Coffeehouse Concert. 1 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Music, skits, poetry and more. \$5. una.cox.net.

The Independent EP Release and The Wave Exchange at 6:30 p.m., Pandamonium Dance Party with Dirty Steeve, Santi and Ypsat at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Fiction, nonfiction, paperbacks, children's books, recorded books, CDs, DVDs and more.

U.S. Navy Band Commodores. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Professional Bull Riders Tour. 7:30 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$20-\$65. Age 2-12 years old and excluding top price seats \$10. Available through www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

"Reviving Ophelia". 7:30 p.m. James

Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Four girls learn to overcome their differences. \$5. madisondrama.com.

Artist's Reception. 6-8 p.m. Applegate Gallery & Custom Framing, 101 Church St. N.W., Suite C, Vienna. With landscape painter David Grafton. info@applegateframing.com.

Singer-songwriter Tom Chapin. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

World Children's Choir Voices for Children Workshop. 8:15 a.m. Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean, Virginia. The film "The Peace Tree," African drumming, show tune choreography and singing. info@worldchildrenschoir.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 9

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.

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap". 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1ststage.com or 703-854-1856.

Meet The Doggets "The Sweet Retreat." 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

U.S. Marine Band. 2 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

MONDAY/JAN. 10

Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band

Battle IV. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 11

Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle IV. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Tuesday Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Stories, songs, and activities. Age birth-5 with adult. 703-790-8088.

Personalized Internet Training. 2:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A 45-minute one-on-one Internet training session with a technology volunteer. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Practice Your English. 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-790-8088.

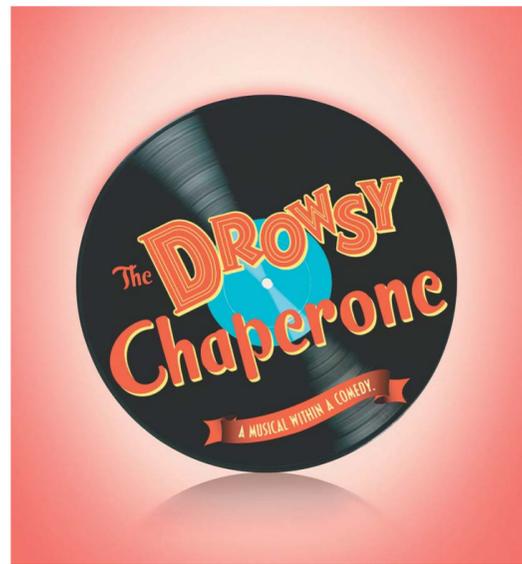
WEDNESDAY/JAN. 12

Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle IV. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 13

Painting Shadows and Color in Shade. 10 a.m. at the Vienna Arts Society, 115 Pleasant St., N.W., Vienna. Artist Carolyn Grosse Gawarecki with watercolor techniques. Free and open to the public. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle IV. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.



jamminjava.com.
International Guitar Night. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. With Clive Carroll, Alexandre Gismonti, Pino Forastiere and International Guitar Night (IGN) founder Brian Gore. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 14

The OK Corral CD Release. 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
"The Drowsy Chaperone." 8 p.m.

McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Glamorous brides, tap-dancing groomsmen and more. \$17-\$19. 703-790-9223 or www.mcleanplayers.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 15

Sing Me Insomnia and Struan Shields at 6 p.m., **JAMuary, Box & Won, Venise and Empuls** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$25-\$55, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

The Mary Ann Redmond Band. 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Heartfelt ballads and funky tunes. \$20. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

"The Drowsy Chaperone." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Glamorous brides, tap-dancing groomsmen and more. \$17-\$19. 703-790-9223 or www.mcleanplayers.org.

VITA Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$49K. Adults. 703-790-8088.

SUNDAY/JAN. 16

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.

"The Drowsy Chaperone." 3 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Glamorous brides, tap-dancing groomsmen and more. \$17-\$19. 703-790-9223 or www.mcleanplayers.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 18

Five Hills Garden Club. 9:45 a.m. on the lower level of Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Michael Lawn, retired White House Gardener, will lecture and give a slide presentation of the White House gardens. Free, visitors welcome. 703-988-9324.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.

Evening Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. When Will There Be Good News? by Kate Atkinson. Adults. 703-293-6227.

gso
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The Capitol Steps

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 7 and 8, 8 p.m.
\$45/\$40 McLean district residents

They're back! We always have to turn people away from the annual Capitol Steps show, so buy early and buy often.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration
Sunday, Jan. 16, 5-7 p.m.
Admission: \$5 adults;
\$3 children age 10 and under.

Our blues and barbecue dinner includes a performance by Curtis Blues, a preservationist of acoustic Delta Blues of the 1920s and 1930s.

The Steamboat Story: Voyaging Alaska's Inside Passage
With filmmaker Stan Walsh
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m.
\$10/\$8 McLean district residents

Come early and enjoy a cooking demonstration of regional cuisine with a professional chef.

Family Fun Bingo
Saturday, Jan. 22, 2:30-4 p.m.
\$10/\$5 McLean district residents;
children age 2 and younger are free.

Here's a great way to spend time together as a family. Win great kid-friendly prizes, play guessing games and enjoy light refreshments.

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

OPEN HOUSES

Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 8th & 9th



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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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1315 Daviswood Dr.....\$1,550,000...Sun 2-4...Dolores Ferrer.....Weichert.....703-893-1500

Falls Church

3035 Meeting St.....\$499,900...Sun 1-4...Ron Cathell.....Keller Williams.....703-975-2500

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754 Ellsworth Ave.....\$1,749,999...Sun 1-4...Diane Van Volkenburg..Weichert.....703-980-4553

470 RiverBend Road.....\$4,785,000...Sun 1-4...Bob Nelson.....Keller Williams.....703-999-5812

Reston

1760 Wainwright Dr.....\$379,500...Sun 1-4...Judy Gruner.....Long & Foster.....703-904-3700

11510 Maple Ridge Road...\$379,950...Sun 1-4...Pat Orend.....Long & Foster.....703-407-3300

11095 Saffold Way.....\$425,000...Sun 1-4...Pat Orend.....Long & Foster.....703-407-3300

11782 Great Owl Cir.....\$467,500...Sun 1-4...Barbara Dugger.....RE/MAX.....703-858-9108

12114 Walnut Branch Rd...\$999,500...Sun 2-4...Karen Chipman.....Weichert.....703-760-8880

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10218 Vale Rd.....\$650,000...Sun 1-4...Mary Hovland.....Long & Foster.....703-946-1775

9211 Cello Court.....\$739,500...Sun 1-4...Heather Embrey.....McEneaney.....571-236-2616

8254 George Washington Ct...\$999,000...Sun 12-3...Cathy Zamanpour.....Long & Foster.....703-517-2367

Oakton

12001 Wayland St.....\$549,900...Sun 1-4...Pat Stack.....Weichert.....703-597-9373

Sterling

46628 Drysdale Terr, #302...\$249,900...Sun 1-4...Dina Azzam.....Re/Max.....703-403-3830

20402 Rupert Island Pl.....\$829,000...Sat 1-4...Sheila Cooper.....Weichert.....703-626-1033

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.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Larry Baird, playing the Man in the Chair, watches a performance of his favorite musical “The Drowsy Chaperone.”

Dancing to the Music

McLean Community Players debut area premiere of “The Drowsy Chaperone.”

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Wade Corder of the McLean Community Players went to New York a few years ago and saw the musical “The Drowsy Chaperone” and it became his dream project.

“It was so wonderful, so odd, such a joyous celebration of life,” Corder said. “It’s a musical record come to life.”

The play toured, but never came to the Washington, D.C., which is something the McLean Community Players wanted to change.

This is Corder’s first time directing a musical, and while it was almost a year in the making, he’s ready to show the community just how much fun the play is.

“I could tell from the first read-through that we had something special. It was so much fun watching the cast play around while we were figuring it out,” Corder said. “Even when something would bomb, we would just burst into laughter.”

THE PLAY tells the story of the Man in the Chair, played by Larry Baird, who lives alone in his New

Showtime!

“The Drowsy Chaperone” will be at the McLean Community Center’s Alden Theatre. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$17 for seniors and students and \$13 for groups of 10 or more, and can be purchased by going to www.mcleancommunityplayers.org or at the Alden Theatre box office.

- ❖ Friday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, Jan. 15, 8 p.m.
- ❖ Sunday, Jan. 16, 3 p.m.
- ❖ Friday, Jan. 21, 8 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, Jan. 22, 8 p.m.
- ❖ Sunday, Jan. 23, 3 p.m.
- ❖ Friday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, Jan. 29, 8 p.m.

York City apartment with his record collection keeping him company. The audience gets a guided tour into the man’s psyche, as he explains his love of musicals.

“Larry brings such expertise to the part of the Man in the Chair, he makes me laugh and he just nails his monologues every time,” Corder said.

Baird then shows us his prized record, a little-known (and fictional) musical “The Drowsy Chaperone,” which he begins to play.

Baird’s lines are all speaking to the audience, which

SEE ATTRACTED, PAGE 11

Give Together

A Family Volunteer Day

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
Monday, January 17, 2011
Shift 1: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Shift 2: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
GMU - Fairfax Campus

Spaces are limited and pre-registration is required at www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Special thanks to the Connection for its support of volunteerism.

Join us for live tweets at VolunteerFFX.

Volunteer Fairfax

Attracted by Challenges

FROM PAGE 10

he said was a challenge because he didn't have other actors to play off of.

"I don't ever have a conversation in the play. It's all me talking, so it's difficult to memorize when I'm not singing other characters' lines for a reference point," Baird said.

The musical within the play, a Shakespearean comedy involving conflicting motives, mistaken identities and couples who fall in and out of love, is punctuated by the man's commentary throughout.

"It's very frivolous, but there are also elements of drama with the Man in the Chair," assistant director and choreographer Amanda Cane said. "He has some very dramatic moments, where we see he's kind of a sad person, and those moments play off the lightness of the rest of the play."

Baird spends the musical portions of the play watching as a normal audience member, except when he breaks in to offer his own commentary during the scene. As the Man in the Chair develops as a character, Baird said he enjoyed the ride.

"His comedy lines are great. There are so many fun one-liners," Baird said. "And I just love the rants at the end."

Cane says her favorite part of putting the play together was figuring out what the best elements of musicals to parody were.

"I love spoofs, and we're making fun of one of my favorite art forms, the musical," Cane said. "Figuring out what those elements are that we can parody, what humor will stick out was a lot of fun."

BESIDES the various pairs of lovers and the people invested in their failures and success, various cartoonish characters such as a pair of punning gangsters and a heavily accented lothario add much of the humor.

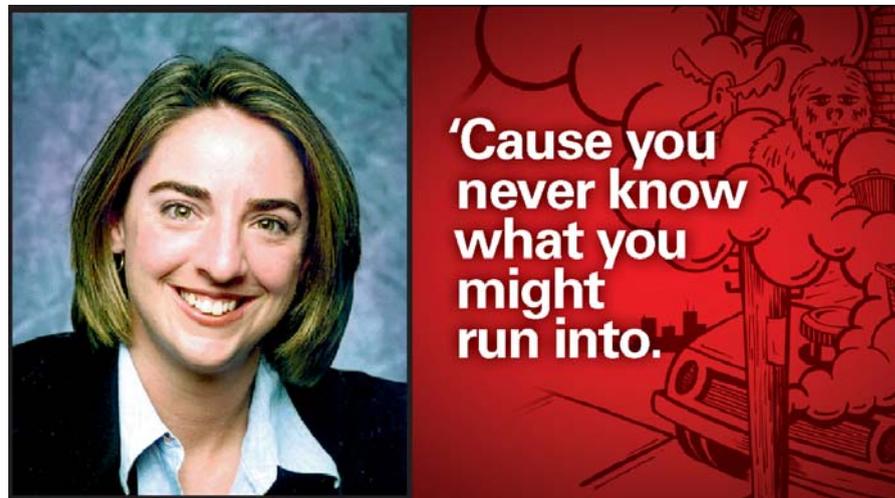
Cane said besides the one big dance number, there were other elements of the play that required outside help.

"I knew it would be a challenge coming in. There is a heavy duty tapping number that I brought in an assistant for," she said. "There's another scene with a character who is blindfolded and has to roller skate. That was pretty daunting as well."

But Cane said the challenge is one of the things that attracted her to the theater in the first place.

"I love the moment when something I've put down on paper becomes reality," she said. "When it comes to life and looks good as it did in my imagination, which doesn't always happen, that's the best part."

"This is an area premiere. It's never been done anywhere within driving distance of Washington, D.C.," Corder said. "McLean has allowed us to put on this show, so we want to give them a great show."



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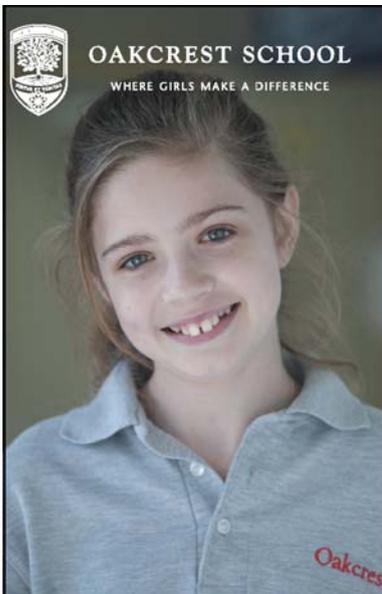
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BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Sports are a big part of my life as I realize they are for much of the Connection Newspapers readership which support and cheer on their favorite youth, high school, college and professional sports teams. For me, the yearly calendar is often marked by signature sporting events, such as the NFL playoffs in January, Major League Baseball's Opening Day in early April, and the men's NCAA college basketball tournament in March.

My birthday (March 13) always arrives as the college basketball conference and national tournaments are beginning to unfold. Many of my birthdays have been extra special or dampened somewhat, depending on how my favorite college men's basketball team, the Terrapins of the University of Maryland, fared at the ACC Tournament or whether or not they went on to qualify for the national tournament field.

Sports fans often associate major events in their lives with landmark sports moments involving their favorite teams. A former co-worker of mine, a huge Boston Red Sox fan like myself, got married and enjoyed his honeymoon during the Sox's history-making World Series run in the fall of 2004.

After being with my mom in the hospital for the birth of one of my younger brothers, my father, then the high school boys' basketball coach at Bishop O'Connell in Arlington, rushed from the hospital to the O'Connell gymnasium where his Knights were in the closing minutes of a nip-and-tuck game. Upon my dad's arrival to the home team bench, his head assistant coach, in one of those memorable moments that has been remembered and laughed about for years, simply told him, "It's yours to lose."

In fact, O'Connell won that night, making it one of my dad's landmark coaching days - with the birth of a son and a basketball victory.

THERE WERE WONDERFUL local sports memories made in 2010 for fans around the Northern Virginia area. Quickly coming to mind for me were the prep school heroics of the Virginia State AAA girls' softball champions from McLean High School, as well as the Langley High boys' lacrosse team which, after being disappointed in the Northern Region title game - an overtime finals loss to Robinson - stormed back to capture its second consecutive state title the following week with a championship game win over Loudoun Valley.

In Reston, the South Lakes High girls' basketball team, under head coach Christy Winters Scott - the former University of



The Langley High girls' lacrosse team enjoyed their best season ever last spring, capturing both the Liberty District and Northern Region titles and ultimately going as far as the state finals.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Madison and McLean High put together outstanding spring softball seasons in 2010. The two Liberty District teams met in the Northern Region title game, with Madison winning. But it was McLean which went on to win the state crown the following week.

Maryland women's basketball star - advanced all the way to the Liberty District finals before falling to two-time defending champion Madison. Freshmen center sensation Zoe Beard-Fails made the all-district tournament team, as did freshmen guard Marlana Tremba. A year earlier, a much more seasoned South Lakes team had captured the regular season district crown.

The Herndon High baseball team did not capture any titles, but enjoyed a winning season (11-7) under new head coach Greg

Miller, a former Hornet baseball star himself who was taking over the reins of the program from the legendary, longtime Herndon baseball skipper, Al McCulloch.

Fred Priester's Oakton High Cougars, behind the terrific guard play of the Coyer twins - Caroline and Katherine - and shooting sensation Zora Stephenson, made their annual strong postseason charge, capturing another region crown and qualifying for the state tournament. The Cougars defeated West Springfield in the region finals.

Caroline Coyer scored 20 points in the title game win and earned tourney MVP honors. Also from the Vienna area, the Madison High girls' hoopsters, under steady head coach Kirsten Roberts, a former Warhawk player herself, won their third consecutive district tournament title. Junior guard Erin Kavanagh earned tourney MVP honors in the Warhawks' finals win over South Lakes.

Other local team's experienced sensational seasons, including McLean High football, baseball and boys' soccer; Langley boys' soccer and girls' lacrosse; Madison baseball, girls' softball and girls' soccer; South Lakes' boys track, boys' cross country and boys lacrosse; and Herndon boys' basketball.

Local professional sports highlights for 2010 included the Washington Capitals putting together the best win-loss record in the NHL; Washington Nationals rookie pitcher sensation Stephen Strasburg electrifying the Washington, D.C. home crowd and the entire baseball universe with his debut game, 14 strikeout outing versus the Pirates; and the Wizards landing the top pick in the NBA Draft and selecting point guard extraordinaire John Wall from Kentucky.

I HAVE COVERED high school sports for The Connection Newspapers for the past 23 years, and I am still amazed that every contest - regardless of the year, sport, schools involved, or even the players and coaches - is a special, one-of-a-kind event which will never be duplicated. One could attend hundreds of high school football, field hockey or soccer games and all of those sporting contests would hold their own, distinct characteristics, such as weather elements, the mentality of the individual athletes on that particular day, the recent success or failures of the teams leading up to the game, or even the bigger picture world events taking place at that particular time. No two games are ever exactly alike.

Almost always, the teams and players I have watched compete over the years have played with passion, determination and a healthy will to win within the rules. There is still a sense that high school sports is, overall, pure in a way the professional and college games are not. I get tired of watching enormously high paid pro athletes playing half-heartedly in front of packed stadiums and millions of TV viewers. There is another option - supporting and attending the local high school and youth sports events.

The New Year, God willing, will be filled with more numerous, exciting high school and youth events for local sports aficionados to take in and enjoy. May area high school and youth sports fans throughout Northern Virginia continue to rally around and remain a big part of the local sports scene in 2011.

My best wishes go out to all for a happy, safe and successful New Year.

NEWS

CARE To Lunch to Help Area Non-profits

Supporters gathered for the inaugural lunch of the new charity-focused lunch networking group, CARE TO Lunch, on Tuesday, Nov. 30, at Panache Restaurant & Lounge in Tysons Corner. The luncheon featured a 3-course lunch and the non-profit Pajama Program, an organization which provides new sleepwear and new books to children in need. (www.pajamaprogram.org) Attendees present were supporters, friends, and business colleagues of Nina Un, founder of CARE To Lunch. Pajama Program's DC Chapter President, Judy Cooper, shared the program's mission and how the simple comfort of new pajamas can make a difference for a child. Un said she hopes CARE To Lunch will facilitate social, business and philanthropic connections while providing a forum for non-profit organizations to raise awareness and funds. The next scheduled luncheon will highlight the Yellow Ribbon Fund on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011. For tickets, more information about CARE To Lunch or how you can contribute, contact Nina Un at nina@caretolunch.org, on Facebook CARE To Lunch. (www.caretolunch.org)



CARE To Lunch Founder, Nina Un of McLean, with supporter Alisani Brazil of Stephens City, Va., CEO of The Pampered Rose Fine Perfume Company.



Making connections for the Pajama Program are Christine Amorosi (McLean), Ann Malekzedah (Great Falls), Anton Bestebreutje (Clifton) and Pajama Program's DC Chapter President, Judy Cooper (McLean).



McLean Little League Spring Registration for Baseball and Softball Players

Saturday, January 8th from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm
Thursday, January 13th from 5-8 pm
Saturday, January 22nd from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

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NEWS

Keeping Eyes on the Road

By ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Students from George C. Marshall, James Madison and Falls Church High Schools presented their solutions to distracted driving last month at Luther Jackson Middle School. The presentation was part of the Transurban-Fluor and AAA Mid-Atlantic's Orange Cones, No Phones campaign, which urges drivers to maintain their focus while driving on roads that are under construction, such as the Beltway and I-95.

According to a recent survey of local drivers, 55 percent of Beltway drivers use their phones while driving, which includes talking as well as reading and writing texts. From September 2009 to September 2010, talk on hands-free cell phone devices remained the same, while talk on a hand-held cell phone increased from 30 percent to 33 percent, drivers who read texts rose from 15 percent to 22 percent and drivers writing texts rose from nine percent to 13 percent.

The survey also showed that younger drivers are more likely to be distracted, with 35 percent of drivers aged 18-24 admitting to reading texts while driving and 26 percent of drivers admitting to writing texts.

The students who participated in the event said they were interested in helping spread the campaign because it was they and their friends who are the ones affected.

"We feel that if our peers are passionate about the cause, it will have a bigger impact," said Katie Yoon, a student at Falls Church High School.

Yoon, along with Maianh Phan and Mollie Dreisbach presented a campaign that included ads at the Tysons Corner Movie Theater, plastic wristbands, radio ads and T-shirts.

The wristbands, which are fashionable among teens, was one of their more important items, because they are trendy, and also with the driver in the car.

"When drivers have their hands on the wheel, the orange wrist bands will remind them of the campaign, and just how dangerous it is to be distracted," Dreisbach said.

The team from Marshall High, Christine Greve, Jenny Felter and Ritika Jain, impressed the judges the most, with their campaign using social networking and the Kane Show on Hot 99.5 as ways to spread awareness.

The group won \$5,000 to carry out their campaign, which they will do between January and April 2011.

Judge Michelle Holland, or Transurban-Fluor, said the judges were "impressed with your understanding of the issue and your understanding of your target audience."

Uncertainty, Of That I'm Certain



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm having some difficulty starting this column. The reason being, primarily, that it's presently Dec. 18 and it won't be until Jan. 5, 2011 when it will appear in print. And why that latter date is problematic is, that it occurs a week after my next round of quarterly scans will have been completed and two days before my every-three-month, follow-up appointment with my oncologist — Jan. 7, is scheduled. And it is during that appointment when I will learn the fate of my universe. Because that is when the results from my weeks-previous Bone and CT scans and Brain MRI will be revealed/discussed with my doctor. And whatever it is I think I feel — or don't feel, the scans will confirm it, presumably.

Not that much has changed concerning my health/symptoms. It's more that there are results forthcoming which will change my life — for the worse potentially, or reaffirm how fortunate my present lack-of-circumstances are. Either way, it's one of those moments in time when the world stops — and you can't get off. I can only hope that when my oncologist enters the examining room where my wife, Dina, and I will be waiting anxiously, he'll be smiling when he sees us; and not uncomfortably, but reassuringly, as he has frequently in the past 15 months.

Therefore, to write definitively about anything health-related now, when the tale of the tape will tell it all in three weeks, seems risky somehow. I don't want to presume facts not in evidence nor do I want to anger the gods. And I most assuredly do not want to write about substance/circumstance on which I have fairly limited knowledge and minimal control: my cancer. So this column is about what I don't know, and how long it might be until I do know and why I'm being circumspect — and hesitant, and what it is I hope I will know. And to write anything significant about my cancer, given the Jan. 5/7 time line, other than I'm feeling pretty good though increasingly nervous about this next appointment, seems prudent and certainly precautionary — given my general mental state.

Every day, I begin a sentence with "What if...?" And every day, I try not to complete that question. Every night I go to sleep wondering if the next day I'll learn the answer to that question. And the next day when I will learn the answer to that question will be Jan. 7, 2011. And since Jan. 5, 2011 arrives before that, and I'm writing this column three weeks before both of those dates, anything I'm thinking or feeling now (in mid December), seems incredibly presumptuous and naive almost. I will know soon enough if the road ahead is filled with good intentions or whether it's a road under repair.

As I wrote about in a recent column, the end of my quarterly scan cycle always presents these subconscious/unconscious emotions and anxieties — which are totally beyond my control. What is in my control is writing about them as if I knew anything definite about the "underlying problem" (as I refer to my lung cancer) and I don't. All I do know is, I'm in pretty good shape for the shape I'm in. However, it's exactly the way I felt — basically, when I was first told back in late February 2009 that I had stage IV lung cancer.

Certainly I realize that it is better to feel good than it is to feel lousy. Still, given the minimal symptoms I experienced back in the beginning, it's not as much consolation now as you might think, especially considering that the projected back end of my "13-months-to-two-year life expectancy" anniversary is fast approaching.

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

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