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# Garden Of Your Dreams

HOME, PAGE 15

For Sale:  
\$17 Million  
HOMES, PAGE 16

McLean's  
'Ghazal Queen'  
NEWS, PAGE 3

Determined to  
Beat the Odds  
NEWS, PAGE 3

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MEMBER  
FDIC

**McLean resident Allison O'Reilly tries climbing down a set of stairs with Stacy Pineda, a physical therapist at the National Rehabilitation Hospital. After suffering a Pontine stroke last fall, Allison O'Reilly was told she would never walk again, but her and her husband Kevin took the motto 'not acceptable' and Allison is able to walk, and was released from NRH March 1.**



## Determined to Beat the Odds

**McLean resident Allison O'Reilly battles back after stroke.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Last Fall, McLean resident Allison O'Reilly felt a pain in her arm and began feeling dizzy. After her neighbor drove her to the emergency room, she was diagnosed with vertigo and sent home. A few hours later, she awoke and couldn't speak, so the 50-year-old was rushed to INOVA hospital. This time, the diagnosis was a Pontine stroke, a rare stroke caused in the brain stem by a blood clot.

After surgeons removed the clot, they told her that she would be unlikely to walk again. But Allison and her husband Kevin responded with two words: "not acceptable."

"I was told [she wouldn't walk again] and said 'this is not acceptable,' because the doctor based his statement on clinical data, not Allison the person," Kevin O'Reilly said. "She is young, in good health and has grit and determination."

**UPON ADMISSION** to the National Rehabilitation Hospital on Nov. 4, Allison O'Reilly had to re-learn a lot of daily activities that everyone takes for granted, such as how to speak and eat. Lauren Taylor, a speech-language pathologist from NRH said they accomplished a lot in their few months together.

"We had a lot to work on. She had no oral—lips, tongue, jaw—movement, making her unable to close her mouth, speak, produce voice or swallow," Taylor said. "I knew Allison was determined when she would let me try anything, no matter how slow, silly or uncomfortable, in order to make progress toward her ultimate speech therapy goals, eating and talking."

Kevin O'Reilly remembers Allison's first words.

"Her first words were 'I love you!' which she was practicing around Christmas with one of her best girlfriends to say to me," said Kevin O'Reilly. "She belted it out, and the nurses came running when they heard her speak."



**From right, Allison O'Reilly prepares to climb stairs at the National Rehabilitation Hospital with the encouragement of her physical therapist, Stacy Pineda. O'Reilly, 50, suffered a stroke last fall, and battled through four months of rehabilitation to learn how to walk, speak and eat again.**

After learning to speak again, basic movement proved to be a challenge. Kristen Ryan, Allison O'Reilly's occupational therapist remembers seeing her determination when she started to regain movement in her arms.

"When Allison started getting movement back in her arms, we were able to start having her begin to learn to dress herself again. This was very challenging for Allison and an [early] session ended in tears," Ryan said. "However, she was determined to be able to put her shirt on and by the time she left, she did

SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 13

**Vatsala Mehra at her home in McLean.**



PHOTO BY JAMES CULLUM/THE CONNECTION

## McLean's 'Ghazal Queen'

**Vatsala Mehra performs at Kennedy Center.**

BY JAMES CULLUM  
THE CONNECTION

The "Indian Joan Baez" made her fourth solo performance at the Kennedy Center last week. McLean's Vatsala Mehra, an internationally recognized master of the Indian Ghazal, sang for 80 minutes in the Eisenhower Theater.

"It was so exciting," Mehra said from her McLean home. "I think it's one of the most prestigious venues in the world. It's also very expensive for the sponsors. You do not generally make money because the theater is so expensive, so it's like making art for art's sake. My next goal is to sing there with the full symphony."

Mehra's performance was part of Maximum India, a Kennedy Center festival

that runs until March 20, and includes Indian theater performances, food, films, crafts, music and dance. "There are three-four shows going on a day. They really brought the best of India to the Kennedy Center," she said.

Mehra, who was born in Mumbai, has lived in McLean for 27 years with her husband, Joe, a consultant for the Virginia Department of Transportation. The happy couple were arranged to be married more than 30 years ago. "It's funny to talk about marriage and the importance of chemistry and all, but then you see couples

getting divorced in nine months," Mehra said. "I got married when I was 18. I was a baby. First we lived in Herndon, then Vienna, and I went to school to become a psychologist."

But the allure of music took hold. "I had always loved singing, ever since I was a child, and I knew that singing was my calling," Mehra said. "If you can sing Indian classical you can sing anything in the world. It's very precise. It has six beats, eight beats, 16 beats—so you have to follow the music. It's very tough."

**"They really brought the best of India to the Kennedy Center."**

— Vatsala Mehra

Mehra returned to India where she received formal training under her guru, Ustad Momin Khan Saab of Lucknow Gharana. She later founded and is currently director of the Balaji Music

Academy, which offers classes in Indian Classical Vocal Music, Ghazals, Bhajans and Pop music.

Mehra has been called the "Ghazal Queen". Ghazals are love poems originally written by Persian mystics, and sung in a ballad-like style accompanied by Indian classical music. "I've been told as I get older I'll get into spirituality. Spiritual songs are not boring and I can make you dance to them. That's all I want to do now. You get this energy in you. It's just beautiful," she said.

For more, go to [www.vatsalamehra.com](http://www.vatsalamehra.com).

## Nominations Accepted for Teen Character Awards

Nominations are being accepted for the annual McLean Citizens Association (MCA) Teen Character Awards. This award recognizes teens (ages 13 – 19) with exceptional ethical and compassionate character who have “contributed significantly to the welfare of a family or community member and who inspire other teenagers to demonstrate exemplary behavior toward their families and neighbors.” The award certificate will be presented at McLean Day on Saturday, May 21.

Nomination forms are available at the McLean Community Center and at McLean area middle schools and high schools. The deadline for submitting nominations is April 23.

## 10<sup>th</sup> District Academy Day Set for April 9

Area students interested in attending one of the nation’s service academies are encouraged to attend to the 10th District Academy Day at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 9, at the Loudoun County School Board Office in Ashburn.

Representatives from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and U.S. Coast Guard Academy will be in attendance. In addition, representatives from the R.O.T.C., Virginia Military Institute, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and the DoD Medical Examination Review Board have been invited.

Students and parents will have the opportunity to meet individually with these representatives, as well as participate in panel discussions.

The 2011 Academy nomination season is now “open” for inquiries from students considering attending one of the U.S. service academies. For more information about the congressional nominating process or Academy Day, contact Ann Potocnak in Congressman Wolf’s Herndon office at (703) 709-5800 or by e-mail at [ann.potocnak@mail.house.gov](mailto:ann.potocnak@mail.house.gov).

The address of the Loudoun County School Board Office is: 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, Virginia 20146.

## A Look Into Area’s Future

Great Falls Group Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, March 22, at 7 p.m. will discuss: What will Northern Virginia Look Like in the Future?

Charlie Grymes, Chairman of the Prince William Conservation Alliance, contemplates how development will affect our communities, forest, and streams. If we continue to grow as we have, how will these natural resources be affected? What will our neighborhoods look like? This forward-looking presentation draws upon geologic knowledge and human perspectives to guide participants in the stewardship of their natural environment.

The meeting will be held at the McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road in McLean.

## Liberty Swing Will Open at Clemyjontri Park

Clemyjontri Park in McLean is known as a playground where children of all abilities can play together. Now, due in large measure to the generosity of several donors and the hard work of the Friends of Clemyjontri Park and the Fairfax County Park Foundation, Clemyjontri Park will feature the Liberty Swing, a unique apparatus which makes it possible for all children to enjoy the freedom and delight of getting on a swing – even those in wheelchairs.

On Saturday, April 16, at 9 a.m. ribbon cutting ceremonies will take place at the park.

Clemyjontri Park is located at 6317 Georgetown Pike McLean, Va. For more information, visit online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/clemyjontri/>. For information on how you can contribute to this wonderful playground visit the Fairfax County Park Foundation at <http://www.fxparcs.org/>.

## NEWS



From left, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), owners Mike Danner, Wes Clough, Jim Barnes, Mike Barnes, Marcia Twomey, president of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, Merritt Green, chairman of the board for the GMCC, artist Jessica Lovelace and GMCC board member Monish Banga cut the ribbon on the Lost Dog Café in McLean March 9.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

# Café Finds New Home

## Lost Dog Café cuts ribbon on McLean location.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

As one of the owners of the Lost Dog Café in McLean, Jim Barnes was surprised with how quickly the rush began. The store, which opened Jan. 18, officially cut the ribbon on the new location March 9.

“We figured once we got here, we’d take some time to get operation, then start to get the word out, go after the lunch crowd in Tysons Corner, but they came after us from day one,” Barnes said. “We probably had the same amount of business here on day one that it took a while to do in our South Arlington location.”

Located next to the Safeway on Anderson Road, the Lost Dog Café combines a full menu and almost 200 varieties of beer with an upbeat atmosphere that captures the spirit of McLean. The walls are decorated with a mural and several panels depicting the history of McLean, starting with McLean’s beginning as a farming community, going through the Civil War, the arrival of the railroad and the Tysons Corner Mall and including a section dedicated to the future Metrorail stations.

“With three kids under 10, the hardest part about going out to eat is finding a menu that will satisfy everyone,” said Jim McAvoy of Vienna. “But the menu here is big enough and varied enough to make everyone happy. At least I



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Murals depicting the history of McLean adorn the walls of the Lost Dog Café in McLean. The murals, painted by artist Jessica Lovelace, depict the history of McLean, featuring dogs instead of people.**

hope that continues to be the case.”

The menu features more than 50 different sandwiches and more than 20 kinds of gourmet pizzas. Barnes says he believes the diversity of the menu is a big draw.

“If you’re a salad person, we’ve got plenty to choose from, if you like sandwiches, there’s a ton of them too,” he said. “There’s really something for everyone.”

The store’s variety of beer from around the world doesn’t have to be enjoyed at the café itself. Six-packs are available for takeout, or diners can enjoy one with their meal.

“It’s hard to find a really good selection of beer around here, even the grocery store with a full aisle of beer seems to stock more of the standard Budweiser and Miller-type beers,” said Will Maitland of McLean. “I was blown away when I first stepped in here the variety they have here. I’ve

found a lot of beer that I’ve never even heard of, which is really cool.”

Barnes said in addition to the lunch hour, the store is also working on building the delivery business, they deliver within a 3-4 mile radius of the restaurant.

While on the surface the Lost Dog is a standard café, behind the scenes the founders work to find good homes for abandoned dogs and cats. The owners of the original location — which opened in Arlington in 1985 — started the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation that rescues animals that would otherwise be put to sleep in a shelter.

“Our franchise fees and a portion of all our sales still go to the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation,” Barnes said.

The Lost Dog Café in McLean is located at 1690A Anderson Road, and can be reached at 703-356-5678, or online at [www.lostdogcafe.com](http://www.lostdogcafe.com).

# CRIME

Activities reported by the McLean police department through March 11.

## FORGING COIN OR BANK NOTES/

### ARREST

Police arrested a man for attempting to pass a counterfeit \$100 bill at a store in the 7500 block of Leesburg Pike around midnight on Thursday, March 3. A 19-year-old male of the 1600 block of La Salle Ave. in McLean was charged with forging coin or bank notes.

### ROBBERY

A 24-year-old man was robbed at knifepoint in the area of Cedar Lane and Park Street around 11:24 a.m. on Sunday, March 6. The suspect was described as white, in his late 20s, about 5 feet 8 inches tall and 180 pounds. He was driving a 1993 Nissan four-door sedan with Texas license plates. The victim was not injured. Police are investigating.

### BANK ROBBERY

A man entered the Virginia Commerce Bank at 1356 Chain Bridge Road, displayed a handgun and demanded money. The robbery occurred shortly before 9:30 a.m. on Monday, March 7. The suspect fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash. There were no injuries. He was described as possibly black, 35 to 40 years old, 6 feet to 6 feet 2 inches tall, between 220 and 230 pounds. He was wearing a blue, hooded jacket, dark blue pants and dark shoes. The lower portion of his face was covered by some type of cloth. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

### LARCENIES

- 1400 block of Balls Hill Road.** Wallet stolen from business.
- 6900 block of Butternut Court.** Diamond and iPod stolen from residence.
- 1900 block of Chain Bridge Road.** iPhone stolen from business.
- 2900 block of Gallows Road.** Water heater stolen from residence.
- 2900 block of Gallows Road.** iPhone stolen from business.
- 8100 block of Lee Highway.** Vodka stolen from business.
- 1900 block of Leonard Road.** Equipment stolen from vehicle.
- 2900 block of Linden Lane.** Wallet stolen from business.
- 6500 block of Orland St.** GPS

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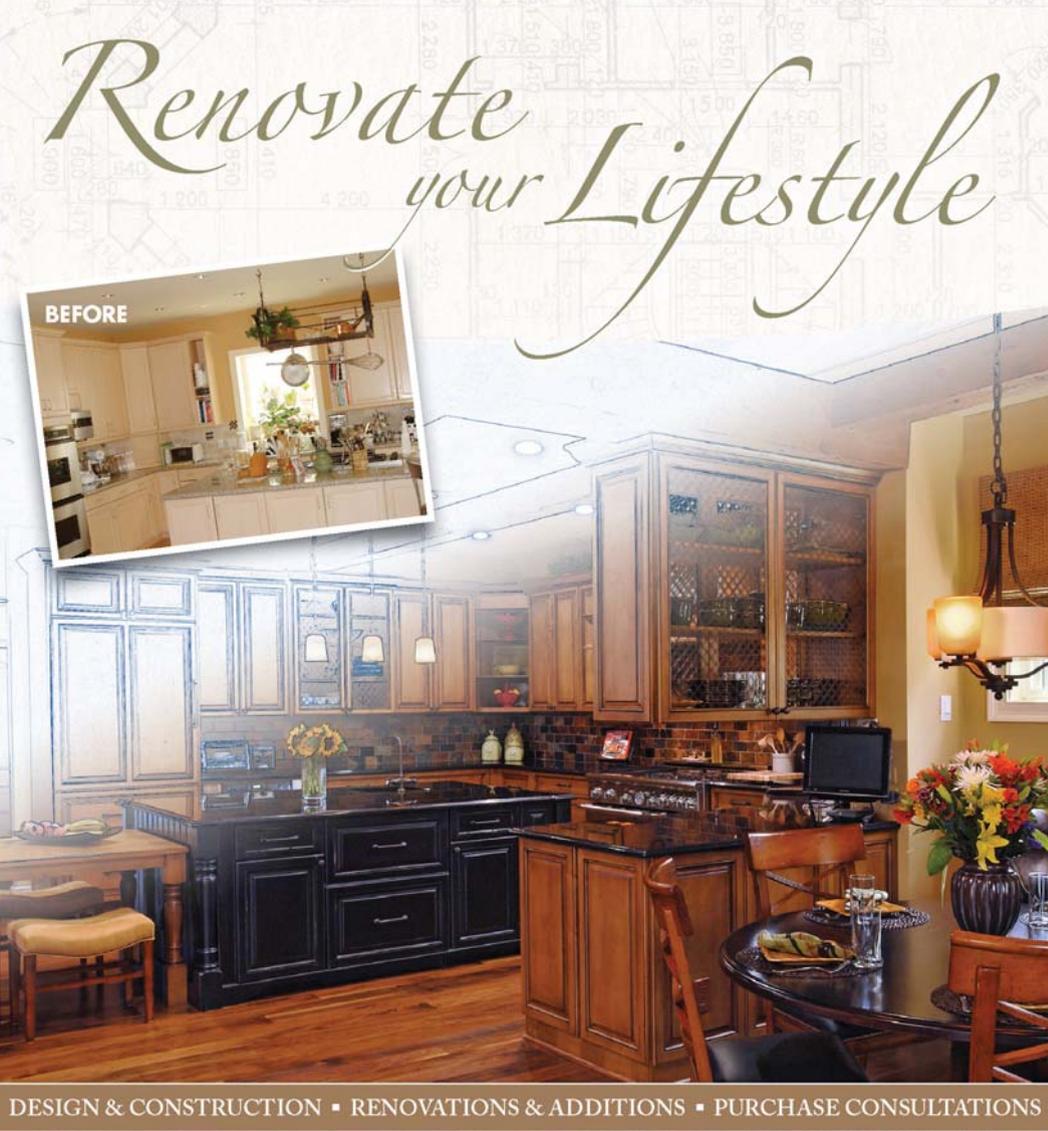
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## Rare Deer Spotted, Photographed in McLean

Some McLean residents were surprised on Tuesday evening, March 8 when this brown and white, white-tailed deer showed up in their back yards. The deer was spotted first by Joe Whitebread, who alerted his neighbor, Bob Kirk - a nature photography hobbyist. These pictures were taken by Bob Kirk at dusk in the Fairfax County Kent Gardens Park. Research on the Internet indicates the deer to be a 'piebald' deer that is rare (a defect that shows up in less than one percent), and had not been seen by these McLean residents before.



PHOTOS BY BOB KIRK



## FAITH NOTES

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

**The Youth of Christ the King Lutheran Church**, 10550 Georgetown Pike in McLean, are holding a Rummage Sale on Saturday, March 19 in the Fellowship Hall from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Proceeds will help fund their 2011 Mission Trip. Refreshments will be available. [www.christ-the-king-lutheran.org](http://www.christ-the-king-lutheran.org).

**The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist)**, 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna, will publish its 12th annual Devotions for Lent and distribute more than 19,000 copies to church neighbors. The church also shares the devotions each day through April 23 by e-mail at [www.GoodShepherdVA.com](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com).

**Epiphany United Methodist Church**, 1014 Country Club Drive in Vienna, is hosting a six week Marriage Enrichment Class on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. through April 10. Free. RSVP required. 703-938-3494 or [office@epiphanyumc.com](mailto:office@epiphanyumc.com).

**Vienna Presbyterian Church**, 124 Park St. in Vienna, presents the 12-week program "Passages," for those experiencing the pain of separation or divorce. The DivorceCare series meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost of materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938 9050 or [Passages@ViennaPres.org](mailto:Passages@ViennaPres.org).

**Centering Prayer offered at St. Dunstan's**, 1830 Kirby Road, McLean, Tuesdays at 7-7:45 p.m. Centering prayer is meditation and contemplative prayer, wordless, trusting, opening of self to the divine presence. Instruction

offered. [marjorie.cole@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.cole@gmail.com).

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

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

**Trinity United Methodist Church**, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sunday nights, 6 - 7:30 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or [umtrinity.org](http://umtrinity.org).

**McLean Bible Church**, 8925 Leesburg Pike in Vienna, presents The Power of a Changed Life, a multi-arts presentation on Jan. 15 at 7:30 p.m. The film "Adoniram's Calling" is the story of Adoniram Judson, the first US foreign missionary, and the program continues with stage readings. There will be a children's program for ages 5-12. [mbhsbh@earthlink.net](mailto:mbhsbh@earthlink.net).

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



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### The Connection Says

Since last summer, McLean's Elm Street Fitness has provided a departure from the noisy, stress-filled life that accompanies many of Northern Virginia's residents, and a place to exercise in a space with lots of windows, mirrors, calm music, and, if you desire, complete solitude.

By James Cullum THE CONNECTION

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Hearing on the  
McLean Community Center's  
FY 2013 Programs**  
Wednesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District One at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2013, which runs July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.

**The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.**

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: [mail@mcleancenter.org](mailto:mail@mcleancenter.org).



**The McLean Community Center**  
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101  
703-790-0123/TTY: 711  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

# NEWS

## Changing Tysons Landscape

Looking west over the Rt. 123 interchange in Tysons Corner, the white Dulles Rail truss will soon be used to build the rail structure over the Beltway.



## Great Falls Spring Art Festival Returns on April 9-10

Great Falls Studios presents the Fifth Annual Spring Art Festival, Saturday and Sunday, April 9 and 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, in the center of Great Falls.

All of the artwork is created by Great Falls artists, most of whom work out of their home studios. You can also vote in person for the village bird as part of Vote 2011: Wings Across Great Falls.

This year's show includes paintings, pottery, photographs, jewelry, drawings, art quilts, weaving, and woodcarving, plus artful gifts and cards.

A drawing for four \$50 "Art Bucks" door prizes will be held Saturday afternoon at 5 p.m. A portion of the sale proceeds will go to the school. Admission is free. Call Linda Jones, 703-442-9251 for more information.



"Returning Home To Number Fourteen," watercolor painting by Linda Jones.



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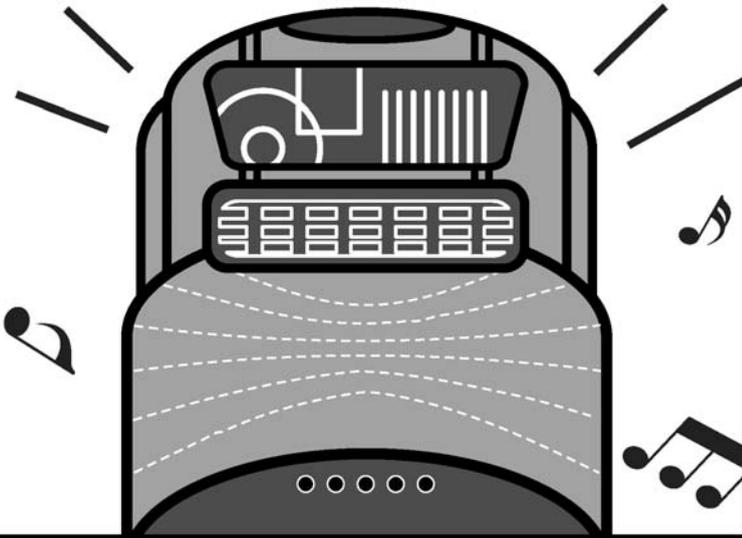
Friday, March 18, 8-11 p.m.

Advance: \$20/\$10 McLean district residents  
Friends of MCC: \$5

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Join the Friend's of McLean Community Center and the MCC at this co-sponsored casual evening event of dancing to the sounds of some of your favorite "oldies but goodies"! Live music provided by **The Fabulous Hubcaps** ([www.thehubcaps.com](http://www.thehubcaps.com)). There will be refreshments, appetizers and a cash wine bar.  
\*Registration is required.

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# OPINION

## Racing for the Cure

Global Race for the Cure is Saturday, June 4.  
Run, walk, sleep in or pitch in.

Last year, Komen Global Race for the Cure conducted a study of breast health in the Washington Metropolitan area, showing that women diagnosed with breast cancer here are more likely to die from breast cancer than the national average.

One conclusion is that health care infrastructure in the area is overly fragmented, producing significant hurdles for many women, particularly women who are poor or whose first language is not English.

In announcing grants to local organizations and kicking off registration for the 2011 Komen Global Race for the Cure, the organization cited the diverse population locally as a reason for more aggressive outreach here.

In Arlington, for example, there are women from at least 128 different countries speaking at least 95 languages. The event brings almost 50,000 runners and walkers to the National Mall in June and raises millions of dollars for breast cancer outreach and education.

### EDITORIAL

Some women are afraid of the screening process, some are worried about cost, some don't have a way to travel to medical appointments, some don't know what resources are available, some don't understand the benefits of early detection or the urgency of follow-up, and many aren't aware of the success of modern cancer treatments, believing a cancer diagnosis is a death sentence.

In the current environment, some immigrant women worry that accessing programs for the uninsured could lead to issues with immigration.

Based on its findings, Komen announced local grants of about \$4.5 million to improve both patient and provider education and to reduce fragmentation to enhance capacity to screen and provide follow-up care.

Two grants will focus on provider education, helping doctors and other breast health providers develop a better understanding of the myths, fears and needs of the different cultural populations of the women they serve. The

grants will encourage partnerships between providers in the region so that patients can be easily and efficiently referred from screening all the way through to survivorship, limiting difficulties with travel and work requirements, wait times, and financial assistance.

Eleven grants focus on patient education in a culturally competent manner to convey the importance of screening, effectiveness of modern treatments and survivorship. Among local organizations receiving grants: Arlington Free Clinic, From Education to Access; Prevent Cancer Foundation - Celebremos la vida!: Providing Educational Outreach and Screening, in Alexandria; Vietnamese Resettlement Association - Breast Cancer Education, Screening and Follow up, in Falls Church; Nueva Vida - Comprehensive Support Services for Latinas with Breast Cancer; American Association on Health and Disability - Bridging the Gap: No Woman Left Behind, in Rockville.

The 2011 Komen Global Race for the Cure will take place on Saturday, June 4, 2011.

You can run or walk the 5K, or even "Sleep In for the Cure," and there are special activities for children 12 and under.

For more, visit [www.globalracefortheure.org](http://www.globalracefortheure.org) or call 703-416-RACE (7223).

## 'One of the Most Successful Sessions'

BY BARBARA COMSTOCK  
STATE DEL. (R-34)



The 2011 General Assembly session was one of the most successful sessions in years. The bipartisan measures we passed have helped improve the lives and economic opportunities of all Virginians by making the first significant investment in transportation in a decade, helping businesses to grow and create new jobs, laying the groundwork for a better life for people with mental disabilities, reforming our higher education system to increase affordability and access for Virginia students, and passing a budget that is fiscally responsible and structurally balanced.

Once again, we kept our spending at 2006 levels, while not raising taxes or fees, and cutting out unnecessary items such as the Senate's proposal to spend \$300 million for a new "Taj Mahal" General Assembly office building. Reports of our improving economy and the recent 6.5% unemployment rate make Virginia among the most fiscally sound states in the country.

The following provides details on some of the key measures I focused on this session:

**JOBS.** HB 1447, Research and Development Tax Credit: We passed a Research and Development tax credit bill, which brought us in line with over 30 states which already

have this credit. I was the Chief Co-Patron of this bill to help companies bring new technologies to market. As The Washington Post reported, members of the Northern Virginia Technology Council and the Virginia Biotechnology Association called the session and this measure a "resounding win."

HB 2197, Telework Tax Credit: My Telework bill, which passed overwhelmingly, will grant employers a tax credit for expenses incurred in developing and implementing telework arrangements for employees. The bill is both a family-friendly work policy as well as a transportation congestion solution. It was supported by the Northern Virginia Technology Council, which has long been a leader in promoting telework policies, as well as by the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and the Virginia Small Business Partnership.

HB 2052, Secret Ballot Protection: Delegate Tim Hugo and I introduced legislation to require the use of secret ballots in any union

election and to prohibit the so called "card check" method of union elections which could force unions on a workplace without individuals having the right to vote in private. Because of federal regulatory agencies trying to impose unionization by regulation, we introduced this measure to protect Virginia workers and workplaces. When the U.S. Congress tried to eliminate the right to a secret ballot through the card check bill, even liberal icons like George McGovern called it "a disturbing and undemocratic overreach." George McGovern has noted that there are many documented cases where workers have been "pressured, harassed, tricked and intimidated into signing cards" that then lead to unionized workplaces. While HR 2052 passed in the House of Delegates with bipartisan support, the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee did not vote out this worker protection measure.

**TRANSPORTATION.** HB 2527, Transportation Package: I co-patroned the transportation plan passed this year, which was the first significant transportation plan in years. The plan will provide over \$4 billion in much needed transportation infrastructure funding over the next three years with-

out raising taxes. This multi-faceted transportation package, which is the single largest infusion of funding in decades, will fund over 900 projects across the Commonwealth, including work on widening Route 7.

HB 2203, Revenue Sharing: In relation to this transportation effort, I sponsored a bill on behalf of Fairfax County, which was incorporated into the transportation package, and allows Fairfax to once again be on an equal footing for obtaining revenue-sharing funds.

**EDUCATION.** HB 2510, Higher Education Act of 2011: I was a co-patron of a major Higher Education bill, which was passed unanimously in the General Assembly. This initiative will enable our institutions to meet the goal of issuing an additional 100,000 degrees over the next 15 years, making Virginia one of the most highly educated states in the nation and providing our state with a workforce that will attract top jobs. Based on this legislation, the University of Virginia Board of Visitors is poised to add nearly 1,000 new spaces for in-state students that will help many of our top students in Northern Virginia

SEE COMSTOCK, PAGE 9

## THE CONNECTION

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# COMMUNITY

## McLean Residents Nominated for Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards

Volunteer Fairfax and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will honor the spirit of service at the 19th annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards, Thursday, April 14, at the Waterford at Springfield in Springfield.

One hundred and sixty-two individuals and groups nominated will be honored for their work supporting such causes as mentoring children, the arts, healthcare programs, therapeutic recreation, animal rescue, homelessness and hunger. In McLean, the following residents have been nominated for a Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award:

**Dien Tran** volunteered at Lewinsville Adult Day Health Care Center, and is nominated for the Benchmark 500 award;

**Eileen (Casey) Tarr** volunteered at Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, and is nominated for the Senior Volunteer award;

**Holly Reilly** volunteered at Junior League of Northern Virginia, and is nominated for the Adult Volunteer 250 and Under award;

**Janie Willner** volunteered at Listening, Deaf Camps, Inc., McLean Local Heroes, and is nominated for the Youth Volunteer and Youth Benchmark 100 awards;

**McLean TOPSoccer** is nominated for the Youth Volunteer Group award;

**Greater McLean Republican Women's Club** is nominated for the Adult Volunteer Group award;

**Zack Sanders** volunteered at McLean Community Center, and is nominated for the Youth Benchmark 100 award;

**Zinaida "Zina" Mandrusova** volunteered at Lewinsville Adult Day Health Care Center, and is nominated for the Benchmark 500 award.

"Volunteerism brings together a diverse range of people with varied backgrounds. The language of service is one that can be understood by all people," says Jeanne Sanders, executive director of Volunteer Fairfax. "The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards provide an opportunity to recognize those that are bridging the gap between communities and societies through volunteering."

This year, the Service Awards will also serve as a kick-off to Fairfax County's inaugural Global Youth Service Day, an international volunteer day to engage youth, ages 8 to 25. The event will take place on Saturday, April 16 and will engage more than 700 youth at service projects across the County. Therefore, the 2011 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards will play an even greater role in inspiring youth and families to serve.

For more information about this year's nominees, or to purchase tickets, visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org).

## Comstock

FROM PAGE 8

get into our top schools. Other Virginia colleges and universities will be providing additional in-state slots. The legislation also places a greater emphasis on high demand science, technology, engineering and math subjects through the formation of a public-private partnership that will engage the business and professional community in leveraging best practices for K-12 and higher education.

HB 2204, Teacher Bonus: I introduced legislation this year that would have allowed local school divisions to have the flexibility to use any unexpended state funds to provide a one-time bonus to all teachers of up to three percent of the annual base salary. The House Appropriations Committee incorporated this into the proposed

House budget at a bonus rate of 2% where it obtained strong bipartisan support. This bill was modeled on a bonus given last year to state employees when they identified savings in the existing budget. While this year's similar measure for teachers had strong bipartisan support in the House, the Senate opposed providing flexibility to use this option, and it was not included in the final budget.

**HELPING THE DISABLED COMMUNITY.** SB 1486, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Trust Fund: The General Assembly passed legislation to fund the transition of people with serious mental and developmental disabilities from centralized hospital-type settings into community-based care centers. The legislation permits \$30 million to be

transferred into the existing trust fund to finance the modernization of community-based centers, and it also calls for the development of a transition plan where it is feasible. The bill heads off a potentially costly federal lawsuit. However, it is also clear that many families still will need services in an institutional setting. Therefore, I believe it is important that families and individuals have these choices as we continue to provide for some of the most vulnerable citizens in our community.

I also had a number of reform measures and resolutions that passed that you can read about on my website: [www.Delegatecomstock.com](http://www.Delegatecomstock.com). We now have resumed working in the district and we can be reached at: 703-209-3787 or emailed at [bcomstock@delegatecomstock.com](mailto:bcomstock@delegatecomstock.com).

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## ENTERTAINMENT

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

### THURSDAY/MARCH 17

**Further.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Former Grateful Dead members Phil Lesh and Bob Weir. Tickets \$49.50. Charge at 800-551-SEAT or [www.livenation.com](http://www.livenation.com). [www.further.net](http://www.further.net).

**The Pretty Reckless and A Thousand Horses.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Book Discussion Group.** 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 18

**Family Piano Concert: Pianist Valery Lloyd-Watts.** 7 p.m. Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road S.W., Vienna. Adults \$15, children and seniors \$10, under age 2 free. 703-734-0621 or [jiselway@harnesseyarts.com](mailto:jiselway@harnesseyarts.com).

**Deanna Bogart Band.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Rockin' into Spring Dance.** 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Live music by The Fabulous Hubcaps. Cash bar. Tickets \$5-\$20. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**From Bizet to Broadway.** 8 p.m. The Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The Northern Virginia Chorale and the Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Chorale, under the artistic direction of Robert S. Webb Jr. Aida's Triumphant Chorus, the Anvil Chorus from Il Trovatore and more. Advance adult tickets \$15, at the door \$20. Age 12-24 \$10, under age 12 free. [www.northernvirginiachorale.org](http://www.northernvirginiachorale.org) or 703-239-2180.

**The Discovery Series: Cuareto Latinoamericano.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. A string quartet performing selections of Latin American classical music. \$35. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 19

**Vienna-Tyson's Regional Chamber of Commerce Western Nite II and Taste of the Town.** 7 p.m. Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave., E., Vienna. Western-themed night with casino games, cash bar, silent auction, raffle and more. Sample food from fifteen local restaurants. Tickets \$75 in advance or \$85 at the door, and include two drink tickets and \$20K in gaming cash. 703-281-1333 or [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

**McLean Symphony Spring Family Concert.** 3 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Dukas' The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Holmberg's Water Suite



**The Rockin' into Spring Dance on Friday, March 18, 8 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. in McLean, will feature live music by the oldies show band The Fabulous Hubcaps. Refreshments, appetizers and a cash wine bar will be available. Tickets are \$5-\$20, available at [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).**

for Glass Harp, Piano and Orchestra, Smetana's The Moldau, and compositions by local student composers. Adults \$25, Seniors and youth \$20, under age 12 \$5. 703-790-9223 or [www.mcleansymphony.org](http://www.mcleansymphony.org).

**Enter the Haggis.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association.** Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Line dance lessons at 7:30 p.m., beginners two-step at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Two step, waltz, line, swing, cha cha, and specialty dances. Couples and singles welcome. Admission \$5-\$12. [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or 703-860-4941.

**Historic Vienna, Inc. Antiques Appraisers.** 12-4 p.m. Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St., N.E., Vienna. With appraisers Josephine Thrasher and Jim Johnson. \$8.50 per item for members of Historic Vienna, Inc. and \$12 per item for non-members, with a maximum of two items. Reservations required at 703-938-5187. [www.historicvienna.org](http://www.historicvienna.org).

**Paws to Read.** 11 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Practice reading aloud to a trained therapy dog. Call to register. Ages 6-12. 703-757-8560.

**5th Annual Ticket to Art.** 4:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Every ticket-holder can select an original artwork

valued at \$125 or more in a raffle. Entertainment includes artists painting to the music of the Higher Ground Trio. Tickets \$125. 703-319-3971 or [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

### SUNDAY/MARCH 20

**Camp Grow! Open House.** 2 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Open House for the park's spring break and summer camp program. Preview camp activities. Free and open to the public. 703-255-3631.

**Boys Will Be Boys, Crash Boom Bang and Andrew Rohlk at 5 p.m., Boys Will Be Boys, Crash Boom Bang and Samantha Darnell at 8 p.m.** Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Washington Symphonic Brass.** 4 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Gabriel's "Canzonas," Tomasi's "Fanfares Liturgiques," works by Beethoven, Scheidt and more. Tickets \$25, age 17 and under free. [www.amadeusconcerts.com](http://www.amadeusconcerts.com).

### MONDAY/MARCH 21

**Preschool Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Stories, fingerplays and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-757-8560.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 22

**Turtle Time.** 2 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Meet a turtle, explore the world of reptiles, and find out how to help turtles in your neighborhood with Riverbend Park. Preschool. 703-757-8560.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 23

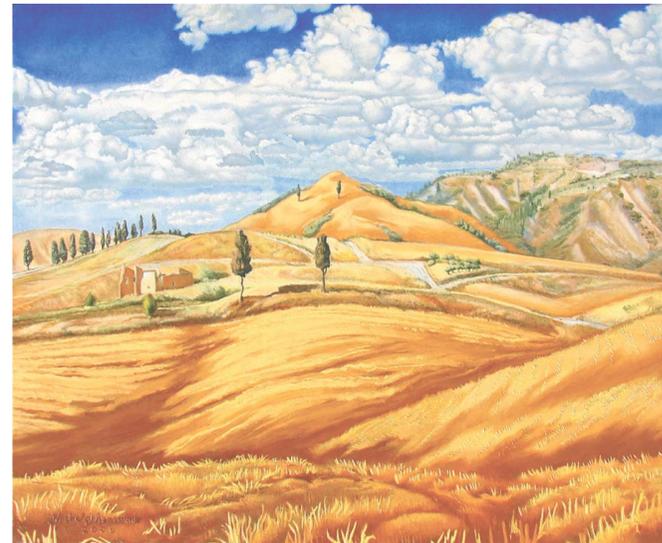
**Flint Hill Elementary School's 4th annual Show What You Know Expo.** 6:30 p.m. Flint Hill Elementary School Gymnasium, 2444 Flint Hill Road, Vienna. A non-competitive event that encourages students to research topics outside of the classroom. 703-242-0051 or [janemiscavage@hotmail.com](mailto:janemiscavage@hotmail.com).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 26

**Hunter Mill Community Meeting on the FY 2012 Budget.** 9 a.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. One of two meetings in the Hunter Mill district to review the proposed FY 2012 budget. With Supervisor Cathy Hudgins and County budget staff, Hunter Mill budget committee members, and School Board representative Stu Gibson. Assistance with tax relief program for senior and disabled citizens also available. [hntmill@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:hntmill@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### TUESDAY/MARCH 22

**Virginia Lyme Disease Task Force Hearings.** 7 p.m. Immanuel Bible Church main auditorium, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. Anyone may address Chairman Michael Farris and other Task Force members at the hearing. The hearing is being held



**'Pink Hills Near Certaldo' by Michela Mansuino.** There will be a 20th Anniversary Celebration and Artists' Reception on Friday, March 25 from 5-9 p.m. at the Hermitage Design and Gallery, 6831 Tennyson Drive, McLean. 703-827-0066 or [www.hermitagedesigngallery.com](http://www.hermitagedesigngallery.com).

### FRIDAY/MARCH 25

**'The Glass Menagerie'** by Tennessee Williams. 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststageyosons.org](http://www.1ststageyosons.org).

**Ron Sexsmith "Late Player Bloomer" CD Release and Caitlin Rose.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Artists' Reception.** 4-9 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. With local artists Jackie Elwell, Elaine Florimonte, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner. 703-319-3971.

### Mason Dance Company 2011 Gala Concert.

8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring work by Ohad Naharin, Lar Lubovitch, Robert Battle and Susan Shields. Tickets \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors, available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](mailto:cfa.gmu.edu).

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/MARCH 17

**Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227 Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Doug Sterner, a decorated Vietnam veteran and military historian, will discuss people pretending to be decorated military veterans with medals for combat exploits and acts of heroism. Sterner is a strong advocate for the Stolen Valor Act of 2005. The general public and all veterans are invited. Free. 703-255-0353 or [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org).

**Falls Church City GOP Committee Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. American Legion Hall, 400 N. Oak St., Falls Church. With Prince William Board of County Supervisors Chairman Corey Stewart, Michael Zak, author of Back to Basics for the Republican Party & Mark Rhoads. 703-502-0161 or [JTParmelee@aol.com](mailto:JTParmelee@aol.com).

### FRIDAY/MARCH 18

**VTRCC Brown Bag University.** 11:45 a.m. Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, 8300 Boone Blvd. Suite 450, Vienna. Free. [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 19

**Vienna-Tyson's Regional Chamber of Commerce 18th Annual Casino Night & Taste of the Town.** 7 p.m. Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Cash bar, live auction, casino games and more. \$75. 703-281-1333 or [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

**Living Well and Thriving After Treatment.** 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Vienna. "A One-Day Educational and Healing Retreat for Cancer Survivors," offered by the Northern Virginia chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society. Free. Register at 703-558-6213 or [special.projects@nvn.org](mailto:special.projects@nvn.org).

**CASA Invention Session.** 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates

(CASA) is hosting an information session for those who would like to learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children. 703-273-3526, x22 or [ekosarin@casafairfax.org](mailto:ekosarin@casafairfax.org).

**Haven of Northern Virginia's Widow/Widower Support Group.** 2 p.m. Haven of Northern Virginia, Inc., 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Six weekly meetings, through April 30. Free. Register at 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org).

**Richmond Roundup.** 9 a.m. American Legion Auxiliary Post 180, 330 Center St. North, Vienna. Michael Cassidy, Commonwealth Institute President and CEO, on "Poverty in Virginia." [www.S-A-L-T.org](http://www.S-A-L-T.org).

**Avoiding Divorce Court.** 10 a.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park Street, NE, Vienna. How to Negotiate or Mediate a Property Settlement Agreement. \$45 registration fee, \$35 members. [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org).

because of the growing concerns of Virginia residents about the spread and nature of Lyme Disease. Open to the public. Direct written comments to [Lyme@PHG.edu](mailto:Lyme@PHG.edu).

**Registration for Spring English Classes for Adults.** 7 p.m. St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. Nine-week semester, meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. \$20, new students must also purchase the appropriate book. Optional basic computer skills class for intermediate and advanced ESL students. 703-626-3585 (English), 703-300-3936 (Spanish) or 703-994-8510 (Korean).

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS).** 6 p.m. St Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Lower Level, Herndon. A noncommercial network of weight-loss support groups with tools and programs for healthy living and weight management. Weekly meetings are Tuesdays. [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org).



## Here's What's Happening at MCC

### Kojo in Your Community

Live, Community-Based Conversations  
Tuesday, March 22, 6 p.m.

Join WAMU's Kojo Nnamdi at the Alden Theatre for a lively and open dialogue about the issues of the day.

### Public Hearing on Programs

Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to attend this meeting and to share their thoughts on Center programs and services.

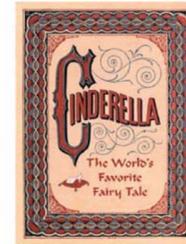
### Cinderella— The World's Favorite Fairy Tale

An Alden Theatre Production

April 2-3, 9-10, 3 p.m.

\$10/\$8 McLean district residents

This is a charming retelling of the Cinderella story featuring the legends of Plum Blossom (China), Vasilisa (Russia) and Broken Wing (Native America).



### Spring Break Camp

Monday, April 18-Friday, April 22

9 a.m.-noon

Half-day option for ages 4-6

\$50 per day/\$40 district residents

9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Full-day option for ages 5-9

\$85 per day/\$75 district residents

Children enjoy supervised games, activities, music, arts and crafts, and special events throughout the week. Full-day campers must bring a lunch and a drink each day. A morning snack is provided. Camp will be held at Churchill Road Elementary School.



### The McLean Community Center

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101

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# SCHOOLS

**The Langley Model UN team.**



CONTRIBUTED

## Langley High School Model UN Team Earns First Place

The Langley Model UN team received the Secretary General's award, first place, at the Model UN Conference held President's Day weekend at Duke University, Durham, N.C. Langley's team is sponsored by LHS faculty member, Suzanne Schettini. In addition to the team award, twenty two students received individual delegate awards.

Best Delegate: Kimiya Hahighi, Arianna Talaie, Andrew Kil, Miriam Ahmed, Gray Decker, Mujtaba

Wani, Lauren Meeker, Muskan Mumtaz, Will Mannon.

Outstanding Delegate: Cythnia Ding, Eliza Campbell, Alexcia Chambers.

Honorable Delegate: Andrew Havasy, Elisabeth Meiser, Inuk Kim, Alvin Kuai.

Verbal Delegate: Myunghoon Kim, Matthew Anderson, Shams Haidari, Kushali Marawaha and Skye Tore.

**Laura Brown's third graders display the seed they planted in the school's greenhouse. Pictured from left to right are Spencer Brooks, Sam Wellborn, Colin Arner, Lucy DuBois, Sophie Stitt and Andrew Curtis. Also pictured are parents Steve Arner, Sandy DuBois and Laurie Dacey.**



PHOTOS BY KIM MORAN

## Planting Season at Churchill Road

During the first two weeks in March, Churchill Road third graders began their Outdoor Odyssey lessons. Utilizing Churchill's greenhouse, students planted either tomato or pepper seeds in peat pots. During the planting, parent volunteers discussed the nutritional value and geographic origins of each of the plants with the children. Each of the students planted seeds in two pots, so that they can compare and contrast the growth under two different sets of conditions. One set of peat pots will be kept in the CRS greenhouse to be planted in the raised beds once they are big enough. Colleen Boyle's students will keep the other set of peat pots in the classroom in its own mini greenhouse (a plastic bag), so that students can observe the germination and growth on a daily basis. The students in Laura Brown's class and the other third graders will take the pots home, where they will be able to enjoy the tomatoes or peppers when they ripen.



**Churchill Road third graders in Colleen Boyle's class plant their seeds in the greenhouse. Pictured from left are Anna Krause-Steinrauf, Rachel Lesan, Peter Moran, Michael Mathewson, Brian Feinstein, Elizabeth Bair and Quinn Johnson, while parent Ana Al-Atrash looks on in the background.**



PHOTO BY VIJAYA KRIPANANDAN

**Pictured from left to right are Churchill Road's Science Olympiad medalists Sneha Kripinandan, Linda Diaz, sponsor and CRS 5th grade teacher Jennifer Ezzell, Shreya Ramesh, Preeti Shastri, Jamie Liu, Andrew Visocan, Alex Fried, Dotsin Hsing, Arthurs Browne and Minyoung Hwang. (Not pictured Nico Woltman.)**

## Churchill Road Science Olympians

On Saturday, Feb. 26, two teams of Churchill Road 5th and 6th graders competed in the 2011 Virginia Science Olympiad Regional Tournament at Langley High School. In a division comprising mainly middle school students, Churchill Road students rose to the challenge. Coached by CRS 5th grade teacher Jennifer Ezzell, and Advanced Academics teacher Willia Hennigan, and parent volunteers, students earned medals in six challenging events. These awards are the result of many hours of preparation, during which stu-

dents used science process, inquiry, and study skills, all components of critical thinking.

The medalists included: Arthur Browne and Minyoung Hwang for 4th place in Meteorology; 5th place finishes for Sneha Kripinandan and Linda Diaz in Ornithology and Alex Fried and Dotson Hsing in Storm the Castle; and 6th place medals for Jamie Liu, Preeti Shastri, and Shreya Ramesh in Experimental Design; Arthur Browne and Minyoung Hwang in Optics, and Andrew Visocan and Niko Woltman in Junkyard Challenge.

## SCHOOL NOTES

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

dean's list at Roger Williams University of Bristol, R.I.

The **Marshall High Future Business Leaders of America** teams placed first and second in round one of the LifeSmarts state academic competition. Team one, which won first place, is composed of Michael Benson, Daniel Heshmatipour, Benjamin Kim, and Gabriel Ritter. Team two, which finished in second place, is composed of Nathaniel Chen, Shannen Escobar, Corey Martin, and Sandy Vo. Students must be knowledgeable in personal finance, health, safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities. LifeSmarts is the educational program of the National Consumers League and is designed to develop consumer and marketplace skills.

**Daniel Kalish** of McLean has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Gettysburg College of Gettysburg, Pa.

McLean residents **Flannery Hourican** and **Logan Tapscott** have been named to the fall 2010 dean's commendation list at Gettysburg College of Gettysburg, Pa.

**Tammy Ellen Broz** of McLean has earned an Associate in Science in Nursing from Excelsior College of Albany, N.Y.

**Katherine Burgoyne** of McLean has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Villanova University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Villanova, Pa.

**Allan Manishin** of McLean has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at the Villanova School of Business of Villanova, Pa.

**Lyda Zalucky** of McLean has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Marist College of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Zalucky is majoring in business administration.

**Allison Hutchins** of McLean has been named to the fall 2010

# NEWS

## Celebrating 'Little Victories'

FROM PAGE 3

not need any assistance putting on a shirt, because she was willing to keep trying and was so motivated to do things herself."

On March 1, after almost four months at the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, D.C., Allison O'Reilly was released, and she could walk, though very slowly. During her recovery, the staff at NRH marveled at her will to beat the odds.

"Her family has been told early on at the previous hospital that she would never walk again. Her husband made wristbands that said 'Not Acceptable' and this became their motto," said Stacy Pineda, a physical therapist at NRH. "She made her mind up before she got to NRH that she was going to walk out of here, and she did. Any other outcome was not an option for her."

Joan McKinon-Reeves, Allison O'Reilly's case manager at NRH, said "Allison's faith and positive attitude were her greatest assets during this challenging period in her life. She never gave any indication that she was going to give up on her desire to regain her strength and return home with her family."

**STAFF** also remembers Allison O'Reilly as a genuinely nice person, always friendly despite working so hard to overcome the odds.

"She befriended everyone on her floor," said Dr. Brendan Conroy of NRH's Stroke Recovery Program, who served as Allison's physician. "She knew everyone's name and what their jobs were and when they would work with or near her again. She was

genuinely happy to see people and all of our team members were always very happy to see her and work with her."

Despite the challenging months ahead of her, nursing supervisor Amelia Warner remembers that Allison was always ready to work.

"Allison was always in high spirits and she never refused any therapy," she said. "In fact, she wanted therapy six to seven hours a day, even on weekends."

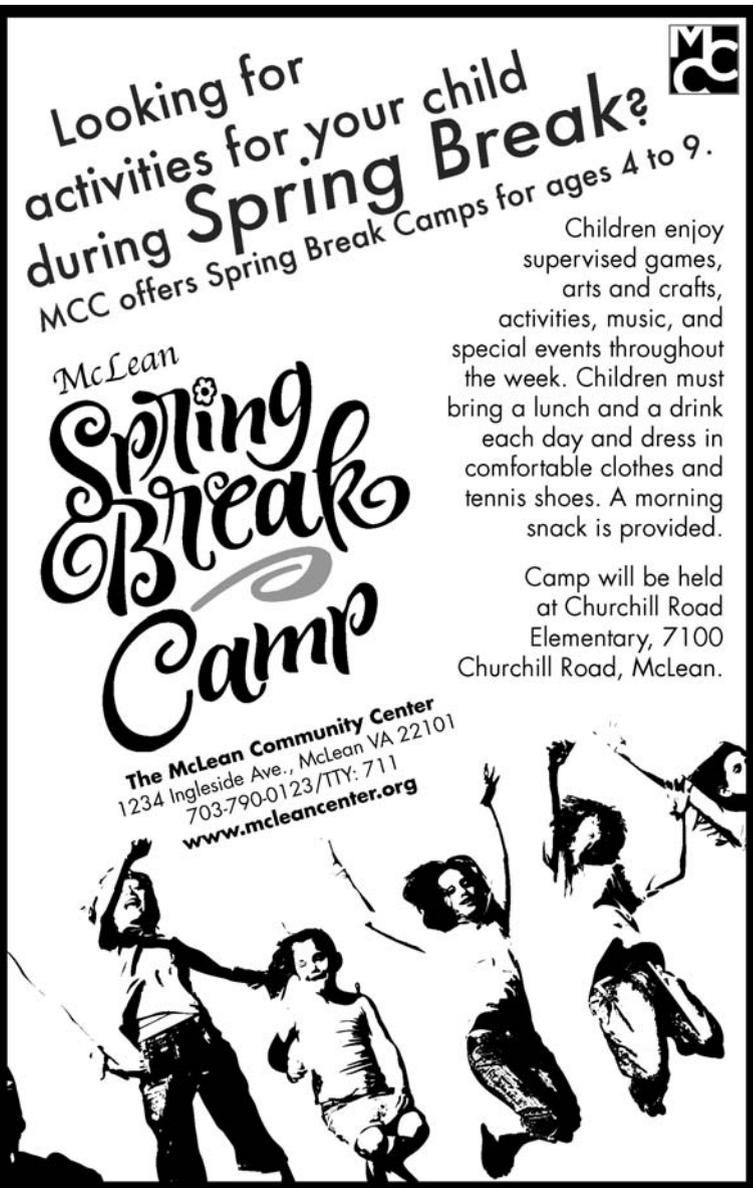
Pineda said "even on challenging days, she was always ready to work hard in therapy. She never missed a chance to participate and welcomed extra therapy when possible. She became an inspiration to other patients and NRH team members with her positive approach to the rehabilitation process."

Though Allison O'Reilly was released from NRH March 1, she still comes back for outpatient therapy, and her husband set up a gym for her to work on rehabilitation at home. Though she has more work to do, her husband says they are remaining positive.

"We are staying positive because we believe in the power of self healing and the acute, aggressive therapy provided at NRH," he said. "Without their capabilities, Allison would not have this chance to get her life back."

While Allison came out much improved from the NRH, staff said they truly enjoyed their time working with her.

"I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to work so closely with Allison during this experience," Taylor said. "Not only was her attitude that of constant perseverance, but her recovery and gratefulness for the little victories reminded me daily of why I love my job."



Looking for activities for your child during Spring Break? MCC offers Spring Break Camps for ages 4 to 9.

Children enjoy supervised games, arts and crafts, activities, music, and special events throughout the week. Children must bring a lunch and a drink each day and dress in comfortable clothes and tennis shoes. A morning snack is provided.

Camp will be held at Churchill Road Elementary, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean.

**McLean Spring Break Camp**

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Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM  
1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy  
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Arlington Virginia 22205  
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## Spring Break Trips

April 18-22 for 5th-8th graders

Join the OFTC on these fun and exciting trips:

<b>Spring Break: All Five Trips</b> Monday, April 18 - Friday April 22, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. <b>Sign-up for one trip, or all five and receive a discount!</b>	<b>Shadowland Laser Tag</b> Monday, April 18 <b>Bowling @ Bowl America</b> Tuesday, April 19 <b>Massanutten Indoor Water Park</b> Wednesday, April 20 <b>Rock Climbing @ Great Falls Park</b> Thursday, April 21 <b>Movie @ Tysons Corner</b> Friday, April 22
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## Spring Sports - a Mix of Finality, Drama, and Determination for Seniors

The final leg of the high school sports year goes by in a flash.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

A majority of the high school sports year is now behind us. There have been thrilling football games, breath-taking autumn field hockey playoff contests, as well as dramatic wrestling and basketball matchups that have brought us through the cold months and up to the final phase of the prep school sports calendar - the seemingly more laid back spring-time sports season.

Now, with all of the local high school sports teams competing outdoors, coaches and athletes are hoping that the Northern Virginia spring will cooperate with lots of sunshine and good temperatures. Usually around this area, spring time weather is fickle with cold temperatures and overcast skies, and even an occasional March snow dusting. Over the years, many early spring season high school sporting events have been played in temperatures anywhere from the 30's to 40's. Baseball is my favorite sport but I can recall covering countless high school games which seemed endless and to be moving at a snail's pace because of the bitter cold weather conditions.

Many of the area prep school teams will travel to warmer areas over the upcoming spring break, such as Florida or South Carolina. This will, quite likely, allow them to get in a full week of quality practice time and games without having to endure cold temperatures. By the time they return to Fairfax County, the weather here will hopefully have turned the corner and there will be blue skies and good reason to dress in short sleeves.

Of all the high school sports seasons, the spring time athletic calendar seems to whoosh by in a flash. Once teams have gotten through the rocky first month or so - often spending practice time indoors because of the poor weather - spring break has come and gone and they are in the heart of their respective schedules with the postseason only a few weeks away. The two or three weeks leading up to the playoffs are filled with lots of games, including make-ups from earlier season postponements, over a short period of time.

**FOR SENIORS**, this is a bitter-sweet time in their high school athletic careers because it marks the final stage of their playing careers as representatives of their home town schools. Whereas three-sport senior athletes can complete their fall and winter sports seasons realizing they still have their spring sports season ahead, there is no such extension following the spring season. Seniors, as the spring sports season begins winding down, have lots on their plates such as finishing their season and high school playing careers strongly, winding up their scholastic work, finalizing college plans for the following fall and, of course, preparing for graduation day when family



As the spring moves on, temperatures warm up and the high school sports action gains more and more intense and exciting.

members and friends will celebrate what has been accomplished over their four years of the high school life.

Many student-athletes will go on to play sports in college. Most will find that the college sports world is more challenging than high school as coaches teach and insist that their freshmen improve their dedication and all around play to a higher level. While athletics will remain fulfilling, perhaps even to a greater extent, at the college level, the demands of balancing time dedicated to their sports and excelling in the classroom will be difficult but at the same time quite rewarding as student-athletes prove to themselves what they are capable of accomplishing with hard work.

But there is really no rush to push things faster along than they are already moving for today's high school senior athletes. We're not even at Easter yet, so the bulk of the spring sports season is still ahead. There will be lots of game-winning soccer goals, brilliant catches in the outfield, and races won at the wire to fill up scrapbooks and a lifetime of sporting memories.

While the spring sports playoffs in the months ahead will be going up against all of the graduation parties, preparations for final exams, and summer-time plans, student-athletes will, make no mistake, still be able to focus on the task ahead and end their respective seasons and careers with a bang. Seniors, realizing it's their final chance to shine as members of their high school team, will give it everything they've got over the final few weeks of the season and on into the playoffs. District, regional, and even state playoff games will be played in spectacular fashion as athletes and their teams look to leave a lasting mark on the school year and their playing careers.

For area sports fans who have enjoyed high school sports over the course of the past fall and winter seasons, this is no time to put a halt to attending high school sports events. There is a great spring season ahead as area school teams give it all they've got on their fields of play. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate. If it does, get ready for an exhilarating, fast-moving spring season of high school sports action.



### Dynamite Completes a Perfect 21-0 Season

The McLean Dynamite 8th grade select girls' basketball team just completed a perfect 21-0 season with a 31-25 win over Mercer to win the Fairfax County Select Basketball Div. 2 championship. The team won the pre-season BRYC Select tournament, then won all 14 of their regular season games. After that, the Dynamite captured the postseason tournament. In the championship game the Dynamite fell behind, 12-3, in the first half but rallied behind a basket by Nicole Lee and the clutch shooting of tournament MVP Claire Thomas to take a 17-15 halftime lead. Great team defense and rebounding, led by Amanda Whitfield, Alexa Jeffrey, Sara Vigen, and Lauren Meyer; combined with a key lay-up by Cait Fisher, free throws by Nikki Marinaro, and excellent ball-handling from point guards Laura Persinski and Megan Degraft, sealed the victory. The team was coached by Gerry Megas, John Welsh and Laura Megas.



### O'Neill to Play Football at Saint Anselm College

Chadwick O'Neill, a senior at Saint John's College High School, recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play football and was admitted as a Presidential Scholar to the class of 2015 at Saint Anselm College (Manchester, N.H.). Chadwick, who is from Herndon and currently resides in McLean, intends to major in politics with an international pre-law backing. From left, coach Gillespie, Coach Darius, Chadwick O'Neill (Saint Anselm sweat shirt) and Head Coach Joe Patterson.



### Great Falls Madrid Wins Richmond Jefferson Cup

The U-12 Great Falls Madrid boys' soccer team captured the title at the Jefferson Cup in Richmond. Top row, left to right: Darius Moazami, Glebe Mackay, Jacob Labovitz, Rohan Wendt, Logan Cushing, and Gerardo Paulette. Bottom row: Adrian Paltoo, Mitchell Pan, Chris Merklin, Michael Scully, Daniel Hulett, and Andrew Rummani.

## Reaching for the Garden of Your Dreams

### Landscaping design trends for 2011.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

It's not just fashion that is influenced by Michelle Obama. Ever since the First Lady opened a vegetable garden on the South Lawn of the White House in 2009, landscaping trends have followed suit to include a variety of edibles along with the hardscaping elements to prepare and serve them.

"Edible plants and trees are very popular now," said Vanessa Wheeler, co-owner of Hollywood and Vines nursery and design center in Alexandria. "The trend is to combine the edible elements with easy, low maintenance and water-saving designs."

No room for an orchard? The new 'fruit cocktail' trees produce several varieties of fruits from a single tree.

"We have an apple fruit cocktail tree and one that produces apricots, plums, peaches and nectarines," Wheeler said. "Since they are all in the same family, the fruits will cross pollinate so you only need one tree if that's all you have room for."

Throughout the region, there is a strong growth in demand to incorporate eco-friendly, low maintenance plants into garden designs.

"No one wants to do heavy pruning and watering," said Rebecca Hughes, manager of the Burke Nursery and Garden Center. "And ground covers like pachysandra and periwinkle are replacing mulch and traditional grasses."

Wheeler suggests drought-tolerant plants to conserve water.

"Yucca and aloe plants are great water-conserving choices," Wheeler said. "And a non-invasive bamboo is drought resistant and can grow in the shade."

While visions of color dance in every gardener's head, experts say that the area's last frost date can be as late as Mother's Day, so the immediate focus should be on lawn care and design preparation.

"Now is the time to decide what you want to accomplish," said David Watkins, manager of Merrifield Garden Center in Merrifield. "Are you looking for more color, more living space or simply more curb appeal?"

According to Watkins, incorporating more hardscaping into landscaping designs is a rapidly growing trend.

"Patios with fire pits and outdoor grills are very popular," Watkins said. "Our volume of work in that area has increased tremendously in the last few years, especially when it comes to designing outdoor kitchens."

According to Hughes, now is also the best time to do your spring yard clean up.

"There was a lot of storm damage the last



Spring azaleas are not far off.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER



"Hardscapes," including patios, fire pits and outdoor living areas, are in high demand in landscaping.



Merrifield Garden Center's designers like to have photos of their clients' yards to help guide the design.

**"Are you looking for more color, more living space or simply more curb appeal? Now is the time to decide what you want to accomplish."**

**- David Watkins, manager, Merrifield Garden Center**

### Landscaping Tips

#### EDIBLE AND COLORFUL

There are blue potatoes, red carrots, yellow carrots and purple cabbage. Cabbages come in more colorful varieties each year, as do lettuce and the extremely colorful Swiss chard. 'Fruit cocktail' trees produce several varieties of fruit on a single tree.

#### ECO-SCAPING

Transforming large tracks of turf into sustainable landscapes is achievable with the right plants that require less water and pesticides. Choose native plants that are low-maintenance and attract wildlife and beneficial pollinators like butterflies, bees and birds. Drought-resistant plants like yucca and aloe require less water.

#### LOW MAINTENANCE

Use plants that are native and require less upkeep to maintain. Choose sun and shade-tolerant varieties that suit your location as well as species that require less pruning. Ground covers can sometimes replace traditional lawns to reduce upkeep.

#### CREATE OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES

Invest in your own outdoor retreat. Fire pits, gourmet grills and outdoor kitchens top the list of trends in outdoor living spaces. Much more than just a barbecue grill and a lawn chair, outdoor rooms can be created for a fraction of the price typically required for indoor living spaces.

SEE GARDEN DREAMS, PAGE 17

# Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

## Most Expensive Houses on the Market



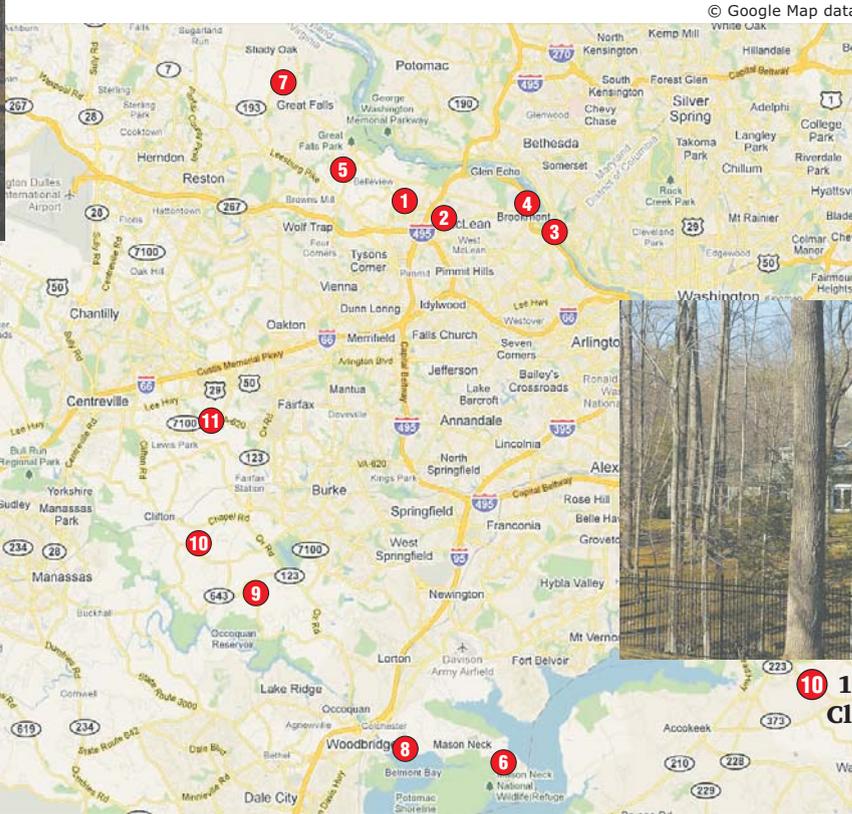
**5** 1028 Towlston Road, McLean — \$9,997,000



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**9** 8033 Woodland Hills Lane, Fairfax Station — \$3,800,000



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**10** 11900 Custis Acres Drive, Clifton — \$3,300,000

Address	MLS#	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Listed by	Agent
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<b>2</b> 7201 DULANY DR	FX7546728	8	10	4	MCLEAN	\$12,900,000	Detached	2.414	ELMWOOD ESTATES	Long & Foster	Fouad Talout
<b>3</b> 636 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	FX7544964	10	8	1	MCLEAN	\$10,995,000	Detached	6.52	MCLEAN'S GOLD COAST	Washing Fine Properties	William Moody
<b>4</b> 1015 BASIL RD	FX7232657	6	7	4	MCLEAN	\$9,997,000	Detached	2.4	EAGLECREST	Washing Fine Properties	William Moody
<b>5</b> 1028 TOWLSTON RD	FX7535890	7	8	3	MCLEAN	\$9,200,000	Detached	1.931	DOUGLASS MACKALL	Long & Foster	Fouad Talout
<b>6</b> 11201 GUNSTON RD	FX7324475	6	8	2	MASON NECK	\$7,995,000	Detached	5.131	STONE MANOR ON THE POTOMAC	McEneamey	Sue Goodhart
<b>7</b> 10250 AKHTAMAR RD	FX7415831	7	5	5	GREAT FALLS	\$7,650,000	Detached	5	AKHTAMARS HAVEN	Long & Foster	Dan Laytham
<b>8</b> 10606 BELMONT BIVD	FX7469424	4	3	1	LORTON	\$7,000,000	Detached	7.735	BELMONT BAY	Long & Foster	Pascale Karam
<b>9</b> 8033 WOODLAND HILLS LN	FX7520765	10	8	4	FAIRFAX STATION	\$3,800,000	Detached	5.085	SHADOWWALK	Fairfax Realty	Sharif Shaftik
<b>10</b> 11900 CUSTIS ACRES DR	FX7386846	6	4	2	CLIFTON	\$3,300,000	Detached	8.216	TOWERING OAKS	Remax Gateway	Joseph Doman
<b>11</b> 5037 HUNTWOOD MANOR DR	FX7472695	5	6	2	FAIRFAX	\$2,100,000	Detached	5.033	HUNTWOOD MANOR	Long & Foster	Christi Kay

SOURCE: WWW.HOMESDATABASE.COM

# Garden Dreams

FROM PAGE 15

two years, especially to dogwood trees,” Hughes said. “Many people are going ‘bare bones’ - starting over and replacing aging and storm damaged areas. Landscapes do age out at times.”

Experts suggest walking your property and taking pictures of areas that might need some work or design help.

“We love for customers to bring in photos,” Watkins said. “It makes it so much easier for us to help find effective design solutions that stay within a budget.”

Watkins acknowledges that any landscaping project can be intimidating.

“People are afraid to jump in because they think they’ll end up spending tens of thousands of dollars,” Watkins said. “But not everyone needs a \$30,000 project done. Sometimes \$300-\$500 spent on azaleas and some screening trees can get the results you are looking for.”

For some early spring color, pansies remain popular but there are other choices.

“For an early burst of color, think apricot trees, forsythia and winter jasmine,” said Peggy De Wilde, manager of trees and shrubs at Cravens Nursery in Fairfax. “And container gardening allows you the flexibility to move things indoors if necessary to protect plants from the elements.”

Don’t worry if you’re still thinking snow instead of sod.

“If you haven’t started your planning, you’re in the majority,” Watkins said. “But it’s never too late to think about what you want to do. There’s almost never a bad time to start landscaping.”



Water elements add interest to any garden.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BURKE NURSERY

Helibores are colorful and reliable in early spring.

“Many people are going ‘bare bones’ - starting over and replacing aging and storm damaged areas. Landscapes do age out at times.”

- Rebecca Hughes, Burke Nursery and Garden Center



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER

Annual flowers can add brilliant color to your garden, but remember that frost is still possible until after mid-May, so stick to pansies or other frost-tolerant plants until then.

## OPEN HOUSES

Saturday & Sunday, March 12 & 13



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Jane Price, Weichert, 703-628-0470

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](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com), click the Real Estate links on the right side.



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9450 Deramus Farm Ct.....\$1,449,000.....Sun 1-4.....Dianne Van Volkenburg..Weichert.....703-980-4553  
1609 Chathams Ford Pl.....\$949,900.....Sun 1-4.....Pat Stack.....Weichert.....703-597-9373  
10205 Wandering Creek Rd..\$785,000.....Sun 1-4.....Yasmin Abadian.....Long & Foster...301-983-1212  
311 Patrick St., SW.....\$695,000.....Sun 1-4.....Sherry De Reuter.....Long & Foster...703-508-4634

### Reston

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February  
28, 2011



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Whew! Am I glad it's today, February 28, 2011. Not that there was anything imminent about yesterday, February 27, 2011 – my two-year anniversary (some anniversary) and end date of my original life-expectancy prognosis but, when you're given two years to live, the date on which that anniversary arrives (although my oncologist has said that there's nothing particularly/inevitably accurate about such dates), is a day of reckoning, to be sure. And since I'm still alive, I reckon I'll make note of it, yet again – in arrears this week.

Not so much as an accomplishment, as in I did it. More like a date of destiny that is now behind me. Now I can focus (or try to, anyway; let's be honest here) on something else, a future beyond a specific date. And just like my rear end is behind me and I don't see it too much, maybe I can put this two-year anniversary date behind me and not see it too much - for what it was: the unexpected end of my life. ("I'm too young to die, too handsome; well, too young." Curly Howard of The Three Stooges.) Life goes on. Now what?

Perhaps I can – or will – consider the possibilities and stop trying to figure the probabilities? Perhaps I can forget about the past (my diagnosis) and only focus on the present/future, live for today and take advantage of the gift of life that I've been given/earned? Perhaps I can get out of my own way (emotionally) and resume living a normal life ("normal" meaning one without cancer)? Perhaps I can finish this column with being sophomore? I am a college graduate after all. I should know better. Just because I've lived this long doesn't exactly mean I'll live a lot longer.

In fact/in my reality, nothing is going to change, except maybe for the worse. I need to keep doing/thinking exactly as I have in the past because whatever I've been doing/thinking has caused me to outlive my original prognosis and for my oncologist to characterize my health as "Amazing," and to say that my tumors are in "partial stable remission," if you recall a previous column. All that has changed – and should change living forward, is my specific focus. It's no longer a date. Now the dates ahead are endless, not nearing an end.

Having made it this far (lived this long) though, I feel unburdened somehow. There's no deadline (pun intended) anymore. However, just as difficult as it is to turn around an ocean liner after it's headed out to sea (they don't exactly turn on a dime), so too will it be difficult for me to not be ever mindful of having cancer, and of having surpassed a date, random though it may semi have been, when my doctor told me my diagnosis and said that I might not be alive in "13 months to two years."

But I am alive, and oddly enough, a bit unsure; in fact, more unsure than I've been in almost two years. For these past two years, I've had a goal, sort of, my life expectancy, as provided by my oncologist: February 27, 2011. Having that date as a goal may have helped carry me/motivate throughout this ordeal. And though I may not have been exactly sure what kind of certainty to associate with that date while pursuing it, having reached it yesterday – and passed it today, has given me pause to reflect, and to write these last two columns.

I sort of feel like a dog (or a cat) who chases something (some kind of toy, perhaps) and then finally catches it. Having never previously caught the toy, the dog doesn't know what to do with it. Its life has been the pursuit, not the actual realization of that pursuit. Not that I ever thought that reaching these two dates would be cause for celebration (more like a miracle), but now that I've reached them, I'm uncomfortable being here without having any dates ahead to pull me forward. I will admit to one thing, though, I sure don't want to go backwards.

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

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