

McLean CONNECTION

McLean's Past, Future Discussed

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Radio host Kojo Nnamdi speaks with Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) at 'Kojo in the Community' at the Alden Theater March 22.

PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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MEMBER
FDIC

Sandy Stallman, Fairfax County Park Authority Planning Branch manager, speaks with community members about accessing the four Metrorail stations in Tysons Corner at the Teqcorner Building in McLean last Thursday.



PHOTO BY
ALEX MCVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Getting to Metro in Tysons

Study seeks community input on Metrorail station accessibility.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

As four Metrorail stations come to Tysons Corner, the Tysons Metrorail Station Access Management Study (TMSAMS) is seeking community input through the end of May to see how they can help commuters get to and from the stations without driving to them.

"With no long-term or daily parking available, most won't be accessing the stations by car, they'll be walking, biking or riding the bus," said Kris Morley-Nikfar, a transportation planner with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation. "The stations will have access on both sides of the roads they're on, so it's just a matter of finding things out like, how far is too far to walk? What is too far away to be reached by a bus route?"

The TMSAMS held a series of public meetings around McLean, Vienna and Falls Church last week in order to gain input on what's already planned, and what priorities residents and commuters had. Community members were able to look at proposed layouts for new crosswalks, sidewalks, walking trails, bike paths and bus routes.

"We'll hear things like, 'I work in this building and can see the station from my office, but there's no way to walk there,'" said Chris Wells, pedestrian program manager with the county's Department of Transportation. "So we'll be building the sidewalks and projects we can, and for other proposed ones, we will hopefully be able to get the developers, when they redevelop, to build their property according to the vision."

THE STUDY GROUP represents members of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation and the TMSAMS Advisory Group, which includes represen-

tation from the three districts that fall in the study area, Dranesville, Hunter Mill and Providence.

"With no plans for commuter parking at these stations, we're trying to find the best ways for residents of McLean and surrounding areas to take advantage of Metro," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

Reston resident Bruce Wright often rides his bike to events at the McLean Community Center, and says he has to go out of his way to avoid Tysons Corner.

"I like to get around by bike, and right now it's pretty hard to get up Route 123 by bicycle. You've got to take your life in your hands. But fortunately Fairfax County has just completed a bicycle plan for the Tysons area, and they hope to expand it to the rest of the county," he said. "So I think there's hope for people who want to get around in something other than a car. I rode to the [McLean Community Center] tonight from Reston and had to take a pretty circuitous route to avoid Tysons."

Ann Pimley, who is blind and a member of the Fairfax County Disability Board, said she is concerned that plans for Tysons don't seem to include audible crossing signals for pedestrians.

"Many Tysons intersections are what we call complex intersections. There's three and four lanes going in each direction," she said. "They say the Tysons redesign is supposed to be universal, but it's not a universal design if I as a blind pedestrian don't have audible signals to help me get around."

Maureen Hauman, who works with Fairfax County's Long Term Care Group, expressed concerns about how the station's designs would affect the elderly.

"We want our aging community to be safe in the Metro stations, but we've been told there are no pay phone on the platforms," she said. "What if an elderly person doesn't have a cell phone, how can they call for help, or a cab, or the police?"

MORE INFORMATION on TMSAMS can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/tmsams, and the survey, which will be open through the end of May, can be found at www.tmsams.info.

"With no plans for commuter parking at these stations, we're trying to find the best ways for residents of McLean and surrounding areas to take advantage of Metro."

— **Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)**



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Radio host Kojo Nnamdi speaks with Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) at "Kojo in the Community" at the Alden Theater March 22.

Remembering McLean's Past, Looking to Future

Community discusses memories, concerns for future at 'Kojo in Your Community.'

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Public radio broadcaster Kojo Nnamdi came to the McLean Community Center March 22 to speak with residents about their thoughts on the Metro coming to McLean, Tysons Corner redevelopment and how they envisioned the future of their community.

Jacque-Lynne Schulman, president of the McLean Historical society, recalled how McLean changed with the construction of the Beltway.

"There was a hobby shop, a pet store that had live animals, a dress shop, a men's clothing shop and shoe store. Those are all gone, and I think those little bits are part of what makes a community," Schulman said. "Before the Beltway, McLean was somehow a village unto itself, and after the Beltway it became a suburb like any other."

John Hebler moved to McLean from New Jersey in 1954 to teach at the Potomac School, and called the transformation the region has undergone as "truly remarkable."

"Tysons Corner was like a country crossroads in West Virginia," he said. "When you think of what McLean is going through in transformations

now, it has in many ways kept the essence of a community. McLean has, and it seems like it always will, have a lot going for it."

Doris Ray came to McLean in 1973 "screaming and kicking" from Montgomery County, Md.

"I learned to love the village atmosphere and the fact that I could walk to everything I needed," she said.

SHE LIVED in McLean for 16 years, and though she doesn't anymore, she says she still has fond memories, and still visits often.

Eddie Eitches, moved to the McLean tax district in 1984 because it was close to a Metro stop, and says the new stations could be an exciting opportunity.

"We moved to McLean exactly for the Metro. We were waiting for the West Falls Church station to open and we were very excited, especially for our children, that there was a Metro, and many of us use the Metro now," he said. "We also moved here for the schools and the schools are still excellent. There's clearly more diversity here than in 1984. On one side of my house there's a Finnish family, on the other side is a Chinese family and across the

SEE WAITING, PAGE 15

In Praise of Workforce Housing

County needs more affordable housing of all varieties.

After a recent vote to approve 270 apartments that would be rented to families with a variety of income levels, the three members who voted against it — John Cook (R-Braddock), Michael Frey (R-Sully) and Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) — called the project “subsidized luxury housing” which would compete with the private sector.

Fairfax County desperately needs a mix of affordable housing. The county offers a wide variety of options, from tiny efficiency apartments for a single person that can cost less than \$400 a month including utilities, to three-bedroom apartments that cost \$1,100 a month for families of four or more who could earn \$100,000 a year.

But there is not nearly enough such housing available. There are more than 12,000 families or individuals languishing on a waiting list that could take three years or more. Some families are waiting in homeless shelters.

This isn't a case of wanting to spread the wealth around. This is a serious economic development issue.

“Businesses today are seeking young creative professionals with state-of-the-art technology skills,” said Gerald Gordon, of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, call-

ing workforce housing and this project in particular “fuel for the growth of our technology and other businesses.” These workers often cannot, at the beginning of their careers, afford to live in Fairfax County.

“Opportunities to live close to where they work helps employees reduce commute time and improve their quality of life. And that translates into a business advantage,” said Douglas Koelemay of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC).

More than 70,000 households in Fairfax County have income of less than \$50,000 per year, less than half the area median income for a family of four, \$102,700, according to the 2008 US Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

More than 26,000 households in Fairfax County have income of less than \$25,000 per year.

EDITORIALS

Think about it for a minute. If you're reading the Connection in newsprint, chances are that your household has

annual income of more than \$200,000 a year. How can any family survive on less than \$25,000 here?

Fairfax County has the largest number of renters with what is described as “worst case housing” in Virginia: More than 12,000 Fairfax County renter households pay more than 50 percent of their income for housing costs, have incomplete plumbing facilities and/or live in severe overcrowding.

Fairfax County is smart to take underused county-owned property, like the land around Government Center and other “surplus” property to help create more opportunities to expand lower cost rental apartments.

The biggest boom in the county will come in the next few years in Tysons Corner, where the county must engage every creative mechanism to boost housing opportunities for every income of Tysons worker.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Redistricting Maps To Be Released Just after Presstime

Don't miss your only opportunity to comment locally in Northern Virginia on newly drawn state district lines for Virginia Senate, House of Delegates and U.S. Congress. The public hearing is Saturday, April 2, 10:30 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Auditorium.

Or travel to Loudoun, the only other Northern Virginia hearing, on Thursday, March 31, 7:30 p.m. in the Loudoun County Board Room,

Leesburg.

New districts are on a fast track to approval in time for summer primary elections.

For more, see <http://www.vpap.org/updates/redistricting>, and <http://redistricting.dls.virginia.gov> and www.connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remembering Senator Duval

To the Editor:

I ran across an old article by Beverly Crawford on Sen. Clive Duval, dated Feb. 26, 2002 and was sorry to see that the Senator had died. It has been years since I thought about this - and, like most of us - it is the little big things that helped shape us, that jog our memory and come upon us suddenly, with clarity as we grow older and we regret not doing them sooner.

I was doing an internet search for Sen. DuVal, to perhaps write to thank him again after all these years for a kindness to a young stranger, something I should have done years ago and now will not have the opportunity to do unfor-

tunately.

In 1967 - when I was 16 years old, I worked at the Scot Gas Station in McLean. The station is long since gone. The Senator would come there to get his gas. He often spoke to me and encouraged me by complimenting my work ethic, as I worked nights and weekends after school. I was trying to raise the money to buy a used car.

He was very kind and offered to co-sign for a car for me. I did not know who he was really and I did not believe him - but he gave me his name and number and told me to call. I called him - he told me to find the car I wanted - a used Ford Falcon - and come to his house with the papers and he would sign for me. And he did!

He did not know me, did not

know my parents nor our story but signed for a complete stranger that he had met and evidently liked at his local service station. Granted it was not a fortune but a simple kindness to a kid in a gas station. I was that kid and he will never know how much that meant to me and still does.

I just wanted to pass this little story about the Senator along. He was a kind man.

Hank Leonard
Riverside, Calif.

Praising Del. Comstock

To the Editor:

I am writing to make my fellow citizens of Fairfax County aware of the superb job Delegate Barbara Comstock (R-34) has done for us in her first term as our delegate to the Virginia House of Delegates. She has actively participated in the legislation passed this year as a sponsor or cosponsor of legislation dealing with transportation funding to improve our roads, reforming revenue sharing within the state that can improve Fairfax

County's share, enable the education goal of expanding our state institutions of learning, establish one-time public school teacher bonuses, provide tax credits to promote new jobs in high technology in the Commonwealth, promote teleworking to help alleviate traffic congestion, cosponsored legislation to require secret ballots in union elections, and provided \$30 million in aid to modernize community-based center for the disabled, among other legislative measures.

Perhaps just as importantly, she has kept us, her constituents, better informed along the way of these developing issues and solicited our inputs as they progressed through the House of Delegates than any other delegate in my memory as a voter in Virginia which dates back to 1968. Clearly, she has earned our gratitude for her job superbly done. If you need more detailed information on her accomplishments as our representative, you can find it at bcomstock@delegatcomstock.com.

John S. Theon
McLean

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.
By e-mail: mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

Getting the Facts on Abuse

McLean High hosts discussion on teen dating abuse.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Lynne Russell knows first hand how difficult it can be to parent a teenager. A few years after their family moved from England, she said her daughter Siobhan “felt that she didn’t quite fit.”

Siobhan eventually found solace in a relationship, and even when that relationship turned abusive, Russell says her daughter was unable or unwilling to walk away.

“She was a rescuer, she would never turn her back on someone who needed help,” Lynne Russell said. “But she became more and more isolated and was sucked into his manipulation.”

This manipulation led Siobhan Russell to drop out of school and leave home, before having a revelation and returning to her family in early 2009. Siobhan graduated high school in February 2009, and her future looked bright.

Until that Easter, when she was delivering presents and she

stopped by her ex-boyfriend’s house, and she was murdered. Her ex-boyfriend strangled her to death and put a knife through her heart.

“Hearing how she was murdered was just shocking,” said Claire Karakozoff, a junior at the Madeira School. “You hear about things like this, we learn the drill in health class throughout school, but it’s horrific hearing about how it can actually happen.”

Russell formed Dating Abuse Stops Here (DASH) to help spread the facts about teen dating violence, to “fill the desperate need to tell my daughter’s story.”

Lynne Russell said after her daughter’s death they learned that the boyfriend had been threatening and manipulating Siobhan long after her parents thought contact has ceased.

The Russell family spoke to students and parents at McLean High School March 16, to make them aware of the chilling facts and statistics of dating abuse. According to DASH, one in three teens are

exposed to dating abuse.

Anjali Sunderam, mother of a sophomore girl at McLean High, says she could identify with the Russells, having moved from London several years ago herself.

“My daughter’s first year at Longfellow [Middle School], she had difficulties finding her place, and when she made friends, it was tough for me, because it’s not like we knew them growing up,” Sunderam said. “I’m thankful she got involved in sports, because that took up a lot of attention and instilled some discipline and motivation.”

The sheer number of teens facing abuse was shocking to some students.

“The statistics were really surprising to me,” said Elena Karakozoff, a freshman at McLean High School. “I’m glad there are groups like this out here to let young people know early on what the signs and statistics are.”

Things like threats to family, threats of suicide, stalking, drug abuse and extreme jealousy are all



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Andy and Lynne Russell, next to a photo of their daughter Siobhan, speak to parents, teachers and students at McLean High School March 16. The Russells started a group, Dating Abuse Stops Here, in memory of Siobhan, who was murdered by an abusive boyfriend in April 2009.

signs that someone could turn violent in a relationship. According to DASH, it can take a person an average of seven times to successfully leave an abusive relationship.

“If someone is threatening your parents, siblings, friends or even pets, as a young teenage girl, how do you know if he has the ability to actually do that?” said Andy Russell, Siobhan’s father. “If I knew then what I knew now, she would have gotten a one way ticket back to the U.K.”

Sunderam said as a mother, it was difficult to find a line between

caring and caring too much.

“When you hear things like Siobhan’s story, your first instinct as a mother is to keep my daughter close to me at all times, but you just can’t,” she said. “But I can equip myself with the facts and be vigilant.”

The presentation was organized by the Safe Community Coalition, a local nonprofit dedicated to making a safer community. The SCC can be found online at www.safecommunitycoalition.net. More information on DASH can be found at www.datingabusestopshere.com.



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Professor Hanssen is currently on sabbatical as the Garwood Visiting Fellow (2010-11) for the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University. She is a professor in the University of Dallas History Department.

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Fairfax County Public School Art Teachers from eight local elementary schools gather to welcome family and students to the opening of the 30th Annual Youth Art Exhibition at MPA: Julie Brodzik, Jenny Whiteman, Dorothy Moon, Carolyn GoreAshe, Michelle Gottke, Sara Kodsi and Kim Norton. Anthony Brock (back) is an art teacher for MPA.

Children's Art on Display

PHOTOS BY CHRISTY STEELE/THE CONNECTION

McLean Project for the Arts hosts 30th Annual Youth Art Show at the McLean Community Center.



BY CHRISTY STEELE
THE CONNECTION

Nicholas Bowers, a fourth grader at Spring Hill Elementary, with his Colonial Building Sculpture.

Anthony Brock, an artist who teaches classes and leads tours for the McLean Project for the Arts, has been part of the organization for nearly eight years. His mother, Gerry Brock, was the director of McLean Project for the Arts when the first Annual Youth Art Show took place.

"The idea when it started 30 years ago was to include the area kids," says Anthony Brock. "There is so much more focus on art education now, so a big focus of our organization is to have young people come in and get introduced to arts from an early age."

The MPA is currently hosting the 30th

Annual Youth Art Show at the McLean Community Center. Students from eight elementary schools contributed artwork to the show and gathered at the space on March 13 for a reception.

Each year the teachers gather their students' artwork and hang it in the gallery for the show. "It's wonderful for the students to have a real gallery space to showcase their artwork," says Carolyn GoreAshe, an art teacher at Spring Hill Elementary School. To parents, she said: "There are many careers that your child might become

SEE MPA, PAGE 7

Dorothy Moon, Spring Hill Elementary School art teacher, with her third grade student, Daisy Chapin.



NEWS



Jenny Whiteman, Churchill Elementary School art teacher, with her fifth grade student, Anya McKee.

PHOTO BY
CHRISTY STEELE/
THE CONNECTION

MPA Promotes Children's Art

FROM PAGE 6

interested in and actually make a living doing as we have made a living doing this. Don't be afraid if your child wants to pursue the arts, don't fear it, it is a wonderful thing and it is part of our humanity. We are human and we love to make things with our hands."

Her words reflect the purpose of the event itself: to celebrate the artistic abilities of young community members and support their artistic growth.

Student artwork included paintings, drawings, relief prints, clay sculptures, wire sculptures, stitchings and a large mural. Anya McKee, a 5th grader at Churchill El-

ementary School, loves her art class at school and takes more art classes outside of school. "I like being creative, having fun and getting to do lot of different things in art class" she says.

Dorothy Moon, a Spring Hill School teacher, says, "we have a wonderful budget so that the kids can try all the mediums."

The opening drew more students and families than in the past and was a success for everyone involved. The elementary school artists had their work displayed until March 20. Between March 24 and April 7, the artwork of local middle and high school students will take its place. Find more information at www.mpaart.org

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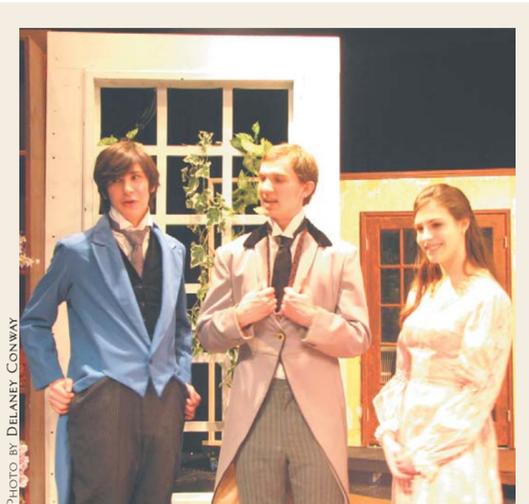


PHOTO BY DELANEY CONWAY
Neil Wilcox-Cook, Charlie Belt and Lily Roth in Marshall High Theater's production of Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest.'

Marshall High Theater Presents 'The Importance of Being Earnest'

The George C Marshall Theater presents Spring performance of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" on April 1,2,7,8 & 9 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, \$10.adult, \$8.students & seniors. Tickets online: www.theatreatmarshall.org
GC Marshall HS, 7731 Leesburg Pike Falls Church VA. For information call 703 714-5450.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 31
Burn The Ballroom, Safety Word Orange and Turtle Recall. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
John McCutcheon. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk singer/songwriter.\$20. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 1
The Virginia Opera: Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.
"The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams. 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageytsos.org.

The Guggenheim Grotto and Galen Curry at 7 p.m., and **Mista Hyde, Shux, Twizm and Nooky Beats** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
Meadowlark Amphibian Hike. 7 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Lakes provide a good habitat for frogs and toads to lay eggs. Join a naturalist on a walk to see which amphibians are active at Meadowlark. Free. Reserve at 703-255-3631.
"The Shadow Box." 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. The Providence Players of Fairfax, directed by Barbara Gertzog. One day in the life of three families, each with a family member living with terminal illness. \$18 adults, \$15 seniors and youth. providenceplayers@cox.net or 703-425-6782.

Langley High School and Saxon Stage present "2011 Student Directed One-Act Play" 7 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A sampling of one-act plays, directed by LHS theatre students. "Finding the Sun" by Edward Albee, "Bang, Bang You're Dead" by Willem Mastrosimone, "Self-Defence Against Fresh Fruit" by Monty Python, and five original works. \$5. www.saxonstage.com or una@cox.net

2011 Season Opening Day. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run, 6310 Old Georgetown Pike, McLean. Open Wednesday-Sunday through mid-December. GateHouse gift shop also open. \$3 adults, \$2 children and senior citizens. Group visits welcome. Farm memberships available.

Generations of Music Gala

The American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (AYPO) celebrates twenty years of Maestro Carl J. Bianchi at its annual fundraiser, the Generations of Music Gala, on Sunday, April 3, 6 p.m. at the Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. East in Vienna. The gala includes food, live music provided by AYPO ensembles, and more. All proceeds from this event support for AYPO programs and the Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$85 student/alumni, \$100 single, and \$950 table of ten. www.aypo.org or 703-994-9585.

www.1771.org
Roger McGuinn. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. The former front man of the Byrds. \$27. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2
"The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageytsos.org.
Willy Porter at 7 p.m., and **"Far from the Moon"** featuring: **Raphael Bhatti, Alex Flynn, Ryan Linde and Shelby Neal** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
Cravin' Dogs 25th Anniversary Celebration with The Michael Clem Trio. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk/roots-rock. \$16. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 3
The Virginia Opera: Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." 2:30 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.
"The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageytsos.org.

American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. 6 p.m. Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. A celebration for Maestro Bianchi with dinner and live music. All proceeds benefit AYPO programs and the Scholarship Fund. www.aypo.org or 703-994-9585.
Language Tour Day. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Tour Meadowlark Botanical Gardens with a guide fluent in Spanish at 2 p.m., French at 2:30 p.m., Russian at 3 p.m. and Korean at 3:30 p.m. Free. Reserve 703-255-3631.

Capitol Wind Symphony Concert. 2 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Conducted by George Etheridge. Bach's Prelude, Chorale and Fugue, Apperment's Colors for Trombone with soloist Ken Wolff, Ticheli's Agnels in the



Architecture and more. \$10 adults, \$5 children and students. mmlover2009@gmail.com.

"The Shadow Box." 2 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. The Providence Players of Fairfax, directed by Barbara Gertzog. One day in the life of three families, each with a family member living with terminal illness. \$18 adults, \$15 seniors and youth. providenceplayers@cox.net or 703-425-6782.

Collective Change Benefit Concert featuring: Pretend and Release and Talk Like They're Famous. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

"Cinderella: The World's Favorite Fairy Tale." 3 p.m. Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A retelling of the Cinderella story featuring the legends of Plum Blossom (China), Vasilisa (Russia) and Broken Wing (Native America). Ages 6 and up. \$10, \$8 residents. www.mcleancenter.org.

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SCHOOLS

Around The World In Under Two Hours

International Night connects students with their cultures and each other.



From left, Nadia Ghannam, Rasha Uthman, and Jumana Aeirakat taught students about Palestine.

BY ERIN HODGE
THE CONNECTION

It's a small world. So small, in fact, that three or four steps can traverse the space between Germany and Lithuania. A drink from Japan can wash down a dish from Pakistan. Students at Cooper Middle School in McLean filled their passports Thursday night in the same hallways they pace Monday through Friday.

The International Festival at Cooper has provided students and parents alike the chance to share their culture and learn about the culture of others. Students crossed borders to visit booths set up by both language classes and individual families, collecting stamps as they completed various tasks.

Though many students came to run booths for their own language or background, some came purely for the experience. "It's interesting," shrugged Sophie Becker, an eighth grader at Cooper. "I don't have my own station, but it's fun to find out about everyone else's."

At the Japanese booth in the library, students formed lines to learn to write kanji characters and fold origami from their classmates studying the language. "We learn from it too," said Robert Fredrick, a seventh grade Japanese student. "Preparing the booth helps us understand what we've been studying." Leave Japan, then take a right toward the gymnasium.

"Did you know the prophet Abraham is buried in Palestine?" asked Nadia Ghannam of a group of students, smiling as she watched them quickly jot this



From left, Christian Gerard, Corey Hodge, and Owen Fish taught classmates Japanese characters and asked for donations to help tsunami victims.

down on their passports. She participates in the International Festival for Palestine as much as for her son. "It's important for us to educate people about our country because there is so much misunderstanding right now," said Ghannam, who ran the booth along with mother Rasha Uthman and Jumana Aeirakat, wife of the Palestinian Ambassador.

Lima Pavilioniene couldn't hand out pieces of her Sakotis fast enough to the crowd surrounding her station. The Lithuanian dessert wasn't the only thing her son's classmates took away from her

booth, however. "Every child should know where he's from," said Pavilioniene with a smile. "Besides, Americans could use the help with geography."

Head straight toward the front doors, about face. To the right, students channel their inner robin hood, attempting to get suction-cup arrows to stick on a target in England. Straight ahead, a crowd admires the nowruz display in Iran. The whole world's colors and creeds are condensed into the hallways of one school on one night, and every year is a new experience.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Franklin Sherman Elementary's 6th Grade is presenting "Seussical Jr." on Thursday, April 7, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. & Friday, April 8, at 7 p.m. This Dr. Seuss musical production is open to all ages and there is no charge for admission. It will be held at Franklin

Sherman Elementary located at 6630 Brawner Street in McLean.

Ashley Ann Alligood of McLean graduated from Radford University at the end of the fall semester. The daughter of Donna Alligood earned a bachelor of science in psychology.

Victoria Avvacumova of McLean has graduated from Illinois Central College.

Lara Linden of McLean has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list with high distinction at Grove City College of Grove City, Pa. The 2007 Washington Christian Academy graduate is the daughter of Derek Linden.

Matthew Thomas Valcourt of McLean has been named to the fall 2010 high list at Episcopal High School. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery T. Valcourt.

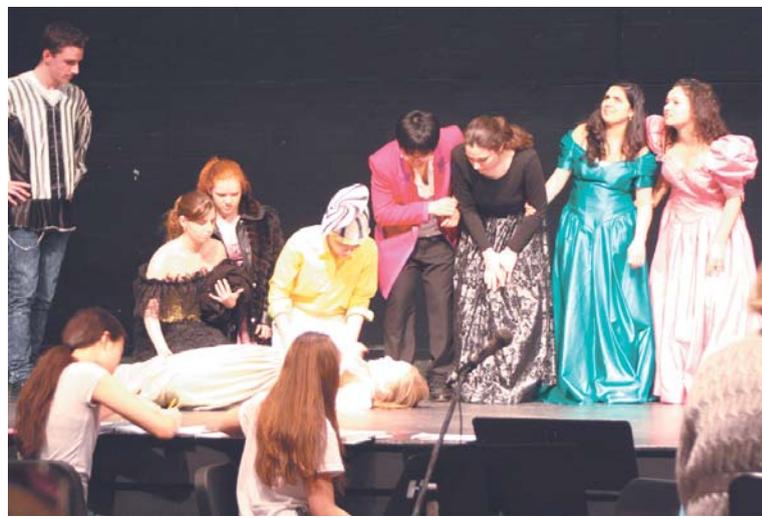
PHOTOS BY ERIN HODGE/THE CONNECTION

SCHOOLS

McLean High Presents 'Into the Woods'

McLean High School Theater and Choral Departments present the Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine classic "Into the Woods." The play opened on Broadway in 1987 and won three Tony Awards that season. Since then, the show went on a national tour in 1988, went through a London revival in 1998, and had a Broadway revival in 2002. Directors Amy Poe and Linda Martin lead the award winning theater and choral departments in presenting this dark, clever musical. "Into the Woods" is a fusion of four well known Brothers Grimm fairy tales: Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel, and Cinderella. Their stories are tied together with the addition of a Baker and his wife. The characters find themselves, traveling together, into the woods in search of one thing, but end up on a journey of self-discovery.

The production is directed by the school's new theater instructor Amy Poe. In just this first year, Poe has already made her mark in the high school theater scene—McLean's entry in the VHSL One-Act Play Competition, the student-written production "Kurd" captured first place in the Liberty District contest. Linda Martin, MHS' long-time choral director, has brought the department renown with a number of distinguished



Will Thompson (Grade 11), Madelyn Paquette (10), Nancy Pruett (9), Elliot Duffy (12), Harold Lee (10), Erin Ginnerty (11), Reaa Chadha (11) and Jennifer Rose (9) in McLean High School's production of 'Into the Woods.'

PHOTOS BY HANNAH MENCHHOFF/MCLEAN HIGH



Camilla Alfonzo-Meza (Grade 10), Elliot Duffy (12), Nick Stone (11), Nancy Pruett (9) and Emma Leiken (11) in McLean High School's production of 'Into the Woods.'

awards.

"Into the Woods" runs April 7 through 9 at McLean High School's Burke Theater, 1633 Davidson Rd.

in McLean. Tickets are \$10. For more information regarding the show and the program, e-mail us info@mcleanhstheatre.org.

Student Directed One-Act Plays at Langley

Langley High School and Saxon Stage presents 2011 Student Directed One-Act Plays, an evening of eclectic theatre Friday, April 1, and Saturday, April 2, at 7 p.m. in the Langley High School Auditorium. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5. This sampling of one-act plays, directed by LHS theatre students, features intense drama and high comedy. Plays run the gamut - from Edward Albee's "Finding the Sun," a complex drama involving 3 couples on a sunny day at the beach, to "Bang, Bang You're Dead," by William Mastrosimone, a

play about school violence and its causes, and the hilarious comedy sketch "Self-Defence Against Fresh Fruit," by Monty Python. This innovative night of theatre also offers 5 original works, debuting on Saxon Stage - "Cable. Basically," "Cupid's Arrow," "Family Stab," "Grilled Cheese and Chocolate Milk," and "No, It Happened Like This..."

Visit www.saxonstage.com for more information or contact Una Higgins at una@cox.net Langley High School is located at 6520 Georgetown Pike in McLean.

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Langley Pitching Leading the Way Early On

Saxons' baseball set to host Marshall Statesmen this Friday night.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Outstanding pitching has led the way thus far for the Langley High baseball team, which is looking to improve on last year's 8-12 overall record. The Saxons, going into this week, carried an impressive 3-1 record.

"I think we're pitching very well so far," said Langley third year head coach Kevin Healy. "We've had two shutouts, a no hitter, and another game with only one run allowed."

In its most recent outing, Langley shut down perennial power Madison, 2-0, in a Liberty District home game played last Friday, March 25. Langley starting pitcher Andrew Pechstein, a junior, threw five shutout innings, allowing five base hits and striking out four to earn his second win of the young spring season. The Saxons received excellent relief pitching out of the bullpen from senior Robert Hood, who fanned three hitters in two perfect innings of work to notch the save.

LANGLEY'S OFFENSE in the win over the Warhawks was led by junior Colin Cantwell, who opened the game's scoring in the bottom of the third inning with an opposite field home run - his second of the season - over the right field fence, and junior Matt Moser, who had two hits and an RBI on the night.

Langley, a few weeks ago, opened the new season at its two-day Langley/McLean Invitational. There, the Saxons defeated Potomac High, 10-1, on March 17, before winning over Washington-Lee, 3-0, the following day.

Pechstein, the Langley starter in the season-opener win over the Panthers of Potomac High, struck out five batters over six innings of work to earn the decision and lead the Saxons, playing on their home field, to their first victory of the 2011 season. Cantwell boosted the Langley offense by belting a three-run home run in the fifth inning. Other strong games at

the plate came from Hood and Moser, who both had two hits. Both also had multi-RBI games, as did teammate Michael Byrne, a junior.

IN THE FOLLOWING DAY'S shutout win over the Generals of W-L, Langley pitchers Hood and Jon O'Connor, a junior, combined for a no-hitter. Hood, making the start, struck out 10 batters and walked six in six innings of work. O'Connor, in pitching the seventh, struck out two and earned the save. Moser's sacrifice fly in the bottom of the fifth inning broke a scoreless tie. Daniel Richardson, who was pinch-running, scored from third base on the sac fly ball. Richardson, a junior, was running for sophomore Cal Jacacki, who had singled up the middle earlier in the inning. Langley received a strong game at the plate in the win from senior shortstop JJ Oleniacz, who had a pair of hits and an RBI.

Langley opened its district schedule on March 22 with a game at South Lakes in Reston. There, the Saxons lost their first game of the season, falling 5-3. The Saxons received good relief pitching from O'Connor, who worked 4-2/3 innings. Multi-hit games came from Thomas Dungan, Jack Parker, and Jeff Solomon.

Following the loss to South Lakes, Langley was able to get back onto the winning track with the big win over Madison.

"Defensively and on the mound we've done very, very well," said coach Healy. "I'd like to see us get more hits with runners in scoring position, but that's something that will come as we work on our approach at the plate."

A year ago, Langley struggled on the mound and the Saxons allowed too many runs, although they hit the ball well on offense.

"We struggled to keep other teams off the scoreboard," said Healy, of 2010.

Hopefully, Langley's first several games this season are an indicator that the pitching is improved.

"This year we have looked very good on the mound," said the coach. "We're deeper in pitching than we have been in quite some time. I think we've got a competitive group of kids as well. They've responded well under pressure early on."

Langley was scheduled to play a district game at Fairfax earlier this week on Tuesday, March 29. This Friday night, April 1, the Saxons will be home for a district game at 7 versus Marshall.



PHOTO COURTESY/UNITED GREEN

The McLean United Green, Under-10 girls' soccer team won back to back tournaments and climbed to the No. 2 ranking in Virginia and sixth nationally. The team won the 'Rush Cup' in Virginia Beach two weekends ago and won the Inaugural 'McLean Premier Tournament' last weekend. In that latter tournament, the United Green did not allow a single goal.

The Great Falls Nationals (11-under) travel baseball team started their spring season in Aberdeen, Md. last week at the Cal Ripken Under Armour Leadoff Baseball Tournament, March 19 and 20. The tournament hosted 10 teams from Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland.

In their first game, the Nats, as they are known to their fans, faced off against the South Jersey Young Guns, winning the game 10-0. Next, the Nats faced and defeated the South Jersey Elite, a solid program

that won the tournament last year, 5-4. As the top seed out of pool play, the Nats then went on to beat ASBA Hatboro, 8-3, in the quarterfinals and the Chester County Cobras, 9-8, in the semifinals. The Nats faced off with the Annandale Angels in the championship game and defeated them, 11-5.

Nats Tournament Notables: Jason Volpicelli recorded two pitching wins and Jake Nielsen, Colter Carton, and Danny Hosley each recorded a victory. Timmy Conforti closed out the championship game on the mound



PHOTO COURTESY/MCLEAN REAL WHITE

The McLean Real White Under-11 soccer team won the McLean Premier Soccer Tournament with a thrilling, overtime victory over Vienna that was finally decided on penalty kicks.

Lady Saxons Get Their Groove On, Swamp Yorktown 17-5

The Langley High girls' lacrosse team found the offensive groove early and often, easily besting the Yorktown High Patriots, 17-5, in a non-district contest played last Thursday, March 24. The win improved the Saxons to 2-1 on the season.

Under blustery and threatening skies, the Lady Saxons stormed to an early lead and rumbled up a host of impressive game statistics in shooting efficiency and assists. Coach Richard 'Des' DeSomma continued to take advantage of the depth and strength of his roster with impressive results, with 10 different players scoring goals and at least three more girls contributing assists.

With the threat of bad weather looming,

the Lady Saxons wasted no time, with sophomore Haley Soutter scoring unassisted in the game's first minute following Torrie Zarella's winning face-off. The scoring came fast and furious from Langley, which, for the first time this season, was in sync from the opening whistle. Goals from early season standouts Kelly Martin, Rachel Wagner and Haley Soutter all came in the first 10 minutes.

The Saxon onslaught continued as senior Torrie Zarella once again dominated a stretch of the game, ripping four goals in the last 14 minutes of the half. Adding to the scoring was junior Margo Swomley, who scored following a beautiful catch and run by sophomore Grace Goettman, and then on a feed from senior co-captain Nicole

Burkart. Swomley also assisted Zarellas' most memorable goal of the half, a 'reverse sweeper' that caught Yorktown's goalie flat-footed. With three seconds in the half, Zarella connected again, this time on a nifty feed from junior Caroline Mahoney. The half ended with the Saxons up 10-4.

Mahoney and Zarella connected again five minutes into the second half. Following a save from sophomore goalie Erin Long, who turned in another fine game in net with five total saves, Zarella closed her six-goal outing with an unassisted run and shoot at 14 minutes.

In the final minutes, the floodgates reopened, and a host of new Saxon numbers were called in a surge of goals. Junior Ellie

Glasgow tallied off a Burkart feed, and freshman Jordan Simonides scored her first goal in a Saxon uniform. Junior Mary Redmond slipped behind her defender for a no-doubt goal on a Rachel Wagner feed, and both sophomore Amy Garrigan and junior Ann Frances Davis found the net, each for her first goal of the year.

"This was a great showing against an improving Yorktown squad," said coach DeSomma. "We showed what we can do when we play aggressively, patiently and as a team. I am particularly pleased by our excellent scoring efficiency, which at 70 percent (17 goals on 24 shots) matches last year's number, and the fact we had 11 assists, a great indication we are playing together."

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What It Is I Do Know



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm having a problem of late (Oh really, just one?) concerning the fact – and the feelings I have – about having cancer. Specifically, talking about it with people I know. Let me amend that: talking about it with people with whom I'm familiar but who, for a million reasons, are currently out of my cancer loop (and thus, don't have the latest information). It seems that it's easier for me to talk to people I don't know who know about my having cancer; readers, people I've met over the last two years and/or people with whom I've remained in touch, than it is to talk with people I do know who don't know about my diagnosis. Do you know what I mean? If so, that probably makes one of us who does.

Not that I want to – or need to – avoid the subject, but other than writing about it as frequently as I do, I am not exactly looking to spread the Gospel of Kenny-has-cancer. So when conversations begin with people I know from my pre-diagnosed-with-cancer life, I have very little to say. I mean, how do you have a “normal-type” conversation with someone when the most important and dominant part of your life, your 24-7 life (cancer) is a subject which, for a variety of reasons, you're extremely uncomfortable discussing – with that particular person. It's not so much personal, as it is poor timing.

Let me try and explain that. With anybody who knows me and knows I have cancer – and I know they know, I am not uncomfortable discussing any of the cancer-related aspects of my life. I am an open book, as you regular readers know. “Discussing” I don't mind. However, dredging up all the sordid details from the past two years, where conversations invariably go when you haven't seen or talked to someone in those few years – and they're the least bit curious about you, causes me great consternation; anticipating their questions and in turn deciding on my answers.

I never know how much or how little to say. I never know if I can be totally honest or must I be totally sensitive – to their feelings, in the event they have some personal/family-type history. I never know exactly how to behave; to be self-effacing and self-confident concerning my own health status – and/or try not to not make them feel bad/awkward for having asked, and then try to delude myself by making light of the situation – so they won't feel sorry for me, or lie to them and not say anything of cancer substance. And if I choose the latter strategy and say nothing about the cancer, can you imagine how on guard I have to be to not let anything slip out about the last two years, two years which have been consumed by my having cancer? It's like pretending to be someone else just so you don't have to deal with/re-visit all the history that has preceded this conversation (much of which you'd like to forget, anyway) and placed you in this real-life predicament of truth or dare.

I have enough difficulty dealing with my own reactions to having cancer, along with the reactions of family and friends who know, to have to spend any time sorting through and processing the emotions of people who now know but previously didn't know. It's not being selfish as much as it is self-preservation. I really don't want to use my precious time bringing people up to speed and reinforcing the morbid and terminal nature of my diagnosis. I don't want to have to convince anybody of anything – about me. It's difficult enough keeping myself on the straight and narrow. I can't waste any additional mental energy on people I know who don't know. I want – need, actually – to spend it on people in the know. I don't know if I have enough time to spend it on people who don't know, well-meaning though they may be. Sometimes, it's just easier this way, although not always; and that's the problem I'm having.

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

NEWS

Big Steps

McLean scout completes project and earns eagle.

By ERIN HODGE
THE CONNECTION

The boiling summer heat emphasized the dryness of the grass at Spring Hill RECenter as Rick Harwood of McLean, a senior at Langley High, considered ideas for his Eagle Scout Project. Consulting with members of the Park Authority, Harwood focused on the hill leading to the fields: the summer sun wasn't at fault for the lifeless stretch of land he saw there. Instead, countless determined pairs of cleats and sneakers had destroyed any survivors of the weather.

“It looked like a good project,” said Harwood. “I thought it was something I could improve.” So he drew up the plans for a set of stairs spanning the hill, sparing the grass the frequent foot traffic. Over the next year he fought through the difficult process of obtaining approval for his plan, repeatedly submitting it to both his troop and district Eagle Advisors. Finally, in July of 2010, Harwood set to work.

A few days before hammer hit wood, Harwood collected volunteers. “I relied on my friends, mostly,” he said. “I needed older guys because of the nature of the project.” Harwood's friends and fellow scouts rose to the occasion and more than twenty offered their hands over the next three days.

“I thought it was a great undertaking,”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rick Harwood, back right, celebrates with friends Brittany Stinger, Evan Schwed, Jenny Parks, Taylor Bohlen, Lucia Terpak, and Grace Brassell after his Eagle Ceremony.

said Taylor Bohlen, a friend of Harwood's and a worker on the project. “He's one of my best friends, so I agreed to come help.” Harwood relied on Bohlen and others for a range of tasks, including basic grunt work, but also needed advice on the construction of the stairs themselves.

“I did a similar project about a week earlier,” said Life Scout and friend Riley Dickson. “Rick was there to help out on mine, so I was there to help him too.”

The planning turned out to be simpler than the installation, however. Harwood was forced to find a generator on short notice after learning the extension cords originally required to operate the power tools wouldn't work. Luckily a neighbor had just what he needed.

On a Friday morning, Harwood encour-

tered his second challenge. Of the eight posts holding up the railing, two were not straight. Harwood and his friends and fellow scouts got back to work.

“We were all frustrated,” said scout Sumedh Ambardar, “Rick had put a lot of work into it, and it was hard to have to go back.” But Harwood was committed to his goal and they dug up the posts, chipped off the old cement, and re-cemented them at the proper angle. Only then could Harwood step back and admire his work.

It's the beginning of spring soccer, and hundreds of players and parents alike won't slip down the once muddy makeshift path at Spring Hill REC. Rick Harwood received his Eagle Badge on Saturday, March 19, after a long career in Boy Scouts and a project he could be proud of.

Waiting for Metro at Tysons

FROM PAGE 3

street is an Afghan family.”

Tom Jacobi, owner of Langley Photo and Digital in downtown McLean, says businesses downtown previously had an advantage over those in Tysons, and that even with Metro, he's confident that the community will support the downtown.

“I think the Metro will actually help the retailers in McLean, because it's so hard to get to Tysons Corner. Right now, no one goes to Tysons unless they absolutely have to,” Jacobi said. “It will be interesting once it's all done, to see what happens, but I think McLean is a great community, we get a lot of support from the people, and small retailers make McLean unique.”

Ted Alexander, who serves as chair of the McLean Citizens Association's Tysons Corner Liaison Committee, says they are concerned about where funding for the implementation of Tysons Redevelopment will come from.

“There's a concern with how we are going to find the implementation of this whole infrastructure for the growth of Tysons. We are all for it, but we want to make sure it is

a fair formula that is used,” he said. “When they did Route 28, it was done 75 percent by the landowners and 25 percent by the public county funding. We feel that's a good precedent, but the county staff has come forward and proposed that 58 percent be paid by the taxpayers, and only 42 by the landowners, and we feel that this is very unfair on the backs of the taxpayers. The biggest portion should be paid by those who benefit the most, the landowners.”

Ray said that she hopes Metro will help bring about a Tysons Corner that is more accessible to those with disabilities.

SUPERVISOR JOHN FOUST (D-Dranesville) attended the meeting as well, and expressed his hopes for Metro.

“In many ways we want to minimize the influence of Metro and Tysons development. We want to preserve the wonderful community we have here,” he said. “I think it's going to be good, but obviously we have to be cautious to preserve the quality of life we have here.”

Peggy Moore, special events community coordinator at the McLean Community Center, said that community events are crucial

in retaining McLean's identity.

“I don't think we're in much danger of losing our identity here, and much of my job is basically supporting and promoting community events,” she said. “Last year for McLean Day I went to my homeowners association, and the president was talking about all these different groups you could contact for this, that or the other, and I thought ‘wow, each one of these groups have signed up for their booths at McLean Day.’ I think that's a great day for community around here, where we all get to know each other.”

Sue Boucher said that she is just looking forward to the end of all the construction delays, traffic changes and lane closures.

School Board member Jane Strauss (Dranesville) said she thought the construction process could be used as a learning experience for young families.

“If you have little children, two, three, four-year-olds, they are so excited to see the cranes, and all the heavy engineering equipment, because you can see it so quickly and up-front,” she said. “If you have lemons out there, make lemonade. It's a great learning experience.”

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