

# Great Falls CONNECTION



Lincoln, one of the Jack Russell Terriers strolls down the steps of the outside terrace that seconds as a amphitheatre for the children's plays at 6028 Chesterbrook Road in McLean.

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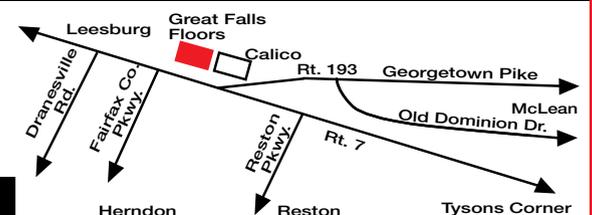
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# SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC  
703-778-9414 OR GREATFALLS@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Adeler Jewelers, in conjunction with the Great Falls Optimist Club, is hosting the 27th annual Children's Spring Festival and Egg Hunt. This annual event attracts from 500 to 1,000 children plus their parents. What makes this egg hunt so special is that \$5,000 worth of gemstones have been hidden within the 5,000 Easter eggs filled with candy, so some lucky children will go home with their own gems courtesy of Adeler Jewelers.



## Spring Festival Returns

Celebrate Great Falls looks to invigorate Spring Festival.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

When Celebrate Great Falls formed as an organization to spearhead annual events around the Great Falls Community, May 1 loomed as their first major project: resurrecting the Spring Festival, which didn't happen last year and used to be mostly a children's event. This year, the new organization is helping to turn the Spring Festival into a place for the entire family to have fun.

"We want to attract anybody that wants to celebrate this community," said Sandra Even, a board member of Celebrate Great Falls, as well as one of the event's co-chairs. "We've tried hard to get rides for kids of all ages, as well as their moms and dads. The kids can go crazy on the rides while the adults shop."

The space will be divided into the "green" and the "hill." The green, the space at the center of the Great Falls Village Centre with the gazebo, will host the Marketplace on the Green, with more than 30 local vendors selling jewelry and crafts.

The hill is the area where the Christmas tree is set up every year, and it will feature a variety of rides for children young and old, as well as activities like Sumo wrestler suits, a Velcro wall, a rock-climbing wall and others.

There will also be a section featuring more than a dozen local nonprofit organizations that will be sharing their mission with the community through various activities. There will also be a stage, which will have performances from local schools and other acts.

**THE FESTIVAL** will feature a raffle with gift trees from local businesses and a pair of pearl earrings from Adeler Jewelers will be up for grabs. Tickets for the gift tree raffle will be \$5 each or five for \$20, and the Adeler tickets will be \$20 each or three for \$60. There will be a maximum of 350 tickets sold for the Adeler earrings.



**Scott King gives young Ben Stern a few tips on putting during the Great Falls Optimist Club's annual Spring Festival in 2009. This year, the Optimist Club will hold a Children's Spring Festival April 17, while Celebrate Great Falls will host one for the whole family May 1.**

Malou Rennert, the event's other co-chair, says working under the umbrella of Celebrate Great Falls has allowed the festival to reach out to the community like never before.

"People have been involved with organizations around Great Falls for years, but the energy that comes from planning something like this is contagious," Rennert said. "People brought their own vision in for what they hoped the festival would be, and we tried to let them do just that."

Proceeds from the festival will go toward funding other Celebrate Great Falls events, such as the annual Golf Tournament, the Fourth of July, the Hal



PHOTO BY AL REITAN

Great Falls artist Gail Pean demonstrates her painting technique during a Great Falls art festival last year. She is one of 22 artists taking part in this year's festival, Saturday and Sunday, at the Village Green Day School.

## 22 Great Falls Artists To Highlight Festival

High-end artworks and gifts to go on sale this weekend.

The Fifth Annual Great Falls Spring Art Festival and Sale, a showcase for local art "Made in Great Falls," will be held this weekend, April 9 and 10, at the Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The festival features sale of pottery, paintings, jewelry, photography, layered paper, handbags, quilts, walking sticks and other work created by 22 artist members of Great Falls Studios, a network of artists based in Great Falls. More than a quarter of the participants have never shown before at the festival, adding new and unusual creativity to the event.

"We have two art sales each year that have become annual staples of Great Falls cultural life, and this should be the best ever," said Linda Jones, a watercolor painter who has organized the event on behalf of Great Falls Studios. "You can find wonderful gifts at lower price points on up to major paintings priced way below what you would have to pay at area galleries."

Great Falls has more than 90 working artists. Most work out of home studios but display their creations locally at the two sales, plus at an annual tour of home studios held each October in Great Falls.



**'Goldfinch in the Meadow,' a three-dimensional creation by Ronni Jolles, who fashions scenes made of layered paper. The work was completed for the Great Falls bird election and is an example of artworks on sale at the festival.**

Visitors who come on Saturday are eligible to win drawings for two \$50 "Art Bucks" prizes which can be used on Sunday toward purchase of any work on sale. Visitors can also treat the festival as a polling place to vote for the Great Falls village bird in an ongoing village-wide election sponsored by Great Falls Studios and eleven other community groups to select a symbol to represent Great Falls. The bird election recognizes a long history in the United States of using art and photography to

# SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



The breakfast room leads into a comfortable family room at 6028 Chesterbrook Road in McLean.

## Harbinger of Spring

### The 78th anniversary Historic Garden Week in Virginia.

The Garden Club of Fairfax will host five homes on the 2011 tour in Arlington and McLean. A cross between a ranch and a “A Cape Cod on steroids,” designed and constructed by Marvin T. Broyhill for his son, Joel Thomas Broyhill; a modified Craftsman house by BOWA Builders; a brick cottage-rambler, a Tudor Revival Arts and Craft remodeled 1938 home and a French Country home are to be featured.

So far the cool weather is cooperating with extending the bloom time. At the Ceckowski-Christie home, a transformation of the grounds got underway six years ago. And now it boasts an Edgeworthis chrsantha, a Pyrus communis Moonglow – Pear, a Mexican buckeye, a Continus grace Smoke tree, a Parsley-leaf Hawthorn, Chinese Fringe, a Japanese Snowbell and Cusa dogwoods, Cornell dogwoods, and a walking stick tree.

This year’s co-chairs Sandra Hunt and Cheryl Freeman of Vienna are working up last minute details on the docent’s notes and coordinating the multiple committee assignments. The Fairfax Tour will be held on Tuesday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 prior to the tour and \$25 day of tour; they may be purchased online at

www.VAgardenweek.org or locally at participating retailers: Anita Perlut Interiors in Oakton, Burke Florists in the University Mall, Calico Corners on Williamsburg Boulevard, Color Wheel in McLean, Company Flowers in Arlington, Damon Galleries in Vienna, Executive Press in Fairfax, Express Jewelers in the Ballston Mall, Heart in Hand in Clifton, Judy Ryan of Fairfax, Katie’s Coffee House in Great Falls, Lemon Twist in Arlington, McLean Cleaners in McLean, Mesmeraldas in McLean, Millie’s Dry Cleaning in Arlington, Needlewoman East in Falls Church and the Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls. Tickets may also be purchased with a map and brochure by sending a self-addressed stamped, legal-size envelope along with a check, payable to The Garden Club of Fairfax by April 8 to Mrs. George Whipple, 11508 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039, or telephone 703-978-4130. On the day of the tour, tickets may be purchased at the Memorial Baptist Church and at any of the properties open for the tour.

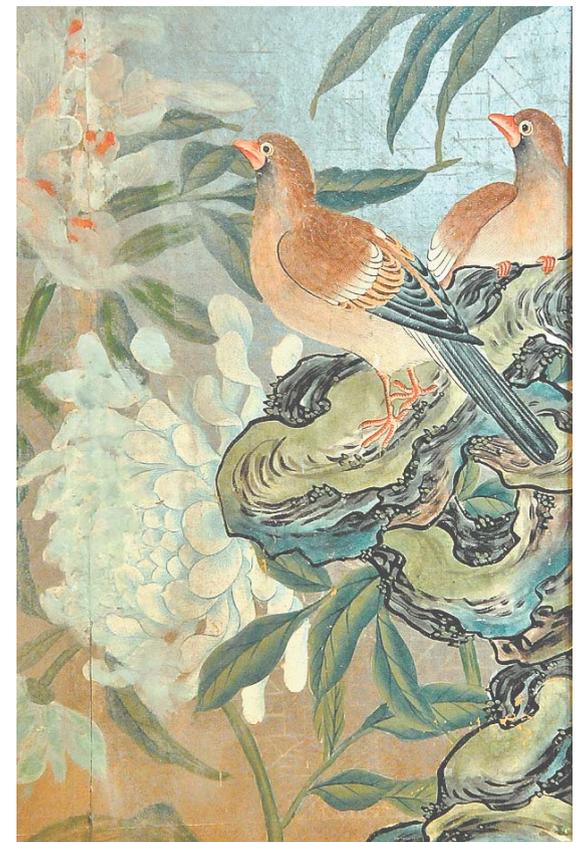
Garden Week in Virginia hosted by the Garden Club of Virginia, the oldest and largest statewide tour in the country. This year 36 tours feature 250 homes, gardens, and historic landmarks during the week of April 16-23.



This home at 6028 Chesterbrook Road in McLean will be open for visitors during the Garden Club of Fairfax 2011 tour.



A sun room looking out to the patio features a whimsical table remade from a damaged French stoneware sculpture of Diana the huntress by Cote Jardin Antiques in Georgetown.



Hand-painted Chinese screens selected by Dorothy Draper for the Greenbrier now cover a wall of storage closets in the hallway.



Located in Franklin Park in McLean, the 2007 French Country home is open for the first time this year for the Historic Garden Week tour.

# Forever Box Unveiled

**A Great Falls author and former White House director of media relations Kristin Clark Taylor launches her fourth book.**

BY JEAN T. JIANOS  
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls resident and author Kristin Clark Taylor credits an older woman from her Detroit neighborhood with forever implanting in her 7-year-old mind the idea that a woman and a black person could serve in the White House, even as President. In her fourth and most recent book, "The Forever Box," Taylor admits that, in 1966, she could picture more black men in the White House than she could picture women of any color. Nonetheless, she became the first woman of color to serve as director of White House media relations when George H.W. Bush was elected President. [The subject of her book, *The First to Speak: A Woman of Color Inside the White House* (New York: Doubleday, 1993)].

**IN THE FOREVER BOX,** Taylor recalls how the older women in her life introduced the issues of segregation, civil rights and women's rights, as well as slavery and genocide, and why she feels each generation must educate the next on the "dark moments" of history, to inspire confidence to remain positive and achieve solutions. She has saved gifts from those women that represent the hope and balance that they contributed to her childhood.

Barbara Ianniello, a Great Falls neighbor whose children went to school with the Taylor children,

won't be surprised to read that Taylor's parents and childhood mentors shared their life experience and their precious keepsakes with Taylor to instill in her the principles that she embodies – grace, elegance and humility, coupled with confidence and strength.

"I admire her for sharing her perspective," Ianniello says. "She is proud of her heritage, and appreciates where she came from and what she has been able to achieve."

Born in Detroit, Taylor lived in a high-density, inner-city neighborhood but attended a predominantly all-white, private school in an affluent suburb from 1964 through 1974. Taylor writes that the school offered protection from the unrest of the Civil Rights Era and that her experience at the school was unquestionably positive. Perhaps based upon that experience, she and her husband, Lonnie, sent their two children to the private Langley School, near their home in McLean. Her family followed in her grandmother's footsteps by visiting Africa with an African man who taught at the school. The leather purse that her grandmother brought her as a child, and her grandmother's stories, connected Taylor to her African heritage in a tangible way. Now, her son has his own shadow box filled with photos and cherished objects that will forever bring to mind the rites of passage that he experienced in Africa, just as his ancestors had before him.



**Kristin Clark Taylor will be signing copies of 'The Forever Box' at Barnes & Noble in McLean on Saturday, April 23.**

**TAYLOR MOVED** to Washington, D.C. in 1982 to help create and launch USA Today, as a member of the newspaper's Editorial Board, and as a columnist and writer. Like many recent college graduates, she came to the Nation's Capital, "on a leap of faith," first living in the District, then meeting and marrying her husband Lonnie, who grew up in the Washington, D.C. area. They moved to Alexandria, McLean and eventually Great Falls, where they have lived for 15 years. Her preservation of items and lessons from the lives of friends and family in Detroit has allowed her to extend her roots to her own children and the other people who share her life here. She brought along with her, "the ability [and] the desire to weave [her] past, present, and future into one whole cloth." (The Forever Box, p. 110) Taylor will be signing copies of *The Forever Box* at Barnes & Noble in McLean on Saturday, April 23.

## Exciting Estate Sale at The Rotonda, McLean, Virginia

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## PHOTO GALLERY!

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To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

PhotoGF@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:  
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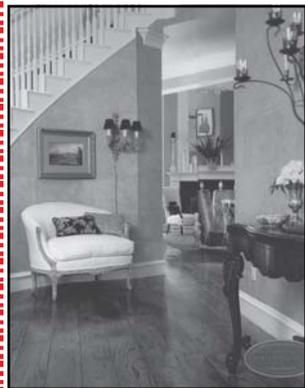
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## THE COUNTY LINE

# Raucous Crowd on Budget

Hundreds turn out to petition loudly on budget.

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Fairfax County Education Association and several parents groups organized a massive demonstration to persuade the Board of Supervisors to provide a \$48.8 million increase in school funds to pay for higher salaries for teachers and full day kindergarten classes for an additional 37 schools.

Though public hearings on the 2012 Fairfax County budget took place over three days last week, the evening of March 29 saw the board chambers packed with a raucous crowd of teachers, parents, children and taxpayer groups that often cheered, jeered and booed as speakers presented expenditure alternatives.

During the course of the evening an estimated 400 persons attended the hearings, packing the chamber and crowding around the lobby of the Government Center. The bulk of attendees were organized by the Fairfax Education Association, a teachers and staff union, and by parent coalitions seeking additional full day kindergarten classes. Dozens of parents brought young children who helped wave both home made signs and placards made up by the FEA.

Smaller groups of opponents to budget increases and the rising cost of schools also were in the board room.

The \$3.8 billion county budget proposed by Fairfax County Executive Anthony H. Griffin barred pay raises for county employees and teachers for another year and proposed a "transfer" of funds to schools of \$1.61 billion, \$48.8 million less than the School Board has sought.

Though the Board of Supervisors cannot directly manage school operations, it can influence them by the amount of taxpayer dollars it provides to Fairfax schools.

Griffin and some members of the Board of Supervisors have said that they do not believe teachers and school employees should receive raises when police, fire and other county employees are not getting salary increases.

**THE BATTLE** over school costs in Fairfax County is not new. The county school system has often been cited as one of the best in the United States and a key factor in why thousands of people have chosen to live in Fairfax.

Michael Hairston, president of the FEA, told the supervisors that members of his association "are the people who make Fairfax public schools work." The school system has some 23,000 employees in 197 schools and centers in the county. Hairston said that

it is the prize-winning Fairfax schools system that is the reason thousands of families choose to live in Fairfax County, "just ask any real estate agent." He said the proposed budget level "does not recognize growth in school enrollment" and that the resulting large class sizes make it impossible for teachers to do their best job.

"Without quality people, you cannot develop quality programs," he said. If the supervisors fail to support a larger money transfer to schools, he said "the people with the most to lose are our children."

School Board vice chairman Brad Center, who delivered an address on behalf of Kathy Smith, the chairman, said "this is not a factory line where we are producing cars or iPads, these are children, and it takes a committed staff to take care of them." He showed a promotional film which gave a sense of the diversity of skills from teachers, to nurses, to dieticians and librarians who are needed to operate the 175,000 student school system.

The school's diversity both in ethnic terms and in language is significant. Only 47 per cent of the student body list themselves as white and 18 percent are Hispanic or Asian. Students speak scores of different languages.

Nevertheless, during the recent years of drops in home values and losses in tax revenues, the Board of Supervisors is under increasing pressure to limit money for schools and to ask harder questions about the school system's operations.

Jody Bennett, a political activist who lives in the Hunter Mill section of the county, told the supervisors she is "troubled that the FCPS's approach is to use parents and this board (supervisors) to solve their budget issues when they 53 per cent of the county's budget."

She said that the schools have consistently sought increases in their budget share while often recording surpluses in their budgets at the end of the years. She said that she found it curious that the school board underscored the vital importance of providing 37 additional schools with full day kindergarten programs when it could not find the money in a \$2.3 billion budget.

**LATER IN AN INTERVIEW**, she said that court cases over Clifton elementary school and other issues developed evidence that failing to renovate Clifton instead of closing it may have been to hide from the Board of Supervisors the fact that the schools did not need \$155 million a year for a capital construction program.

Fairfax schools' size has come up in other context.

Caroline Hemenway, who appeared before the supervisors, on behalf of reexamining the school's "zero tolerance" discipline program, said in an interview that some parents have come to wonder whether a 175,000 student system is too big and too impersonal. Fairfax is the largest school system in Virginia and the 12th largest in the United States.

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.

**Rebecca Flynn** of McLean has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Fairfield University of Fairfield, Conn. Flynn is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences.

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



**Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) congratulates newly promoted Eagle Scouts.**

## John Martins, Andrew Azzam Receive Eagle Scout Ranking

An Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony took place on Saturday, March 5, at Trinity Methodist Church in McLean. John Martins and Andrew Azzam, members of Troop 869 throughout all the boy scout ranks, most recently received the ranking of Eagle Scout. Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) was in attendance and awarded the boys a special commendation in recognition of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. She also awarded them with a flag of Virginia that was flown over the State Capital in Richmond.

Also in attendance were former scout masters David Brandt, Mike Alexander, Scott Jenkins, Tom Kiess, Jon Etherton, Richard Meyers, John Christian, Mrs. Traci Fisher and Dr. Tom Kiess. Martins' eagle project was constructing an all-season handicapped-accessible



**From left, John Martins and Andrew Azzam.**

fire pit with benches at Turner Farm in Great Falls Virginia and Azzam designed and solicited donations for installation of two flagstone walkways at Churchill Road Elementary School in McLean.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/APRIL 7

**Alternative House, The Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge Open Door Event.** 3 p.m. Learn about issues facing young people in the community and get an overview of the House's history, programs and services. Talk with the Executive Director, a Board member and staff, and take a tour of the Emergency Shelter for Teens. 703-506-9191 or [gina\\_cocomello@thealternativehouse.org](mailto:gina_cocomello@thealternativehouse.org).  
**Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group.** 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. 703-281-9515.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 8

**Inova Blood Drive.** 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Sponsored by the Langley Science Honor Society. Contact [mary.landis@fcps.edu](mailto:mary.landis@fcps.edu) or [Kalden1@aol.com](mailto:Kalden1@aol.com) for appointments, walk-ins welcome.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 9

**McLean Pedestrian Task Force: Walkabout McLean.** 9 p.m. Meet at Star Nut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Walk along Pommit Run, investigate some byways in and around McLean Center. Cancelled in case of rain or muddy stream valley conditions. 703-356-1852.  
**The Smart Split.** 10 a.m. McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Legal aspects of separation and divorce. \$50, \$40 members. Support group available. [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or 703-281-2657.  
**McLean Drama Company Auditions.** 2-6 p.m. Alden Theatre Rehearsal Hall, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Auditions for the upcoming 7th Anniversary Celebration program, a series of original plays. Bring a bio, head shot and monologue. [www.mcleandramacompany.org](http://www.mcleandramacompany.org).  
**McLean Community Center Spring Community Garage Sale.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Business Bank parking garage, 1451 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. A wide variety of merchandise from more than 60 sellers. 703-790-0123, TTY 711.

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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. at Franklin Sherman Elementary, 6630 Brawner Street in McLean. This musical production is open to all ages, admission is free.

**Ashley Ann Alligood** of McLean

# WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

## McKinley Awarded SAR Citizen of the Year

Larry McKinley, a resident of Great Falls, was awarded the State Citizen of the Year award at the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) State Conference. To receive this award, McKinley's nomination competed against several other Chapter nominees from across the Commonwealth.

McKinley's commitment and mentorship of youth, his devotion to educating the public, and his consistent enthusiasm for the organizations he serves were key factors in his selection. The State committee noted his exceptional service to the community – in every capacity beyond Sons of the American Revolution.

The award was presented at the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution Awards Ceremony in Richmond, where McKinley was presented with a trophy and monetary award. As the sponsoring local Sons of the American Revolution Chapter, the Fairfax Resolves Chapter was presented with an activity streamer for their Chapter flag.

More information on the Sons of the American Revolution and the Fairfax Resolves Chapter can be found at [www.fairfaxresolvessar.org](http://www.fairfaxresolvessar.org).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**From left, Sons of the American Revolution Members Walt Neville (State Chairman, Citizen of the Year), Darrin M. Schmidt (President, Fairfax Resolves Chapter), Larry McKinley (Awardee), Bob Bowen (Virginia SAR State President).**

## Volunteers Needed for Children's Spring Festival

The 27th annual Adeler Jewelers/Great Falls Optimist Club Children's Spring Festival, including egg and gem hunt, rides and games, will be held on Sunday, April 17, 2-4:30 p.m. for children ages 1-10 at

the Great Falls Village Centre.

Members and volunteers are needed for two-or-three hour shifts from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 17 and for egg-stuffing at 6:30 p.m. down stairs in the Great Falls Grange on Friday, April 15. Refreshments will be served.

Let Ron Klabunde, volunteer coordinator, know when you can serve via e-mail at [ronklabunde@gmail.com](mailto:ronklabunde@gmail.com) or calling 703-439-4858.



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927  
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118

### Advertisement for Residential Rental Properties Proposed Demolitions

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) operates a residential rental program for tenants who qualify under Policy 405 of the Fairfax County Park Authority Policy Manual, to rent houses located within the park system. On February 9, 2011, the Board of the Fairfax County Park Authority authorized reductions in the program, including the demolition of two houses located within Riverbend Park, and one house located within Mason Neck West Park.

Prior to demolition, the Fairfax County Park Authority seeks requests for adaptive reuse of these existing houses from individuals interested in leasing the facilities. All proposals must be consistent with residential use or park recreational uses on the property, at the sole determination of FCPA. The cost of permitting, facility operation, improvements, maintenance or repairs will be the sole responsibility of the leasee. FCPA will not consider any requests for the purchase of any portion of park land.

Requests for interest in facility reuse must be received no later than June 15, 2011 to be considered. Please contact Julie Cline at 703-324-8708 or visit the Planning and Development Division of the Park Authority at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax VA.



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

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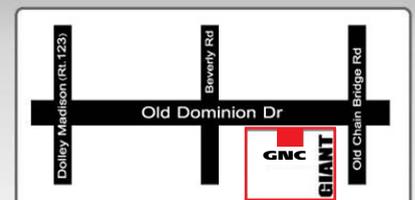
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# OPINION

## Simply Disappointing

Sad to report that proposed General Assembly districts are not an April Fool's joke.

By the time the Connection is delivered to homes and businesses this week, there is a good chance that how you vote and who you can vote for will have changed. No one will have consulted you about this.

Virginia's every-10-year, hyper-partisan process of drawing political districts is in rare form this year. It's all the more disappointing since two years ago, there appeared to be developing consensus that this process should be approached in the best interests of voters.

Instead, the Democrats in control of the Virginia Senate and the Republicans in control of the Virginia House of Delegates have created a nearly obscene mess without even lip service to providing effective representation.

Proposed changes in districts split communities, localities, counties and even precincts and homeowners associations. The City of Alexandria will likely now have three state senators. Arlington, which could be represented by a single state senator in a compact and highly effective district, could instead have as many as three Senate districts within its boundaries. Arlington's primary senate seat, District 31, will now snake along the Potomac River through McLean and Great Falls and actually encompassing part of Sterling, covering three counties in a densely populated area that begs for compact districts.

This means residents of McLean and Great

### EDITORIAL

Falls will likely be represented in the Virginia Senate by someone from Arlington, who will try to understand the complexities of three very different counties. The change shifts Janet Howell's district 32 to the west, leaving thousands of residents to get to know new candidates who will likely be focused on other areas first.

Mount Vernon, a highly diverse community, will also have its senate representation split, likely resulting over time in half being represented by someone from the City of Alexandria and half represented by someone from Prince William County, neither with the grasp of community needs that a Mount Vernon centered district would allow.

George Barker's district 39 scoops up parts of Prince William, the least densely populated parts of Fairfax County in Clifton and Fairfax Station, then takes a turn through densely populated Lorton, Newington and Franconia before poking its head into the City of Alexandria. This certainly does not comprise a "community of interest."

If Democratic voters were wealth, this would be the plan to spread the wealth around. Whether that will actually be effective for the Democrats in retaining seats is dubious. We've seen numerous examples of seats specifically drawn to benefit particular candidates or party that fail to hold up.

There are almost as many examples as there are senate seats in Northern Virginia.

There are similar problems with the Republican drawn delegate seats, but the smaller districts make for more compact districts, with the problems a bit harder to cherry pick.

Every seat in the General Assembly will be up for reelection in a few months, with August primaries and caucuses and November general election, which is one reason this process is happening with so little citizen scrutiny. Proposed boundaries will have been public for only a few days, and will be voted on and approved by the end of the week. Homeowners Association presidents who might object to having their neighborhood split won't have time to react, for example.

Is there hope to circumvent the madness for 10 years from now?

It really is time to give control of the redistricting process to an authority that will not consider voting patterns or incumbency, but instead will focus on what will create more effective representation.

Keeping communities of interest together is key. That means not splitting jurisdictions, creating compact shapes, minimizing the distance from one end to the other of populous districts.

But it's unlikely that the winners of the coming elections will be that interested in the project. After all, they will be the beneficiaries of the current flawed process.

It's time for a constitutional amendment that would save us from districts shaped like boa constrictors and clawed dragons a decade from now.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM.

ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM.

## Our Take on Redistricting

BY SEN. RICHARD SASLAW &  
SEN. MARY MARGARET  
WHIPPLE

### COMMENTARY

Many, if not most, Virginians if asked would say they support some kind of non-partisan redistricting process to determine our state's political boundaries. Political experts and the media have touted the benefits of this concept nationally and across the Commonwealth.

However, that is not the system that Virginia operates under now. The Democratic-controlled Virginia Senate passed legislation the last four years to establish a bipartisan commission to oversee the redistricting process in a fair and non-partisan manner. These bills have all been killed by the Republican-controlled House of Delegates.

What we have been able to do is craft a redistricting plan that

meets the criteria for redistricting as established by the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the U.S. Constitution and Virginia Constitutions. These criteria include but are not limited to, making sure districts are near the same size, do not dilute racial or ethnic minority voting strength, are compact and contiguous, and maintain communities of interest.

Drafting a map that meets these criteria isn't a simple or easy task.

Virginia is one of the first states to undertake the once-a-decade redistricting process because of our election schedule. Senate map makers had one month since receiving the final U.S. Census data to study maps, analyze the data, and redraw political boundaries in order to submit plans to the U.S. Department of Justice for approval. The Justice Department

has 60 days from the date of submission to approve the plan.

Dramatic shifts in Virginia's population required significant changes in district lines. Northern Virginia experienced massive population growth over the last decade especially in Loudoun and western Prince William counties. This resulted in Northern Virginia gaining an additional Senate seat while population changes in other parts of the state resulted in Hampton Roads and Southwest Virginia losing one Senate district.

Although time constraints have made the redistricting process very challenging, we believe our plan fully complies with all applicable federal and state legal requirements. Our bill will be introduced and debated during a special redistricting session which begins on April 4.

Some critics have claimed that our map is an extreme partisan

gerrymander; however under our plan, Gov. McDonnell (R) carried 28 of 40 districts — or 70 percent of the proposed Senate districts. There are 17 districts in the proposed Senate map that the Republican candidates for Governor carried in 2005 and 2009. There are only 12 districts the Democratic candidates for governor carried in both those elections. The remaining 11 districts voted for the Democratic candidate for Governor in 2005 and for the Republican candidate in 2009.

Overall, Senate Democrats are proud of what we've been able to accomplish in a short time. There is still a lot of work to be done before the General Assembly passes redistricting legislation. We hope you will take a look at our plan and tell us what you think at <http://redistricting.dls.virginia.gov/2010/>.

## THE CONNECTION

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

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

**Alex McVeigh**  
Community Reporter  
703-778-9441  
amcveigh@connectionnewspapers.com

**Nick Horrock**  
County & Projects  
nhorrock@connectionnewspapers.com

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

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editors**  
Michael O'Connell, Kemal Kurspahic  
**Photography:**  
Louise Krafft,  
Craig Sterbutzel  
**Art/Design:**  
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,  
John Heinly, John Smith  
**Production Manager:**  
Jean Card

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Linda Pecqueux  
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

**CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,  
L.L.C.**  
**Peter Labovitz**  
President/CEO

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

**Jerry Vernon**  
Executive Vice President  
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

**Wesley DeBrosse**  
Controller

**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

**Jeanne Theismann**  
Special Assistant to the Publisher  
703-778-9436  
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com

# LETTERS

## 'Forgotten Schools'

To the Editor:

The political process admittedly is a delicate dance. The music must stop, however, when it comes to implementing full day kindergarten in the "37 forgotten schools," including all three Great Falls elementary schools (and totaling nine schools in the Dranesville district). Elected officials from across the county, including school board members,

members of the Board of Supervisors, and delegates from the Virginia House of Delegates, have publicly expressed support for full day kindergarten. This is no surprise given the numerous studies that show that children thrive in full day kindergarten and those that do not receive it are left behind in comparison.

The statements by our public officials in favor of full day kindergarten make people believe that full day kindergarten is a "done deal." Yet, when the topic turns to how full day kindergarten will be funded eyes are averted and fingers are pointed. The school board wants more funds from the county in order to pay for full day kindergarten. The county wants the school board to pay for full day kindergarten out of its existing budget.

At the end of the day, there is no reasoned justification for why our children should wait any longer for equal access to schooling. We have patiently waited our turn, while other areas of the county are enjoying full day kindergarten, as well as smaller class sizes. Rather than continue to point fingers at one another, perhaps the more fruitful exercise would be for everyone to take joint

responsibility for implementing full day kindergarten. Our public officials must find the funds to educate the 5-year-olds in all "37 forgotten schools" by the 2011-2012 school year. Our community should accept nothing less.

**Ann Malekzadeh**  
Great Falls

## A Good Neighbor

To The Editor:

Last Saturday morning I stopped at the Herndon Library to return some books. Just outside the door there was a large pile of newspapers, with nothing to hold them down — being blown all over by the wind. Before I could get into the library to let someone know, a young woman who was just coming out, stooped over, took the whole pile, in one hand, and put it inside the foyer. She acted immediately, even though she had a small child with her.

What a good, thoughtful thing to do, with so little time to think about it.

**Elizabeth Kerr**  
Herndon

## 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: 703-917-6444.  
By e-mail:  
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

## Community News Freelance Opportunity

The Connection Newspapers is looking for one or two writers to cover one or two news stories a week. Work with award-winning editor. On-the-beat training, nominal pay per story. Please send resume, letter of interest to Kemal Kurspahic, kemal@connectionnews.com.

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## Here's What's Happening at MCC

### **Cinderella— The World's Favorite Fairy Tale** An Alden Theatre Production

**April 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).

### **More than 50 vendors! McLean Spring Community Garage Sale**

**Saturday, April 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
Free Admission  
Business Bank Parking Garage

Spring into our super sale and save on a wide variety of household items!

### **"The Daily Show with Jon Stewart's" Aasif Mandvi**

Behind the Scenes of the Real Fake News  
**Friday, April 15, 8 p.m.**  
\$30/\$25 McLean district residents

Come to the Alden for a healthy dose of comic relief on tax day!

### **McLean Kids Series Madeline and the Bad Hat**

**Saturday, April 16, 2 p.m.**  
\$12/\$8 McLean district residents

This original music, based upon the much-loved book, captures the blithe yet touching spirit of Ludwig Bemelmans's *Madeline* series.



### **Spring Break Camp & Trips** **Monday, April 18-Friday, April 22**

Sign up now for our half-day (ages 4-6) and full-day (ages 5-9) Spring Break Camps or for OFTC's Spring Break Trips for 5th-8th graders.

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

## ENTERTAINMENT



**The National Concert Band of America, founded in 1974 by former military band members, will perform at the Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., N.E. in Vienna on Sunday, April 10 at 3 p.m. The program will include Emparata Overture, Four Scottish Dances, Pilatus: Mountain of Dragons and American Elegy, plus the marches and patriotic music for which the group has become known. Music Director, Melvin Kessler, Lt. Cmdr. USN (Ret.) will conduct the family-friendly program. [www.americantowns.com](http://www.americantowns.com).**

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)

#### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 6

**Ezra Furman & The Harpoons, Tristen and The Apache Relay.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**The Fine Art of Organizing.** 7 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Professional organizer Kim Mihalik will sharing tips and discuss the importance of color, texture and composition in creating organized spaces. Refreshments and a short talk about MPA. \$10. Reservations required at [info@mpaart.org](mailto:info@mpaart.org).

#### THURSDAY/APRIL 7

**Hot Club of Cowtown.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Basic Birding Course: Lecture and Field Trip.** 7 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike Great Falls. Basic birding techniques. \$20, free if you join ASNV for \$15. 703-438-6008 or [info@audubonva.org](mailto:info@audubonva.org).

**"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](mailto:providenceplayers@cox.net) or 703-425-6782.

**Birds of Prey.** 4 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. In celebration of the Vote 2011 Wings Great Falls, learn about birds of prey from the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia. Ages 6-12. 703-757-8560.

**"Once Upon A Mattress".** 7:30 p.m. Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Musical comedy based on the story "The Princess and the Pea". \$5. [ThoreauDrama@gmail.com](mailto:ThoreauDrama@gmail.com).

#### FRIDAY/APRIL 8

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

**William Fitzsimmons and Slow Runner.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**"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](mailto:providenceplayers@cox.net) or 703-425-6782.

**Steak and Shrimp Dinner.** 5:45-8 p.m. American Legion Post 180, Downstairs Hall, 330 N. Center St., Vienna. Steak \$12, shrimp \$8, salad and dessert included. Public welcome. [vamember@aol.com](mailto:vamember@aol.com).

**"Once Upon A Mattress".** 7:30 p.m. Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Musical comedy based on the story "The Princess and the Pea". \$5. [ThoreauDrama@gmail.com](mailto:ThoreauDrama@gmail.com).

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 9

**"The Glass Menagerie"** by Tennessee Williams. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststageyson.org](http://www.1ststageyson.org).

**William Fitzsimmons and Slow Runner** at 7 p.m., **Pandamonium Featuring: Julian Franco, Ypset and Dirty Steeve!!!** at 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Russian National Ballet Theatre: "Romeo and Juliet."** 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With choreography by Petipa and music by Tchaikovsky. Based on Shakespeare's classic tale of star-crossed lovers and family hatreds. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$27-\$54. Youth through grade 12, half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](mailto:cfa.gmu.edu).

**Friends of Vale Schoolhouse Community Yard Sale.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. Household and children's items, small furniture, collectibles, books and more. Proceeds benefit the preservation of the 1884 Vale Schoolhouse. 703-620-2650.

**"Over Here, Over There": the 2011 Band Aid Ball.** 6 p.m. Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Entertainment by Swing Command: The George Carroll Dance Band. Three-course dinner, dancing, silent and live auctions. Black tie optional. Proceeds benefit CrossLink International, a 501c3 non-profit that distributes medical provisions. Tickets \$175. [www.crosslinkinternational.net](http://www.crosslinkinternational.net) or 703-534-5465.

**"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](mailto:providenceplayers@cox.net) or 703-425-6782.

**"Cinderella: The Worlds 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](http://www.mcleancenter.org).  
**"Once Upon A Mattress".** 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Musical comedy based on the story "the Princess and the Pea". \$5. [ThoreauDrama@gmail.com](mailto:ThoreauDrama@gmail.com).

#### SUNDAY/APRIL 10

**Columbian Singer Juanes.** 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets are \$39-\$125, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities by calling 703-993-3035. [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com).

**"The Glass Menagerie"** by Tennessee Williams. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststageyson.org](http://www.1ststageyson.org).

**Peter Mulvey and Po'Girl.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Russian National Ballet Theatre: "Swan Lake."** 4 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With choreography by Petipa and music by Tchaikovsky. Inspired by the German legend of Odette, a princess who was turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$27-\$54. Youth through grade 12, half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](mailto:cfa.gmu.edu).

**Bicentennial Celebration at Colvin Run Mill.** 12-3 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Free tours of the mill and miller's house, costumed military reenactors, corn shelling and grinding, a blacksmith at his forge, old-fashioned games and more. Local dignitaries will be on hand for a short ceremony at 1 p.m. 709-759-2771 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm).

**Amadeus Orchestra.** 4 p.m. Saint Francis Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Respighi's "Ancient Airs and Dances", Debussy's "Sacred and Profane Dances", Mozart's "Symphony No. 25 in G Minor, K.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16

# McLean Community Center 2011 Governing Board Election

The Governing Board and staff of the McLean Community Center strongly encourage all qualified residents to vote **for members of the McLean Community Center 2011-2012 Governing Board**. Your vote sends a very important message of your support of the Center's programs and services.

## When & Where:

Vote between the hours of **10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.** at the McLean Day 2011 festival on **Saturday, May 21**, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

### Requirements to Vote:

1. You must be a resident of the McLean Community Center tax district (Dranesville Small District #1); however, you need not be registered to vote in the general election.
2. You must be at least 18 years old to vote for an adult candidate.
3. You must be 15 through 17 years old to vote for a youth candidate. Youth voters may vote for a candidate from each of the two school districts.
4. You must bring identification and proof of residency, such as a driver's license or student ID. If you do not have identification, you may sign a sworn statement.

### Absentee Voting:

Want to vote, but can't make it to the McLean Day festival on May 21? Vote by absentee ballot! Call the Center or send a request by E-mail to "[elections@mcleancenter.org](mailto:elections@mcleancenter.org)" to have a ballot package sent to your home. Or, stop by the Center and pick up an absentee ballot package, which will be available beginning **Monday, April 11**. Completed absentee ballot applications and ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 18**, to be counted.

#### Write-in candidates are allowed.

Write-in candidates must have at least 10 votes from 10 residents of the Center's tax district in order to have their votes counted. For youth write-in candidates, the 10 votes must come from teens who live within the same high school boundary area as the candidate.

## Meet the Candidates

### Adult Candidates—Three Positions Open



#### SEAN A. DUNN

McLean Community Center is a valuable resource of which we should all be proud. I have represented the community on the Governing Board for six years now. As chairman for two years and treasurer for two years, I've supported or introduced three successive tax rate reductions, maintained a healthy vigilance on MCC expenses in conjunction with supportive MCC staff, and improved budget oversight reporting. With other Board members, I've explored options for a gym at Spring Hill, evaluated a downtown McLean presence, and supported MPA's Artfest. I'm seeking another term to assist as MCC continues to modernize its community presence.



#### DAVID (BUCKY) MORRIS

I am a long-time resident of McLean, growing up and attending Chesterbrook Elementary in the 70s. I have been very active in running and coaching McLean Youth Lacrosse for the past 15 years. I believe that my many hours of dedicated volunteer service to McLean youth will greatly benefit the MCC Governing Board as it carries out the many responsibilities in guiding all the MCC programs and facilities. All individuals living in the tax district should benefit from the many programs and facilities that the MCC has to offer and I will do my best to further enhance these services.



#### CHAD QUINN

I am a small business owner and resident of McLean since 1998. All of my three daughters benefit greatly from their access to the MCC. I want to work with the MCC Board to ensure that the Center continues to grow and thrive, bringing educational opportunities to even greater numbers of people in McLean. Wise management of MCC's finances and strategic planning going forward are key to doing this. Giving my time to this Board position is my way of giving back in a way that directly benefits my own family and many others in this community. ([www.votechadquinn.com](http://www.votechadquinn.com))



#### RISA E. SANDERS

The MCC has played a vital role in my family's life since moving here 15 years ago. As Secretary of the MCC Board, and Chair of the Communications Committee, I have consistently voted to reduce the tax rate, create a facility relevant for the 21st century, am a strong supporter of the Alden Theatre and expansion of performing arts in McLean, preservation of the teen center, and increased programming to meet our residents' interest in topics of local and national affairs. It would be my honor to have the opportunity to serve a second term. Thank you for your vote!

### Youth Candidates—Two Positions Open

#### McLean High School Area



#### MAGGIE HIMPLER

My name is Maggie Himpler. I am 15 years old and a sophomore at Oakcrest School. I have lived in McLean my whole life. I have always been involved in community sports, MCC theatre activities, volunteer projects and getting to know people in the community. I think I am capable of this responsibility and feel ready to take on the job of serving my community by sharing ideas, concerns, and interests as a board member of the Community Center. I am eager to have the opportunity of representing my peers in the coming year ahead.

#### Langley High School Area



#### CHRISTY MEYER

I am a junior at Langley High School where I play varsity volleyball, dive and belong to several honor societies. I also have participated in McLean Youth Sports, playing soccer and basketball since first grade, and have enjoyed numerous volunteer opportunities, working at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm and volunteering at Sunrise Living Center. If elected, I will ensure that the MCC's diverse and rewarding opportunities remain, particularly for students. I would welcome the chance to represent your interests as the Langley representative on the MCC Governing Board and to bring my creative ideas and work ethic to the position.



#### AISHA SAMAILA

Community involvement is of the greatest importance to any institution. It provides the foundation for connections between its members and also adds to its members' experiences. My life experiences have shaped me into a hard-working student who cares for community. Where we all live, it should be a responsibility to be an active part of the community. During my high school experience I've found courses that captured my interest along with numerous organizations. As a junior, I am involved in Langley High School's district champion Debate and Forensics Club, Multicultural and International Club, Robotics Club and Muslim Student Association.



#### ALEXANDER SOLTANY

I am in ninth grade at St. Albans School in Washington, D.C. and live within the Langley High School district. I have won several academic and citizenship awards at St. Albans. I have also been an active member of the McLean community as a Boy Scout and as a participant in McLean Youth sports teams. I would like to serve on the Board to give back to my wonderful community and to help make it better. I wish to make more people aware of what McLean has to offer and to encourage them to be more involved in the community.



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





## Spring Fun: Hitting the Links

As the weather warms, the area's many golf courses, practice facilities and driving ranges offer great opportunities. From rookies to scratch golfers, from youth to adult, there are options for everyone. From a nationally recognized course at Laurel Hill, to a beginner's delight at the Par 3 at Burke Lake Park, to putt-putt that ranges from cartoonish to difficult, there are plenty of greens to approach.

By Alex McVeigh/The Connection

### A WOODY'S GOLF

Celebrating 30 years, Woody's features a full driving range and "The Perils of the Lost Jungle," an 18-hole mini-golf course that features animatronic animals, which reflect owner Woody FitzHugh's creativity. The course has been ranked nationwide as one of the best mini-golf courses, and was recognized by Newsweek in 2007. The shop offers video swing analysis and custom club fitting, as well as other services.  
11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon,  
703-430-8337



### G BURKE LAKE GOLF COURSE

This 18-hole Par 3 offers a chance for golfers of all skill levels to hone their skills. Located on the 888 acre Burke Lake Park, the course features a lighted driving range, a practice bunker and an 8,000 square foot putting green. Private and group lessons are offered, as well as a Junior Golf Program. A current special offers nine holes for \$10, 18 holes for \$15, Mondays through Thursdays after 2:30, excluding holidays. Nearby Burke Lake Park also has an 18-hole mini-golf course.  
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station,  
703-323-1641



### H GREENDALE GOLF COURSE

The 18-hole regulation course over 148 acres features a practice green and clubhouse with food service. Open since 1967, staff say they're proud to offer an old fashioned course with consistent customer service. Until May 15, there will be a discount on multiple rounds purchased, 10 percent off five rounds, 20 percent off 10 rounds, etc. Also home to the Greendale Senior Golf Club and the Greendale Women's Golf Association.  
6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria,  
703-971-3788

### I OAK MARR GOLF COURSE

Located at the Oak Marr Recreation Center, one of the premiere training facilities in the area features a 1,456-yard, nine-hole course, a lighted, 76-station driving range, a mini-golf course and practice bunkers, chipping area and putting green. Golf instruction is available in groups or privately for adults and juniors. Training includes driving range practice, on-course playing lessons and video swing analysis. Club fitting, repair and regripping also available.  
3200 Germantown Rd, Oakton,  
703-255-5390



### J PINECREST GOLF COURSE

Known as "the best kept secret inside the beltway," the nine hole, par 35 course measures 2,462 yards. The course is dotted with ponds and hills to create a challenge for novices and experts alike. Clubs, riding and pull carts are available for rental, and golf lessons are offered. There is also a putting green, 10 driving cages and a full service pro shop.  
6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria,  
703-941-1061



### B GOLF PARK AT HUNTER MILL

With 100 tee stations and a 300-yard landing area, the Golf Park at Hunter Mill offers golfers of all skill levels a place to practice. They use Top Flite tour-quality balls, and the ball inventory is replaced every year. There are also practice bunkers available. Swing coaching and beginner golf lessons are offered, as well as custom Legend Custom Club fitting, which were named among the world's Top 100 Golf Fitters in 2007 and 2008 by WorldGolf.com.  
1627 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna,  
703-759-5664



### C TOP GOLF

Top Golf offers a twist on the standard driving range, using technology to track each player's ball as it goes into any number of portals on the range. Each of the 76 spots on the range are covered and heated. Two 18-hole mini-golf courses, the "mountain" and "valley" courses are also onsite, featuring a variety of obstacles. The location also features a clubhouse with a full-service restaurant and bar.  
6625 South Van Dorn Street, Alexandria,  
703-924-2600.



### D HERNDON CENTENNIAL GOLF COURSE

The 18-hole, Par 71 course in Herndon was designed by Tom Clark, one of the most prolific golf-course designers in the area. It also features a driving range with grass and mat stations, an 11,000 square foot putting green, chipping area and practice bunker. The course has been recognized as one of

Golf Digest's "Places to Play" for the past 14 years. A five-event seniors tournament series begins this month, and the annual Free Junior Golf Clinic allows children ages 7 to 16 a chance to learn the game.  
909 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon,  
703-471-5769



### E RESTON NATIONAL GOLF COURSE

Located just off Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston National Golf Course is currently redoing the bunkers in response to customer feedback, and are about halfway finished. Home to the Mid-Atlantic's only Nike Golf Learning Center, lessons, clinics and camps are open to golfers of all skill levels. They also feature a

full driving range and putting and chipping greens. Reston National also participates in the Capital Area Golf Membership, which allows members to play at reduced rates at four other local courses.  
11875 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston,  
703-620-9333



### F LAUREL HILL GOLF CLUB

This 18-hole course was designed by Bill Love, who said his objective was to let the natural beauty of the property dictate the character of the course. Bud Key of the Teetime Golf Press said the course "occupies 280 acres and takes advantage of the site's outstanding features and views of the historic prison compound. Bar none, it rivals any course you'll play in Northern Virginia." Classes for beginners, intermediate and women are available.  
8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton,  
703-493-8849



VIEWPOINTS

## Teens Having Fun: What is your favorite way to have fun this spring in the area?

—MONIKA BAPNA



**Sam Kwong,**  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Marshall High School

"I usually play basketball with some friends around the Vienna area. I have a lot of friends from there so I go there a lot."



**Chacet Rostodha,**  
11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Marshall High School

"When the weather gets warmer I bike a lot. My house is right off the W&OD bike trail and I go there with my friends."



**Trisha Reyes,**  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Marshall High School

"My family has this tradition of going to Great Falls every spring. We love going there during spring because it's really pretty."



**Joe Robinson,**  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Marshall High School

"I play basketball with my friends in the Olney Park in Pimmit Hills. It's really nice and a lot of people go there."



**Carly Taylor,**  
11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Marshall High School

"I am a huge biking fan. My whole family goes to the W&OD trail and we bike almost every day in spring."



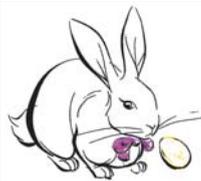
**Mia Razak, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade,**  
**Varsha Bhatt, 9<sup>th</sup>, Marshall High School**

"I go to the Tysons Corner Mall with my friends. I love the mall and sometimes in really good weather we even walk there, so it's a lot of fun."



**Jimmy Parks,**  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Marshall High School

"I go skateboarding with my friends around Vienna and the Tysons Corner area. I am really glad that spring is here because the weather is going to be warm and nice."



### Selections & Ordering Schedule

Call early, but not later than April 20th, to order and schedule a pickup during this period.



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# Spring Fun: Brunch

Celebrate spring with a weekend meal on the town.

By Julia O'Donoghue/The Connection



## J. GILBERT'S

This upscale steakhouse offers an omelette bar, lobster mac n' cheese and hand-carved tenderloin at their Sunday brunch. The meal is family friendly, though a variety of adult beverages — prosecco, mimosas and bellinis — are also offered. Adults pay \$22, with an extra charge for alcohol. Children between ages 5-12 are \$11. Brunch is offered on Sundays only, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 6930 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, Va. 22101; 703-893-1034.

## CLYDE'S

This Washington area institution offers a special Sunday brunch menu. Both kitchens produce Chesapeake Bay Rockfish and Eggs Chesapeake — a twist on Eggs Benedict where a crab cake is used instead of Canadian bacon. Clyde's brunch is Sunday only, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 8332 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, Va. 22182; 703-734-1901 and 11905 Market Street, Reston, Va. 20190; 703-787-6601.



## AMPHORA

Amphora has two 24-hour branches, Amphora Restaurant in Vienna and Amphora Diner in Herndon. Both locations have large menus with over 350 items, including 10 different types of "benedict" dishes. First opened in Vienna 35 years ago, Amphora serves breakfast at all times of day and night. It is also a affordable option with most breakfast dishes costing \$6-\$12. Amphora Restaurant is open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year and is located at 377 Maple Ave. West, Vienna, Va. 22180; 703-938-7877. Amphora Diner is also open 24 hours per day, 365 per year and is located at 1151 Elden Street, Herndon Va. 20170; 703-925-0900.



## BAZIN'S ON CHURCH

Chef Patrick Bazin makes contemporary American food in this upscale Vienna restaurant he owns with his wife Julie. The brunch menu includes porcini risotto balls stuffed with fresh mozzarella, bananas foster french toast and a maple-pecan tart with salted caramel ice cream. The brunch drink list includes Bloody Marys and a variety of champagne cocktails; six speciality teas. Bazin's charges \$12-\$20 for an entree during brunch and \$8-\$10 for cocktail. The restaurant serves brunch on Sunday only from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bazin's is located at 111 Church Street, Vienna, Va. 22180; 703-255-7212.



## BRIX AMERICAN BISTRO

Owner Ashwani Ahluwalia was the executive chef at River Bend Country Club and general manager of The Tavern in Great Falls before opening the Brix. With a small outdoor patio, the restaurant gives diners a chance to enjoy brunch outside in the nice spring weather. Ahluwalia said he will be tweaking the brunch menu in the coming weeks but, for now, it includes dishes like a belgian waffle with warm maple syrup, corned beef hash and steak and eggs. Prices range from \$7 to \$16 for an entree. Bloody Marys and Mimosas cost \$5. Sundays only from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 1025-1 Seneca Road, Great Falls, Va. 22066; 703-433-9050.



## L' AUBERGE CHEZ FRANCOIS

Though it does not technically serve brunch, L' Auberge Chez Francois offers a six-course lunch menu on Sundays from noon until 3 p.m. Located on six acres off a remote road in Great Falls, this French restaurant is considered one of the best in the entire region. The "Sunday lunch" menu includes a puff pastry tart with warm cheese and caramelized; braised chicken in a creamy Riesling white wine sauce with mushrooms and noodles; and rabbit with seasonal vegetables and candied chestnuts. The price of the meal varies from \$37 - \$49. Reservations are required. L'Auberge Chez Francois is located at 332 Springvale Road, Great Falls, Va. 22066; 703-759-3800.

## CAFE MONTMARTRE

This casual French restaurant has a sprawling patio that allows diners to look out over Lake Anne in Reston while enjoying a Mimosa on sunny, weekend afternoons. Cafe Montmartre offers a special brunch special that includes the patron's choice of a entree, dessert and juice or a Mimosa for \$18. Restaurant dishes include four different types of quiche, scrambled eggs with french sausage and chocolate mousse. There are also snails sauteed with white wine sauce, grilled New York strip steak and pan seared trout with lemon sauce on the menu. Cafe Montmartre serves brunch on Saturday 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. It is located at 1625 Washington Plaza N. Reston, Va. 20190. 703-904-8080.



## COMMUNITY CANTEEN

Located in the Reston Town Center, this cafe features simple, homemade food with a small patio and indoor dining area. It is attached to the french bistro, Mon Ami Gabi, located next door.

The restaurant features a yogurt bar, with patrons can add homemade muesli, fresh fruit, dried cherries, walnuts, brown sugar and compotes. There is also a build-your-own omelette option, oatmeal quiche, waffle and breakfast burrito on the menu. The cafe is open for breakfast and brunch from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. It also serves breakfast from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. during the week. Most meals cost between \$3.95 - \$7.95. Community Canteen is located at 11950 Democracy Drive, Reston, Va. 20190; 703-707-9442.



## THE BAGEL CAFE

This independently owned restaurant is a New York-style bagel shop and delicatessen. The Bagel Cafe offers homemade Matzoh ball soups, oversized black & white cookies and whitefish salad. The three-egg omelets go from

"Russian" (grilled potatoes, sour cream and green onion) to "New Orleans" (spicy sausage, cajun rice and cheddar cheese.) They are served with a buttered bagel and home fries. Bagel Cafe meals run from \$3.09-\$7.29. The restaurant is open from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. seven days per week. It is located at 300 Elden Street, Herndon, Va. 20170. 703-318-7555.



## WAFFLE KING'S VIRGINIA KITCHEN

Lincoln and Julie Kruger took over this local diner — which is approximately 40 years old — from Julie's father. The restaurant has traditional diner breakfast options, including freshly squeezed orange juice, chocolate chip waffles, country fried steaks, reuben sandwiches, fresh banana pancakes, and chili. Virginia Kitchen's entrees range from \$4.40-\$6.25. The restaurant's is open from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. and is located at 450 Elden Street, Herndon, Va. 20170; 703-471-0808.

# SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Tu-An Truong, Kate Fraser and Via Tovig in 'Family Stab.'



PHOTOS BY TIM HIGGINS



Jordan Moeller, Jay Mamana, Vanessa Strahan and Erick Pike in 'Self Defence Against Fresh Fruit.'

## Talent Shines at Saxon Stage

One act plays at Langley High.

Talent shone Friday night as Langley High School presented student-directed one act plays. With 50 students involved, from actors to writers to a behind the scenes production crew, weeks of hard work was put on display in front of an audience.

For Theater Arts chair and long time drama teacher, Phyllis Jaffe, it's also a chance to take a break from her director's chair and see what the students may not have revealed in the structure of the classroom or adult navigated play rehearsals.

"I love to see them discover the power of their own creativity when giving them the opportunity to direct. A number of the one acts are student-written and they're wonderful and outrageous. I love it when

they look at me and say, 'now I understand what you go through,'" said Jaffe.

Eight one-acts later, the audience ran the gamut of emotions. The theater filled with uproarious laughter as the audience followed Cupid's track record in "Cupid's Arrow," yet all turned silent during the dramatic "Bang, Bang, You're Dead," a piece focused on the consequences of school violence. For those who chose to make Friday night at Langley, "date night," "Grilled Cheese and Chocolate Milk" which brought a couple back to the same restaurant through each stage of their relationship, was sure to please.

—SAMANTHA SIMONE



Jay Mamana and Tess Higgins in 'Finding the Sun.'

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## REVIEW

# 'The Glass Menagerie' of Their Own

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ith a clarity illuminated by glowing candlelight, 1st Stage found a way to make the oft produced "The Glass Menagerie" its own. Under director Dawn McAndrew's quiet touch, Tennessee Williams' 1944 "memory" play of family illusions and "truth" finds its mark. With deliberate pacing and delicate modest staging, the audience settles in at eye-contact distance as the characters unburden their secrets.

This "Glass Menagerie" is accomplished without unneeded theatrical trickery. The haunting lingering cadence of Tennessee Williams' words are the key component. His words are lifted upwards and then float about by the heat of real candles' glow. The final vexing "good bye" then pierces the heart of the audience.

The storyline is about a family led by an overbearing Mother; a woman of faded beauty abandoned by a now invisible husband living a life at "long distance." The family consists of a shy daughter with a limp that makes her feel unattractive and a son Tom. Tom narrates the play from a distance in time, looking back at himself as the son in the very midst of the family turbulence. The time is just before World War II and sometime after.

Lucas Beck as son Tom is the centerpiece propelling this production. Cut-off and disconnected from himself from his always at hand Mother, he seeks escape. With genuine mannerisms of annoyance emphasizing his aching words Beck gives the production its dreamy quality. His naturalistic delivery, without bombast is exceedingly watchable.

Elizabeth Pierotti as the Mother deserves special kudos for her performance; she took on the roll only in the past week. With an almost worn delivery, she used her expressive features to bring subtle behavior in view as she fluttered about the



PHOTO COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

## The Glass Menagerie

Where and When: 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. March 25-April 17, 2011. Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 & 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15-\$25. Call 703-854-1856 or visit: www.1stStageTysons.org.

**Leigh Patton and Lucas Beck in the 1st Stage production of 'The Glass Menagerie.'**

stage reminding her children of her past life as a "Southern Belle."

Leigh Patton as daughter Laura is at first almost invisible on stage; pitifully unadorned, playing with the ends of her hair. She grows into someone with deeper layers as the production progresses. David Winkler is Jim, Laura's Gentleman Caller. In his moments late in Act 2, he provides a sweet sensitivity as he tries to help Laura see her inner and outer beauty.

There is an accomplished sentimentality to the set design by Jim Alexander with tiny glass figurines out front, an empty picture frame of the invisible husband and many shadows. Magical flickering candles that illuminate at the end are a fitting, lovely touch.

## ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

183" and more. \$25 at the door or at www.amadeusconcerts.com. Age 17 and under free. 703-759-5334.

**Spring Wild Flowers of the Potomac Valley Collection.** 2 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. An internationally recognized conservation collection. Free. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

**"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.

**"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.

**National Concert Band of America.** 3 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., N.E., Vienna. The Emparata Overture, Four Scottish Dances, Pilatus: Mountain of Dragons and American Elegy, plus marches and patriotic music. With Music Director, Melvin Kessler, Lt. Cmdr. USN (Ret.). www.americantowns.com.

### MONDAY/APRIL 11

**Mambo Sauce and The Movement.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

### TUESDAY/APRIL 12

**Iris Divine, Division, TimeLord and Death Penalty.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

**Printmaking Workshop.** 4 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Create art with

local artists. Wear old clothes. Cosponsored by the Vienna Arts Society. Age 7-12. 703-938-0405.

**Money Matters.** 7:15 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Monthly group discussion focuses on personal finance and investing. Adults. 703-242-4020.

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 13

**Jesse Winchester and Neema.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

**Floral Design Class.** 6 p.m. Karin's Florist, 527 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Create an arrangement to take home. Wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres. \$100 per person. 75% of proceeds benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Team BLOND Ambition and fund research for a cure for blood cancers. 703-242-5668 or marla@karinsflorist.com.

**Down on the Farm.** 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories & activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

## Newcomers of Great Falls Raises \$8,000 to Support FACETS

On Feb. 12 close to 100 people attended a Valentine's Dance at the Colvin Run Schoolhouse. The event was hosted by Newcomer's of Great Falls as a benefit to raise money for FACETS, a Fairfax community organization that serves more than 4,000 people in efforts to help break the poverty cycle. The money raised will go toward supporting programs for children such as tutoring, boys' and girls' clubs and computer classes, as well as helping to keep families from being homeless.



Pictured, from left, Joda Coolidge (co-chair Philanthropy), Julie Mayer (President of Great Falls Newcomers), Ken Bradford (FACETS), and Joan Pifer (co-chair Philanthropy).

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

**Jessica Lauren Reber** of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Washington University in St. Louis. Reber is a graduate of Langley High School.

**Rachael Beekman** of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Tufts University of Medford, Ma.

**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. at Franklin Sherman Elementary, 6630 Brawner Street in McLean. This musical production is open to all ages, admission is free.

**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.

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7:30 P.M. Good Friday Tenebrae

8:30 A.M. Easter Sunday with Holy Communion  
11:00 A.M. Easter Sunday with Holy Communion



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## SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

There are few better places to enjoy a brilliant spring time evening than at a local high school sporting event.



PHOTO BY  
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/  
THE CONNECTION

# Great Time of Year to Take in Some High School Sports

Get a breath of fresh air at a baseball, softball, or soccer game; or enjoy a smashing time at a tennis match.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Eventually, the weather will change for the better this spring and being outdoors will bring consistently sunny and comfortable temperatures instead of the cool and rainy scene we seem to so often endure in Northern Virginia at this time of the year.

When it does make that turn for the better outside, local sports fans will still have a good six weeks or so to trot out to their local high schools to enjoy any number of athletic events.

One of the area's highlight track and field events, participated in by many of our local schools, is the annual T.C. Williams Track and Field Invitational, held on the Alexandria school's beautiful state-of-the-art athletic facility. Some of the metropolitan area's top high school athletes will be on hand for the late season, postseason tune-up event scheduled for May 7. The annual showcase meet is nearly 30 years old and draws teams from all over the local area and beyond.

Other high school springtime sports held during the final months of the school year include baseball, girls' softball, and boys' and girls' lacrosse, soccer, and tennis.

At Langley High the Saxons sport big time winners on both of their lacrosse teams. The Langley boys are two-time defending state champions while the Langley girls qualified for the state AAA tournament last spring. The Saxon boys, under head coach Earl Brewer, have an upcoming home game on

Thursday evening, April 14 at 7:15 against Liberty District foe South Lakes. The visiting Seahawks, who qualified for the Northern Region tournament for the first time ever last year, have one of the better up-and-coming programs around. Langley and Robinson Secondary girls' lacrosse fans will have a chance to watch the two talented region squads compete in a non-district meeting on Tuesday evening, April 26 at 7:15 in Great Falls.

**FOR THOSE** who love some highly competitive high school baseball, several upcoming ball games involving some of the region's top outfits will be taking place in the weeks ahead. The Lake Braddock Bruins, always one of the top tier region teams, will play at Patriot District rival and defending state AAA champion West Springfield on Friday, April 15 at 6:30. And for a fun rivalry meeting, Concorde District teams Westfield and visiting Centreville will meet on the diamond later this month on Friday, April 29.

Girls' softball is one of the most riveting, passionate sports that take place during the school year. There are so many high quality teams across the region, all of whom play quality ball with fire and a heart-felt enthusiasm. The drama intensifies for the postseason. Top, upcoming late season regularly scheduled games include an improved Herndon High team, looking to qualify for the region playoffs for the first time in four years, playing Concorde games versus host Chantilly on Tuesday, April 26 and at home

versus the talented Cougars of Oakton on Friday, April 29.

**IN LIBERTY DISTRICT** action, McLean, the defending state AAA champions, will be at home versus arch rival Madison, the defending district and region champion, for a late season softball contest on Tuesday, May 3. The two locals met in both last year's district and region finals.

The high school soccer seasons are warming up as well. The Chantilly High girls team, just two seasons removed from its 2009 region title, has upcoming road games at respected opponents Lake Braddock on Monday, April 11 and cross-town rival Westfield High on Thursday, April 28. One of the top cross-town rivals anywhere is in the McLean-area where boys' teams McLean and Langley will be prepping for region title runs when they meet on Tuesday, May 3 at McLean High School in a late-season affair. The two squads met in last year's Liberty District title game with the Highlanders coming out victorious.

On the tennis courts, there will be lots of winners scored when the South County girls play a 4 p.m. match at home versus the Lee High Lancers on Thursday, April 28. Or check out the Fairfax boys in a Liberty District home match against the Bulldogs of Stone Bridge High on Monday, April 25 at 3:30.

Anywhere you look around the region at this time of year, the high school sports action is at a fever pitch. Come on out and cheer on your favorite teams competing in any of these sports.

## More Things I Know, Sort Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

While I'm discussing problems (see last week's column titled, "What It Is I Do Know"), let me tell you something else I know – and sort of understand: not admitting – to myself, that I may have worsening symptoms which indicate that the semi, symptom-free honeymoon I've been on since my treatment began two years ago is taking a turn for the worse – which it's not (so I say, ergo the problem). My thinking is, if I don't admit to it, it's not really happening (sort of like George Costanza's advice to Jerry Seinfeld on how to beat a lie detector test: "It's not a lie if you believe it").

As asymptomatic as I've been, generally speaking/comparatively speaking, I'm always looking for a sign that might portend trouble, health-wise. My oncologist has answered my "How will I know?" questions with a simple explanation: "Any change or worsening of symptoms, a persistent cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, please call." Logically then, if I'm not experiencing these kinds of symptoms/changes then I'm not slipping away; "slipping" refers to the "slippery slope" reference a few columns ago.

And let's be honest here: my diagnosis, stage IV lung cancer, is hardly the 24-hour flu. It's not going away. It's not getting better. It is, as my oncologist said way back when: "Incurable." He "can treat me, but he can't cure me." Consequently, every day where I don't feel a worsening/change of symptoms is one day closer to the day when I will. I don't know that this is an absolute fact, but stage IV lung cancer survivors are fairly rare. In fact, when we specifically asked my oncologist, after he gave us my 13-month to two-year prognosis, what percentage of lung cancer patients survive beyond two years, his answer was that the percentage was in the low single digits, and as for five years, his answer was "Zero percent." Not emphatically, mind you, but rather convincingly. Then he added: "Could you be the first? Absolutely!"

Hearing that then and continuing to live with it now (25 months post-diagnosis/-prognosis), is the basis for the underlying mental challenges I endure every day. As a long-time salesman, I can characterize my thought process with two well-worn sales adages: "Waiting for the other shoe to drop;" meaning, something bad/discouraging is ultimately going to happen and, "Every no is one step closer to a yes;" meaning, results are just a matter of time, sort of. As the son of a salesman, having grown up in the world of sales and spent my entire adult career as a salesman, I am sensitive to and clearly effected by, these extremely familiar expressions/explanations.

I am not a fatalist, though. Nor am I a pessimist. And I'm not morbid about my rather less than favorable health circumstances. I am a realist, though. And my real approach, given my personality and career choices is: to not accept the reality of my circumstances, think positively and hope that somehow, that combination will win the day (and the night, and the month, year, decade, etc.). Nevertheless, it's impossible to ignore the underlying facts. And occasionally, they are overwhelming and probably the cause for my incessant need to arrange, interpret and clutter those facts/feelings in the confusing and haphazard manner that I do in order to not be driven completely insane by them.

Still, if I were to be really honest here, I'd have to say that my initial diagnosis, given that I'm a lifelong non-smoker, was plain bad luck; and that my most recent, much-better-than-predicted, life expectancy/quality of life, has been just the opposite: good luck. Whether – and how – control or mental fortitude (or diet and exercise) played a role in any of it, I'll never know. And how much longer can I go on not knowing? That's something I definitely don't know. That much I do know.

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

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## NEWS

# Taking Part in Stream Cleaning

Volunteers, students pick up trash along Difficult Run.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Cooper Middle School eighth grader Yohei Harima was helping pick up trash around Difficult Run Saturday in Great Falls, when he found something he couldn't pick up: a car engine. The car engine wasn't the most bizarre thing found at the clean-up, pieces of plumbing and even a dog's body in a plastic bag were found by almost 20 people spread along Difficult Run between Route 7 and Leesburg Pike.

"I also found a huge bag of full beers, just sitting there" Harima said. "I guess you never know the things people will leave out here."

Stella Koch of Great Falls helped organize the cleanup, which was sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. The foundation provided gloves and bags, and volunteers filled more than a dozen bags with trash. They worked at two locations, along the Cross County Trail off Georgetown Pike and on Leigh Mill Road at the bridge.

"I think when you actually get people out to the streams and they clean up and see the area they're cleaning, it really helps to foster stewardship of the area," Koch said. "They start to see the area in a new light, and really take ownership."

Maxwell McKee, 13, an eighth-grader at Cooper Middle School said the cleanup was a fun way to get his service hours done.

"I just like the thought of being able to pick up trash to keep the area clean," Max McKee said. "And it's fun, kind of like a scavenger hunt."

McKee and his mother Georgette spent most of the morning picking up trash directly next to Georgetown Pike, most of it beer bottles, soda cans and trash bags. The pickup required sharp eyes, and much of the trash was tangled up in leaves or plants.

Mike Claggett of Reston is a veteran of the Potomac River cleanups, having participated in ones throughout the area. He's seen it all, washers, dryers, shopping carts and Saturday he even found a kitchen sink garbage disposal.

"Over the years this place has been rehabilitated, you used to just walk up on washers, dryers and tires just sitting there. Now a lot of this area has been cleaned, so it's mostly maintenance," he said. "There's always a lot of beer bottles, the stretch [of Georgetown Pike] I just cleaned could have been brought to you by Heineken."

Caitlin Toger, a seventh grader at Cooper, says participating in the cleanups help show her the consequences of throwing trash out on the road.

"I see the bottles we're picking up today, and I know it makes me sure that I'll never throw one out a window," Toger said.

*The cleanup was part of the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Potomac River Watershed Clean efforts. More information, including future cleanup dates in the area, can be found at [www.fergusonfoundation.org](http://www.fergusonfoundation.org).*

**Volunteer Jean Toger searches for trash under a drainpipe along Difficult Run Saturday. Toger and her daughter Caitlin, a seventh grader at Cooper Middle School, were among almost 20 volunteers who picked up trash along Difficult Run between Route 7 and the Potomac River.**



Georgette McKee and her son Maxwell, an eighth grader at Cooper Middle School, pick up trash along Georgetown Pike Saturday as part of the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup.

PHOTOS BY  
ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION



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# Experienced Langley Soccer Team Remains Unbeaten

**Amato's Saxons hoping for better late season results this spring.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Langley High boys' soccer team has known good success over the past three years under head coach Bo Amato, qualifying for the Northern Region playoffs each year. Last year, the Saxons were one of the top teams in the region, going unbeaten during the regular season and reaching the Liberty District tournament finals where they lost a dramatic, overtime affair to McLean for their first defeat of the season. Then, three days later, the Saxons' season ended with a disappointing 3-1 loss to Mount Vernon in a first round region playoff game.

It marked the third straight year in which Langley's season had ended with a first round playoff loss at regionals. And last year's season-ending setback was even more demoralizing because the Saxons had such great hopes of making a strong region playoff run following their remarkable regular season.

This year's team, coach Amato believes, has the talent and experience to make a legitimate run at both a district and region crown. The Saxons have 20 seniors on their roster, many of whom were key starters last year. This, Amato believes, is the year Langley has to make it happen because the pro-



PHOTO BY CRAIG STREIBITZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Langley's Jeff Cochran has had a strong season at center back early on this spring. The senior has eight assists to his credit.**

gram will have an almost entirely new look next year.

"We've got a lot of good players," said Amato, whose team improved its early season record to 5-0 following a 4-1 Liberty District win at Fairfax High last Friday night. "It's now or never for this group."

There is lots of regular season soccer still to be played before the postseason starts up with the district tournament two weeks into May. Until then, the Saxons will likely keep an even keel and win as many games as they can. They realize their season will

ultimately be measured on how they do in the playoffs.

Amato is pleased with his team's overall play thus far, but would like to see a little more fire.

"We're playing OK; I don't think we're hungry enough," he said. "I think if everyone gets on the same page and realize that this is our last year, this team could win everything. We need to say, 'Hea, I'm going to work a little harder and give that extra effort.'"

**LANGLEY'S WINS** prior to the recent Fairfax contest have come at Stuart, 4-0, and South Lakes, 4-1; followed by home victories over Lee, 7-3, and Madison, 2-0. Of the four games, only the match against Stuart was out of the district.

Langley has received strong seasons from senior strikers Dylan Price (7 goals) and Josh Ellis (4 goals). Price has a knack at being at the right place at the right time.

"He reads the game well and arrives into the box at the right time," said Amato. "He works hard. And Ellis is a hard worker and finds ways to finish as well."

Price and teammate Jeff Cochran, a senior center back with eight assists this season, are both set to play collegiate soccer at Emory University, an NCAA Div. 3 school in Atlanta, next year.

At goalie, the Saxons have received quality play in the net from seasoned senior Jay Lupas. Unfortunately, Lupas, who struggled with offseason injuries, hurt a shoulder in the Fairfax game and will miss a few games. Kamiar Jannesari, a senior, played the final 10 minutes at goalie against Fairfax.

Amato said the Saxons are a riveting team when they are clicking and playing at their

best.

"When we play a simple, smart, and fast game we're a hard team to beat," he said.

He said Fairfax, a winless team thus far, gave his team a good test. The Rebels were within 2-1 at halftime and Amato said the game could have been tied at that point.

"At the end of the first half it could have been 3-3," he said. "Both teams missed some chances."

The game remained close before the Saxons scored two times over the final 10 minutes - the first coming on a sensational 30-yard goal from Price, and the latter goal coming a bit later by senior midfielder Farhan Khan.

Price scored two goals in the win, while Cochran and Khan also found the net. Senior midfielder Nima Kassiri had two assists, while Cochran, Khan and senior midfielder Michael Beza had one each.

Langley is scheduled to play non-district games this week against visiting Chantilly on Tuesday, April 5, and at Hayfield on Thursday, April 7.

Hayfield, like Fairfax, is looking for its first win.

"Whenever you play a team that hasn't won a game, they aren't going to roll over and play possum," said Amato. "Last year we beat Hayfield 4-3."

On April 27, Langley will travel to Herndon to take on the currently unbeaten Hornets.

"That game should be a close one but it will probably be a blowout one way or another," said Amato, with a laugh. "They'll be hungry because we beat them last year. I think Herndon is outstanding. In my opinion they're the number one team in the region right now."

## SPORTS NOTES

**The McLean High boys' tennis team** defeated Madison, 6-3, on Monday March 28 at McLean, improving the Highlanders' record to 3-1 as the Warhawks dropped to 2-2 in Liberty District play for the season.

Madison won individual matches at No. 1 and No. 3 singles. At No. 1, Madison senior Dan Sablik was a 10-3 winner over sophomore Nik Padmanabhan. At No. 3, John Adam defeated Highlander Charlie Roco, 10-7.

Madison's other win came at No. 3 doubles where Alex Russell and Aaron Plymack teamed up to get by Zach Spahr and KC Kristian, 8-6.

For McLean, No. 2 singles player Kayvon Mobarakeh defeated Ho Joon Choi, 10-4; No. 4 Ahmed Skaljc defeated Matt Bosco, 10-2; No. 5 Bing Waid beat John Nothaft, 10-7; and No. 6 Zach Spahr beat Will Lowther, 10-4.

In doubles, McLean's No. 1 team of Nik Padmanabhan and Kayvon Mobarakeh defeated Dan Sablik and John Adam, 10-7; and the Highlanders' No. 2 team of Big Waid and Ahmed Skaljc defeated Ho

Joon Choi and John Nothaft, 10-6.

**Local boxer Jimmy Lange** (35-4-2 record, 24 knockouts), who earned his most recent victory on March 12, is headed back to Hollywood, Calif., where he was a former star on the hit TV series, 'The Contender.'

Lange, the NABA U.S. Super Welterweight Champion, will fight actor Mario Lopez, a former actor on the TV series, 'Saved by the Bell,' in a three-round celebrity exhibition bout at the Sports L.A.'s KO Cancer charity event on Wednesday, April 6 at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills.

"I'm honored to be part of such a worthy cause and help raise money and awareness for the City of Hope," said Lange, a Great Falls resident. "I look forward to stepping into the ring with Mario to see what he's got. I just hope that the referee doesn't need to step in to give Mario time to be 'saved by the bell.'"

City of Hope is one of 40 national Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers.

Lange appeared on the first season of the NBC reality boxing show, 'The Contender,'

in 2005 where he developed a loyal following. While he lost in week eight, viewers voted him back as a "Fan Favorite" and he won his return bout. Since his reality show appearance, Lange has captured the WBC's USNBC and Continental America's 154-pound titles while averaging 5,000 hometown fans at the Patriot Center in Fairfax.

**Breakaway Sport (McLean)** is holding specialized clinics, focusing on weightlifting and field throwing sports, this summer for young athletes. Breakaway Sport co-owner Jeff Teach will serve as lead instructor for both clinics. A NSCA-CSCS and USAW Level-1 weightlifting certified coach, Teach is a former resident athlete at the US Olympic Training Center for weightlifting, and is a two-time All-American and four-time Big Ten Champion in the shot put. Camps will run in two-week intervals, meeting for one hour every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Each six-hour session will cover proper weightlifting techniques, progressions, and programming that will make any athlete better. Space is limited to six athletes per session to ensure

quality instruction. The following sessions will be held: Session 1 (June 20-July 1); Session 2 (July 11-22); Session 3 (July 25-Aug. 5); and Session 4 (Aug. 15-26). Each two-week weightlifting session costs \$120 per person, with discounts available for participation in multiple clinics.

Meanwhile, Breakaway Sport's throwing clinics will hone the technical skills and provide the proper techniques for shot put, spin and glide, and discus. There will be four, two-week sessions held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 90 minutes at a time. Space is limited to six athletes per session. The schedule will be as follows: Session 1 (June 21, 23, 28 and 30); Session 2 (July 12, 14, 19, and 21); Session 3 (July 26 and 28; Aug. 2 and 4); and Session 4 (Aug. 16, 18, 23 and 25). Each two-week throwing session costs \$150 per person.

Clinic sessions will be held at the Breakaway Sport facility at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Unit F, in McLean. To register, email BreakawaySport at info@breakawaysport.com or call 703-388-2848.

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