

Great Falls CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

Ready for Summer House Guests?

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Guestroom by Jill Sorensen
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Meet Lord And Lady Fairfax

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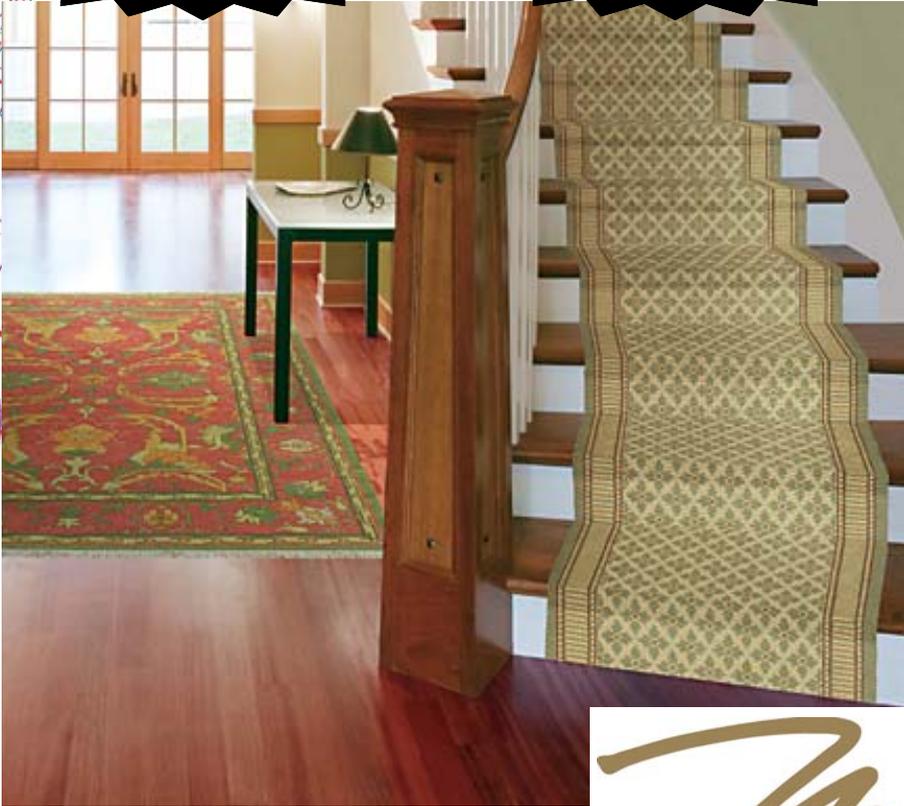
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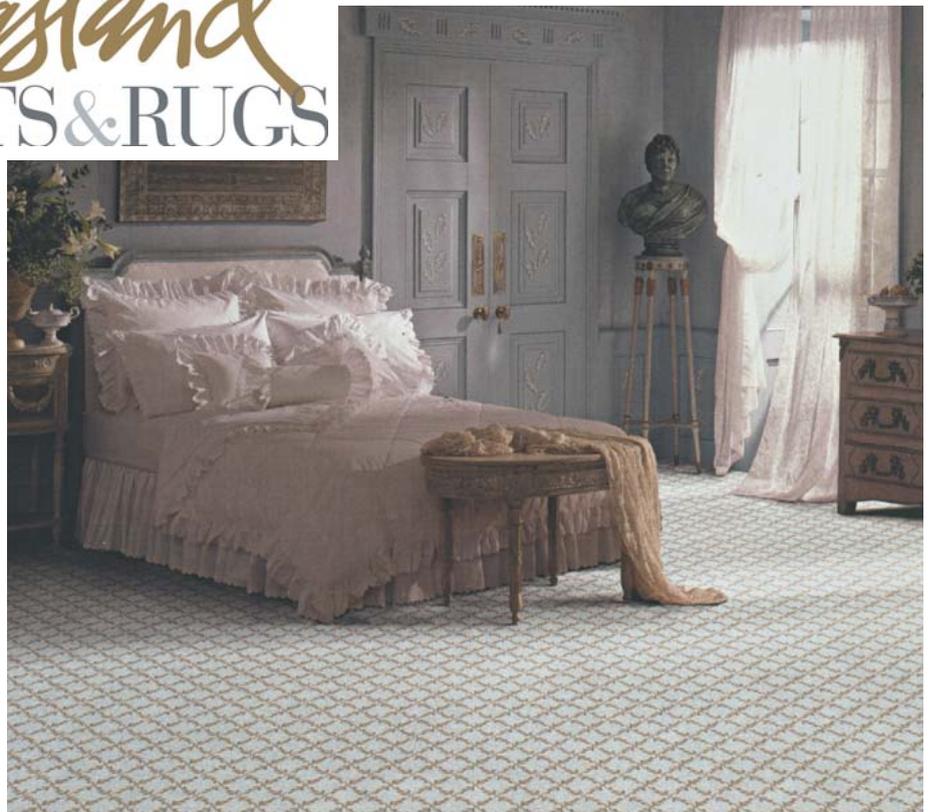
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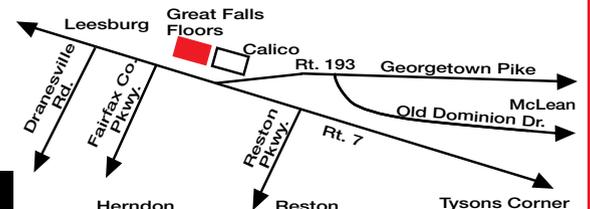
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Stressing Summer Safety for Children

Members of Safe Kids educate parents on ways to keep children safe.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

As summer sets and children prepare for three months of swimming and playing outdoors, Safe Kids of Fairfax County is trying to make sure they do it in the safest way possible. Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) hosted a meeting at the Great Falls Library on Tuesday, June 7, to help parents find ways to make sure their children stay safe in the water and outdoors.

Safe Kids is an initiative led by Inova Fairfax Hospital Trauma Center. According to Safe Kids, almost 3 million children per summer go to the emergency room with injuries resulting in falls, motor vehicle crashes, swimming accidents and more. More than 2,000 of these children die every year from injuries that Safe Kids say can be prevented.

"We all get a little relaxed during the summer," Comstock said. "But there's plenty to be on guard about, especially if you have little ones."

Leaving children in a car while unattended resulted in almost 50 deaths last year from hyperthermia, which occurs when the body starts to produce more heat than



From left, Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34), Linda Watkins of Safe Kids, Sharon Rainey and Rebecca Fish of Safe Kids speak to community members June 7 at the Great Falls Library. Safe Kids is an initiative of Inova Fairfax Hospital Trauma Center, and the meeting was hosted by Comstock to help parents discover ways to keep their children safe this summer.

it can dissipate. Even with a window open on a mild day, temperatures can still climb to dangerous levels in a car.

"Even in temperatures around 70-72 degrees, there have been fatalities from hyperthermia," said Linda Watkins of Safe Kids. "Never leave children in cars, even for a minute. I know sometimes we all think we're just going to go into 7-Eleven for a

minute, but what happens if the line is long, and you're there for 10 minutes? In just 10 minutes, a car can heat by up to 19 degrees."

Watkins said that children's bodies can heat three to five times faster than adults.

When temperatures climb, it's natural to cool off in community or personal pool, but those are also danger zones for young children. Drowning is the leading cause of ac-

cidental death for children ages 1 to 4 in the United States.

According to Safe Kids, almost 75 percent of drowning victims are male. Victims are usually toddlers, but children ages 11 to 12 are also at risk. Almost 90 percent of victims were being "supervised" at the time of the incident.

"Toddlers can fall into a pool with no sound, no splash, they just fall right to the bottom. This idea of it happening silently while the supervisor is right there is a huge issue," said Rebecca Fish of Safe Kids. "Constant supervision is a must. Everybody thinks they can do it, but we all get distracted, you pick up your phone, you talk to your friend and that's all it takes."

Fish said children can drown in just an inch of water, meaning bathtubs, buckets and other containers can also pose a risk. Safe Kids recommends appointing a "dedicated watcher" at all times, who focuses exclusively on children in the water.

They also recommend that pool owners use isolation style fences, which surround the pool on all sides and keep it separate from the yard and house. Older pools, spas and hot tubs need anti-entrapment drains, which children can get their hair or fingers caught in, trapping them underwater.

Even while staying away from the water, children (and adults) can still get themselves into trouble. Lyme disease is an issue in Great Falls, as the rural nature allows animals such as deer to spread the disease around. Sharon

SEE KEEPING SAFETY, PAGE 7

Transportation Co-Chairs Recognized

Eric Knudsen, Joan Barnes of GFCA named Lord and Lady of Fairfax.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Eric Knudsen and Joan Barnes have been involved in the Great Falls community for more than a decade. Now they have been recognized as the 2011 Lord and Lady of Fairfax for the Dranesville District. They were named June 7 by Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) for their efforts in planning Great Falls trails and roadways.

"Ms. Barnes and Mr. Knudsen have made tremendous contributions to this community over the years," Foust said. "Their leadership was particularly invaluable in helping to reach resolution with VDOT regarding the configuration of the intersection at Georgetown Pike and Route 7."

Knudsen and Barnes serve as co-chairs of the Great Falls Citizens Association's Transportation Committee. Recently the duo helped get the Virginia Department of Transportation to re-examine their planned

changes to the intersection of Route 7 and Georgetown Pike.

Barnes served on the 1990 Great Falls Task Force, helping plan trails and traffic-calming projects along Georgetown Pike. She remembers "literally standing on Georgetown pike with a tape measure, measuring its width all along the pike."

She helped obtain federal funding for the Georgetown Pike trail and played a major role in the 2008 revision of the Heritage Resources section of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan to recognize Georgetown Pike's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

"When I moved to Great Falls more than 15 years ago, I recognized that it was a place with a distinguished legacy of community involvement," Barnes said.

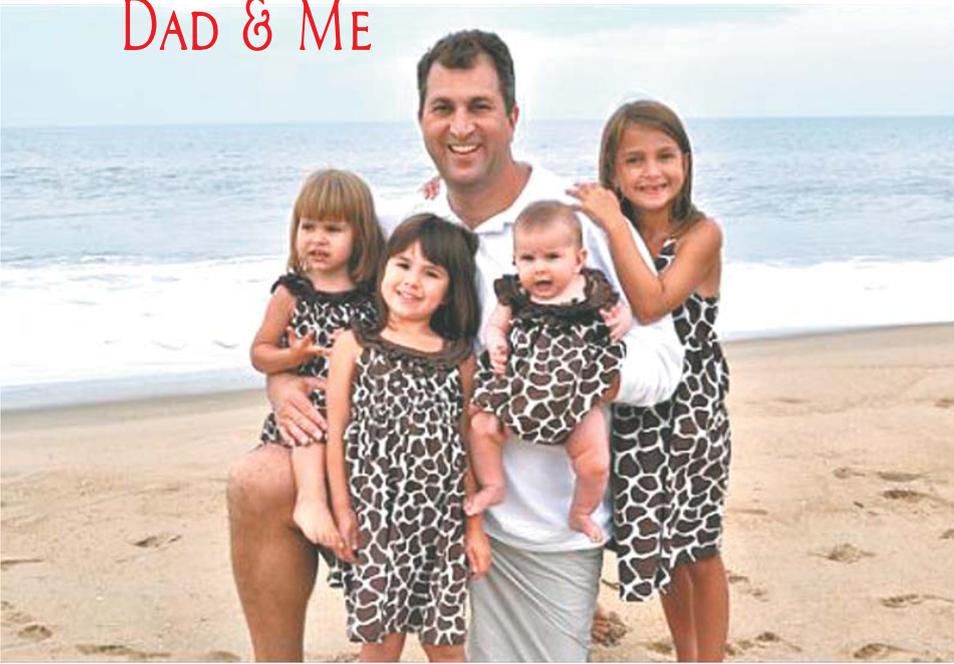
Knudsen moved to Great Falls in 1979 and was involved in local sports and school organizations while his children were growing up.

SEE LORD AND LADY, PAGE 7



From left, Eric Knudsen and Joan Barnes, co-chairs of the Great Falls Citizens Association transportation committee, Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) at the Grange May 7, after the new plan for the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Route 7 was presented to the GFCA. Knudsen and Barnes were named Lord and Lady of Fairfax for efforts on many more transportation issues around Great Falls.

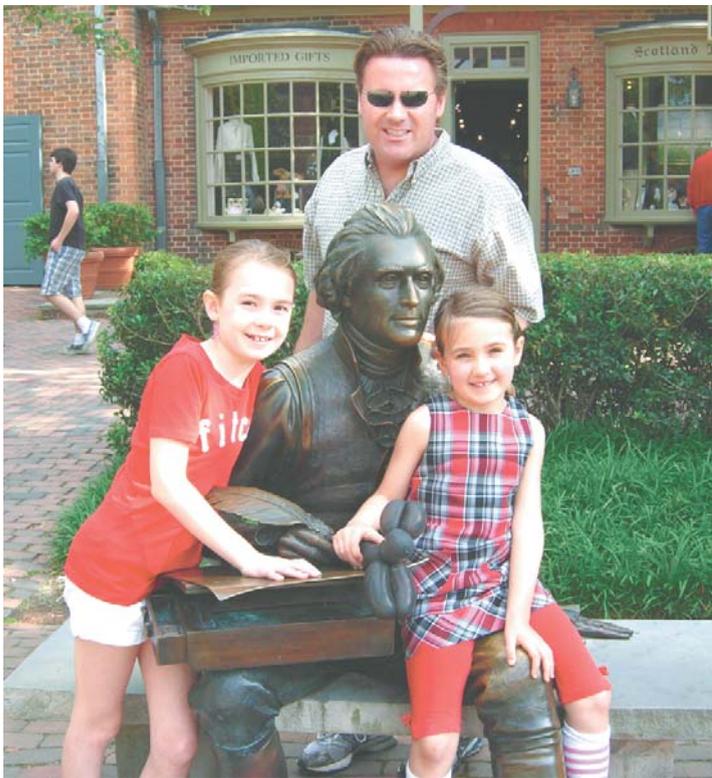
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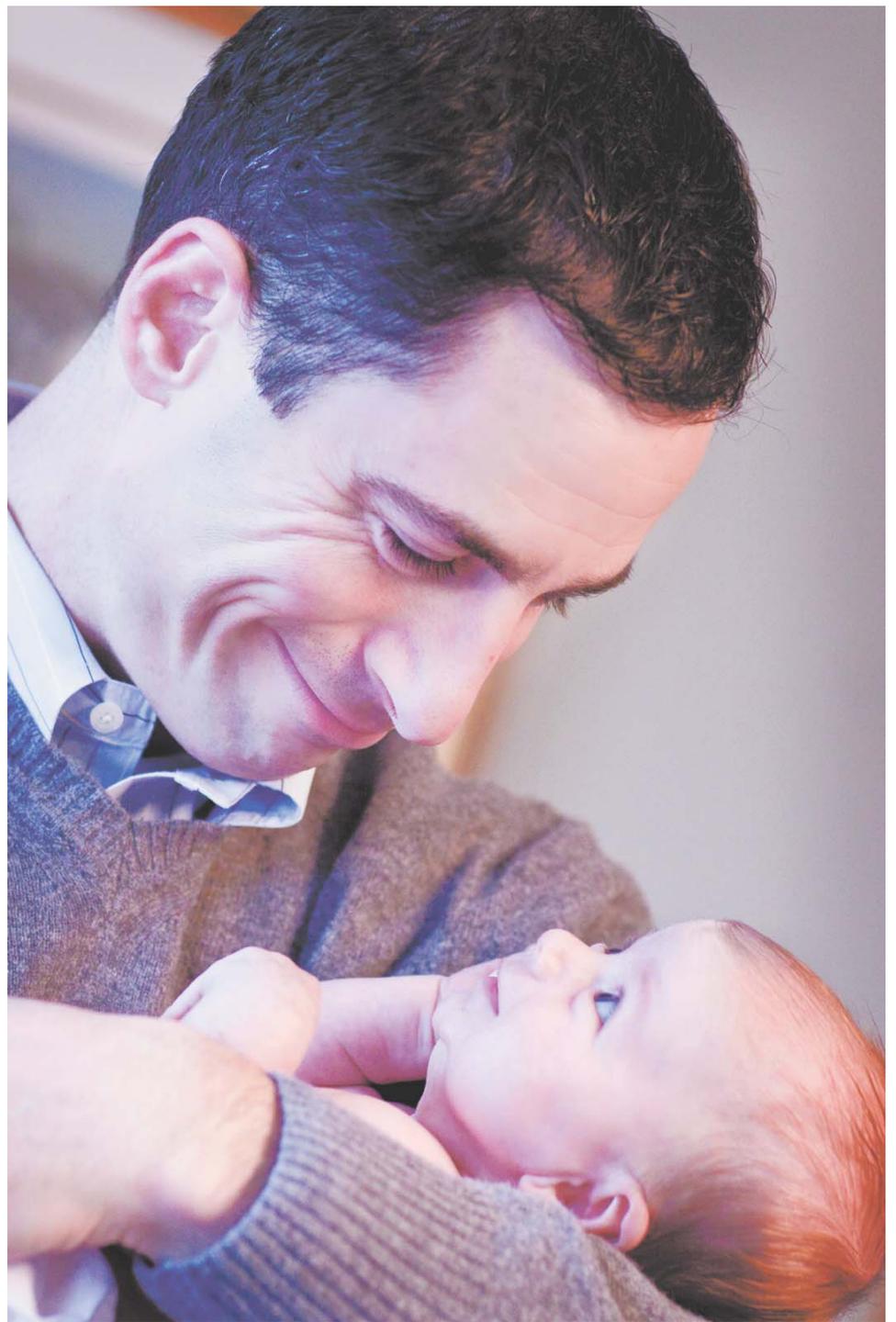
Steve Malekzadeh of Great Falls is pictured with his four daughters, from left, Lily, Kaitlin, Charlotte and Zoe, at Rehobeth Beach this past summer.



Matt Matay with sons Mason, Hayden and Michael, all of Great Falls, at the Whalehead Club in Corolla, N.C.



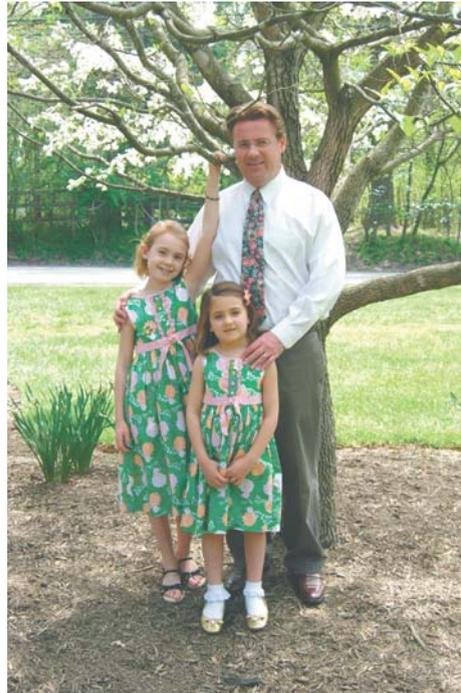
David Smith of Great Falls with his daughters Amelia Smith, 9, and Hailey Smith, 6, in Colonial Williamsburg



New Great Falls residents, since Dec. 29, 2010, Tyson Avery and Bryn Layne Avery share a moment and a smile.



Brooke and Don Dawn of Great Falls having fun in a pumpkin patch fall 2010.



David Smith of Great Falls with his daughters Amelia Smith, 9, and Hailey Smith, 6, in their front yard on Easter Sunday.

NEWS

Friends of Freedom Memorial Conducts Essay Contest

The Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial invite rising fifth and sixth grade students in Great Falls to describe "A Virginia Hero." Contestants must choose three words from the 31 words circling the Great Falls Freedom Memorial and explain how those words describe the characteristics of their hero.

A \$50 money card will be awarded for the best essays in each of these four student groups: Colvin Run, Forestville, and Great Falls elementary schools and rising fifth and sixth graders who are home-schooled or enrolled at a private school.

Entry forms are available at the Great Falls Library, 703-757-8560, as well as complete contest details and rules for those who have not received this information at school.

Entries may be brought or mailed to the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066-2634, and must be received by Sept. 19.

Winners will be announced Nov. 11 at the Veterans Day ceremony to be held at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial. The contest award ceremony will be Nov. 19 at the Great Falls Library.

Faith and Public Policy Breakfast June 18

The intersection of faith and local government will be the topic of a free Faith and Public Policy breakfast on Saturday, June 18, 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Chain Bridge Road and Great Falls Street in McLean. Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) will address how local government interacts with religious values and faith-based organizations in providing needed social services such as emergency care, housing and healthcare.

The panel also features Fairfax County leaders and representatives of faith-based organizations who will provide their perspectives of how faith and faith-based organizations work together with local government in areas both familiar and unexpected to attendees. Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions.

For more information, contact Ray Martin, 703-556-0123, e-mail martinrs@aol.com.




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Beach Mill Road over Nichols Branch Bridge Replacement
Fairfax County
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Forestville Elementary School
1085 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls, VA 22066

Find out about the proposed project to replace, widen and lengthen the Beach Mill Road (Route 603) bridge over Nichols Branch in Fairfax County.

Review project information and the environmental document in the form of a programmatic categorical exclusion at www.virginiadot.org, at the public hearing, or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions. Property impact information, relocation assistance policies and tentative construction schedules are available for review at the above address and will be available at the public hearing.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed bridge replacement on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be available at the hearing.

Give your written or oral comments at the hearing or submit them by **July 8, 2011** to Mr. Leonard "Bud" Siegel, P.E. at the VDOT District Office address above. You may also e-mail comments to meeting_comments@vdot.virginia.gov. Please reference "Beach Mill Road Bridge Replacement" in the subject line.

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PEOPLE

Great Falls Resident Sharon Rainey Receives Honors

Local businesswoman earns recognition for regional and statewide efforts.

BY JEAN T. JIANOS
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls resident and businesswoman Sharon Rainey was recently recognized by Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) for Rainey's work in support of the permanent designation of May as Lyme Disease Safety Awareness Month in Virginia.

Comstock and the Fairfax County Safe Kids Coalition sponsored a community town hall meeting, on Tuesday, June 7, in Great Falls, at which Rainey spoke on the topic of Lyme disease. At the end of the child safety program, Comstock presented Rainey with a framed copy of House Joint Resolution No. 643, passed by the Virginia General Assembly during the 2011 legislative session. Comstock was a Patron of the House Resolution and of the annual resolution that predated the permanent designation.

This most recent honor followed Rainey being named a Northern Virginian of the



Sharon Rainey in the Great Falls office of myNeighbors Network and Neighbors International Foundation.

PHOTO BY JEAN T. JIANOS/THE CONNECTION

Year in the June 2011, "Best of NoVA" issue of "Northern Virginia" magazine.

Rainey is also an author who writes about "Living with Lyme," on her blog, www.sharonlivingwithlyme.com.

In her first book, "Making a Pearl from the Grit of Life," [Great Falls, Virginia: Pinctada Publishing, 2011], Rainey writes

that, at the age of 25, "I learned the importance of doing things one at a time; one minute at a time, one hour at a day, one day at a time," and that she later recognized that, "I do not need to see the final destination, I just need to know what my next move is." Her "path with an unknown destination," has taken her from assisting the Par-

ent Teacher Association (PTA) at Great Falls Elementary School with online communication, to founding an online network for the community of Great Falls, now known as myNeighborsNetwork.com. That path has taken Rainey from operating the network for the Great Falls community on a volunteer basis, to establishing it as a for-profit business that serves the greater Northern Virginia and Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C.

In nominating Rainey for the "Northern Virginia" magazine, "Northern Virginian of the Year" award, Great Falls resident Janet Jameson stated that, "[Rainey] has created a vehicle for all of us to link to each other for the greater good of Northern Virginia," and that, "A good neighbor is one of life's great joys and Sharon has made a difference by bringing such joy into our communities and giving Northern Virginians a chance to be a good neighbor." Jameson also said that, "once you are a recipient, you want to give back."

Rainey also heads the Neighbors International Foundation, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation sponsored by myNeighborhoodNetwork.com. According to its website, the Foundation "brings together those in need with those who have the means and the time to offer a helping

SEE SHARON RAINEY, PAGE 14

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Lord and Lady Fairfax

FROM PAGE 3

"When my daughters got older, I got involved with the Great Falls Trail Blazers, and through them, I realized there were no crosswalks in Great Falls," Knudsen said. "That got me involved with the GFCA. I felt I had benefited from this community for years, and it was time to give back."

As co-chair of the GFCA's Transportation Committee, Knudsen helped spearhead the collection of petitions for the protection of Georgetown Pike and has negotiated successfully with VDOT for traffic lights along Georgetown Pike. He is also continuing his work on a traffic-calming and crosswalk plan for Walker Road.

"You have to work the system for long-term positive outcomes, and positive results involve a lot of people," Knudsen said. "The Georgetown Pike-Route 7 intersection took us 11 years and the help of many, many people."

The two say they hope to get communities along Leesburg Pike to participate in the planning process for its future.

"We want to educate communities, whether it's Great Falls, Fairfax County or Northern Virginia," Knudsen said. "If you show a lot of people the plans, you can usually get a consensus on what you feel is best."

Barnes said that getting to a consensus has always been their goal, no matter what the project.

"The goal is to get a consensus within the community. If you can't do that, when we try and get a sense and represent the entire breadth of views," she said. "Our responsibility is to always know what we're talking about, to have credibility. Since we're working on behalf of the community, it's incumbent on us to maintain that credibility."

Maintaining their credibility often included finding times to go to the county buildings for research in their spare time, as well as making sure they are up to date on the latest plans and policies.

Even while they were recognized June 7 at the Fairfax County Government Center, the two didn't waste an opportunity, they went straight up to the computer terminals afterward to do a bit of research.

Keeping Safety in Summer

FROM PAGE 3

Rainey of Great Falls got the disease when she was 19 and lived with it, undiagnosed, for 29 years. She has been in treatment for the past two years.

"Lyme disease can present in a myriad of different ways. You might think a bulls-eye rash or a tick, but you don't have to have that," said Rainey. "If you have a gut feeling something is wrong with your child, but you can't seem to get it figured out, just keep going, keep talking to doctors."

After six years of testing by more than 20 doctors, as well as a few false diagnoses, Rainey was finally diagnosed with Bartonella, a co-infection of Lyme disease. Rainey passed the disease to her son in utero, and her husband also has it. She says all three of them manifested very different symptoms. She remembers her son not liking birthday parties or the circus, because he was sensitive to light and sound. He would also get unexplained fevers and have digestive problems.

Other symptoms such as joint pain, memory loss, sleeping problems, unexplained stretch marks, increased irritability or repeated bouts of mono or the flu can also be symptoms.

"If any of your family pets have tested positive for Lyme, your family needs to be tested," Rainey said. "The most important thing is to keep out of tall grass. Wear protective clothing, ticks like to jump from the blades of grass onto a child."

More information about diagnosing and testing for Lyme disease can be found at the National Capital Area Lyme Disease Association at www.natcaplyme.org.

Susan Kurtz of Cultural Care Au Pair brought 10 of their au pairs who are from overseas to learn about risks facing the children they will be caring for this summer. The au pairs come from Germany, Sweden, Columbia, Slovakia, Austria and Poland among others, and Kurtz said this was a valuable learning experience for them.

"These are issues that are different than ones they could face in their countries, so I think this was very important for them to learn," Kurtz said. "I think the part about drowning and pool safety was particularly relevant, because a lot of homes they will be working at might have their own pools."

More information about summer safety from Safe Kids can be found by calling 703-776-3259, or online at www.safekids.org.

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OPINION

Amazing Teens

Time to celebrate their talents and accomplishments, and to keep them safe.

It's a time to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of area teens.

They're graduating from high school, many after completing college level work in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs, for more than a year, earning scholarships and entry to college.

Some are accomplished athletes, ending high school careers as leaders on the field, demonstrating the benefits of practice and discipline, understanding more about what it means to work in a team than many adults ever will.

Some have excelled in theater, learning stage management, teamwork of different kind, complex tasks including lines, music, and more. High school students excelling in theater were celebrated Sunday, June 13, at the Kennedy Center, with awards going to (among others) Madison, Marshall, Mount Vernon, Westfield and Falls Church high schools in Fairfax County; Wakefield in Arlington; Walt Whitman in Montgomery County.

Local high school students pursue all sorts of music with passion. They are involved in many other arts, including photography, painting, sculpture.

There are teens who devote themselves to community service. Students in McLean have packaged literally tens of thousands of meals for the hungry. Others volunteer at homeless shelters, work on environmental projects, help in hospitals, animal shelters and nursing homes. Some have raised money for relief ef-

forts in Haiti or Japan or the Gulf Coast.

It's not surprising that some of these teens are celebrating in a variety of ways. You can see photo slide shows of many area proms at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

Now the word of caution.

Many, many high school students consume alcohol, usually to excess.

EDITORIAL

Responding to the 2009 Fairfax County Youth Survey, nearly half of high school students reported drinking alcohol. Twenty-three percent of high school seniors reported binge drinking in the two weeks before the survey, and 39 percent of them had consumed alcohol in the previous 30 days. Among 10th graders, 22 percent had consumed alcohol in the previous 30 days.

Twenty-two percent of students said they had used marijuana.

While those numbers are eye-opening, consider this: Twenty percent of students reported they had driven a car when they had been drinking. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/youthsurvey

It's easy to forget, when high school students present themselves with maturity, with discipline, with intelligence, that they are, in fact, high school students. Their brains are not fully developed. They are not fully equipped to make what could turn out to be life and death decisions, especially in group settings. They still need guidance, protection, reminders, safeguards and safety nets, mostly from their parents.

schools first consider discipline options such as Saturday School, detention, community service or the loss of certain privileges. There should be no default or automatic punishment for any offense. The punishment should be determined on a case-by-case basis. The purpose of the punishment is to get the student's behavior back on track, not to punish for the sake of punishment.

We have also made another sensible change in how to handle students' possession of their own prescription medication. As long as there is no evidence of distribution or abuse, principals can resolve the situation quickly without referring the student to the hearings office. Students have always been able to take their medications at school, but the medications are supposed to be kept in the clinic under the supervision of an adult.

Parents would like to see greater use of restorative justice programs. Such a program is currently being piloted at five Fairfax County high schools and can be expanded. All middle and high school administrators will be trained in restorative justice practices.

The best way to discourage misbehavior is to teach and celebrate

good behavior. All FCPS schools must have positive character building programs. They use either Responsive Classroom or Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

The good news is that student behavior is improving. Since 2005-06, there has been an 80 percent decline in students recommended for expulsion and a 69 percent decline in students recommended for a long-term suspension. Total disciplinary actions have declined by 20 percent. We should remind ourselves that 99 percent of our students do not get into serious trouble. Of the 1 percent of students who do, the vast majority continue their education in FCPS or county programs.

Schools have always been required to notify parents when a student misbehaves and may be suspended. We are now emphasizing the need to reach parents as quickly as possible.

Some parents are uncomfortable with an administrator questioning students without first notifying and seeking permission from a parent. But in order to protect the safety of all students, principals must be able to immediately investigate incidents of misbehavior.

During the summer, nearly twice as many teenagers die in traffic crashes than at other times, according to the Washington Regional Alcohol Program www.wrap.org. There have been some devastating examples of this locally.

The most important thing for parents to do for their teenagers is to talk to them. Even if your teen tries to deflect what you're saying, the information is still working its way into his or her brain.

Tell them you love them. Tell them it's been too much work to get them to this point to risk losing them. Tell them not to text and drive. Tell them not to drink and drive. Tell them not to get in a car with anyone driving who has been drinking. Tell them you'll come pick them up anytime that they need a safe ride home.

WRAP offers tips, facts and strategies on their website.

Correcting a Mother's Day Error

Because of an internal communications error, The Connection didn't receive many of the Mother's Day photos submitted to us by readers until late last week. We're so sorry we missed Mother's Day, but you'll find those photos at <http://bit.ly/iCiJcS>.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM, ON
TWITTER @MARYKIMM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Better Process

To the Editor:

The suicides of two students who were involved in the student disciplinary process were terrible tragedies. As a school system and as a community, we must do all we can to help prevent depression and the horrible loss of a child.

I wholeheartedly support the changes that are being made to the disciplinary process and the SR&R, (the student rights and responsibilities regulation). While certain infractions, such as drugs, weapons, assaults and gang activity, must be referred beyond the school because of their seriousness, improvements must — and will — be made in how these situations are handled.

The disciplinary process will be shortened and recorded. More academic, social and emotional supports will also be given to students and families from the start of the process.

Parents have been concerned that students are moved out of their base school and into another regular school too often. On June 9, the School Board unanimously adopted language to ensure that disciplinary hearing officers and

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ENTERTAINMENT

McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave. in McLean, presents the opening reception for "Strictly Painting 8," Thursday, June 16 from 7-9 p.m. The exhibition continues through Saturday, July 30. Free. www.mpaart.org or 703-790-1953.



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

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 15

Red Wanting Blue, Riley Etheridge, Jr. and Tiger Darrow. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Book Discussion Group. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

Lunch Bunnies. 12 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Bring a blanket and lunch, enjoy stories. Birth-5 with adult. 703-242-4020.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 3 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Model Investment Club of Northern Virginia. 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. New visitors welcome. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Elvis Costello & The Imposters. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Eclectic rock and roll. \$48 in-house, \$30 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/JUNE 16

"Jack and the Beanstalk." 12 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. With an irreverent Cow, a crafty, bean-peddling Stranger and a saucy Hen What Lays the Golden Eggs. Tickets \$15 at www.1ststage Tyson's.org or 703-854-1856.

Author Norman Polnar. 7:30 p.m. Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Polnar, a naval analyst and author, will discuss his book, "Project Azorian: The CIA and the Raising of the K-129," analyzing the CIA's partially successful recovery of a sunken Russian nuclear missile submarine. General public invited. Free admission. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

Company of Thieves, Empires and Sleeper Agent. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Half the Sky by Nicholas Kristof. Adults. 703-293-6227.

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

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Those Who Save Us by Jenna Blum. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Art Exhibit Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free. www.mpaart.org or 703-790-1953.

Southside Johnny and The Asbury Jukes and The Smithereens. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Rhythm and blues-tinged rock. \$40 in-house, \$22 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 17

Civil War Encampment and Reenactment of the 1861 Battle of Vienna. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A wide range of commemorative activities will be take place in the area surrounding the Vienna Community Center, the site of the 1861 Battle of Vienna. This battle was the first time a train was used tactically in warfare in American history. The main encampment will begin set-up on Friday, June 17th near the community center. Activities will include period music by Evergreen Shade starting at 7 p.m. and storytelling of the Battle of Vienna by historian Jim Lewis on a projection screen at 7:30 p.m. These free events are at the Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Encampment activities and demonstrations will take place all day culminating with the reenactment of the Battle of Vienna at 6 p.m. With the 5th Regiment ANV and 17th Virginia Infantry Regiment, Company G. Free. 703-255-6356.

"By Jeeves." 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A musical inspired by the P. G. Wodehouse stories of Bertie Wooster and Jeeves. \$30 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/jeeves.

The Kennedys. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Fairfax Saxophone Quartet. 7:30 p.m. Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Classic jazz. Weather permitting. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic basket. Free. 703-757-0220 or www.fairfaxband.org.

Art Show. 7 p.m. Cafe Nemooneh, 525 Maple Ave. West, Vienna. With artists Mina Smith, Mehrhad Izadi and Arman Gyulamirian. smaleki@nemoonehbakery.com.

NVTA 2010 One-Act Play Festival. 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community

Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Tickets \$14-\$35. 703-615-6626 or www.nvtaweb.org.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. English conversation group. Adults. 703-938-0405.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. 703-938-0405.

Friday Flicks. 11:30 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Bring lunch and enjoy a movie. Call for title. Ages 1-6 with adult. 703-790-8088.

RAIN-A Tribute to The Beatles. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$40 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Civil War Encampment and Reenactment of the 1861 Battle of Vienna. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. With the 5th Regiment ANV and 17th Virginia Infantry Regiment, Company G. Free. 703-255-6356.

31st Annual Spring Mosby's Confederacy Bus Tour. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Truro Rectory, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. Sponsored by the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society. With tour Leaders Don Hakenson, Gregg Dudding, Eric Buckland and Tom Evans. The bus will be leave the Truro Rectory to visit various Mosby sites in Loudoun County, Fauquier and Prince William Counties, including Mt. Zion Church, Middleburg, Markham, Warrenton, Warrenton Junction and Catlett Station. The tour will stop at a fast food restaurant for lunch. \$65 members of the Stuart-Mosby Society, \$75 non-members. 703-971-4984.

"By Jeeves." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A musical inspired by the P. G. Wodehouse stories of Bertie Wooster and Jeeves. \$30 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/jeeves.

Become a Pilot Family Day. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. An outdoor aviation display with dozens of visiting vintage, recreational, military and home-built aircraft. Meet the experts, live performances, hands-on activities, story times, tours and book signings. 202-633-1000 or <http://airandspace.si.edu/HazyFamilyDays/>

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13

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Octagon House Designed for Guests

Home will host owner's wedding and 65 dinner guests in July.

BY JOHN BYRD
THE CONNECTION

It's hard to imagine a more perfect setting for a summer party than Susan Cooper's Octagon house. Situated at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, the Romantic-revival style home was seemingly conceived as a place for socializing, and has succeeded at it beautifully ever since architect Joe Burton handed Cooper the keys to the masterpiece they both worked on collaboratively for several years.

"I wanted a house with a whimsical ambience that would be a pleasant gathering spot for family and friends," Cooper said, "so I gave a lot of thought to the setting, the space plan, and the interior décor. I wanted the house to feel light and summery—all year."

Designed around a radial pattern with a central atrium that rises 25 feet, the 6,400-square-foot home includes warmly-hued rooms centered on lovely outdoor focal points. Yet the angularity - teasing the eye with something just around the corner - suggests private places to pause and explore, before moving on.

"Joe and I spent a lot of time fine tuning," Cooper said. "There were several entertainment scenarios I wanted to integrate into the basic plan."

Of course, it helps that Cooper's original inspiration occurred some 30 years ago, when she first saw a multi-sided cottage on

a friend's country estate.

"I just loved the irregular lines—the way the shape lends itself to a creative interior treatment. It's very festive. It feels playful," Cooper said.

Decades passed before Burton was engaged to take up Cooper's vision. Cooper had several intervening residences, but the dream never faded.

"I refined some of my ideas by waiting a bit," Cooper adds. "But once the house was completed I began putting it to use."

An early Cooper fete was her "hen" party - a gathering of some 35 female friends she has known for over 25 years. For this affair, she sets up the veranda, which links the house to a detached 2-level garage, so that the entire assembly can dine al fresco, on portable tables she stores for just such occasions. The veranda abuts extensive landscaping that features hollies, skip laurels, tapering boxwoods and azaleas for color.

Family events usually put to use all three guest bedrooms (daughters and cousins come in from out-of-town.) Sometimes there is a family dinner the night before.

For sit-down dinners inside, Cooper sets up three 60-inch round tables in the dining room and redeploys a gaming table in living room to accommodate a setting for six.



An avid hostess, Susan Cooper designed the dining room so that it could accommodate place settings for 20 as needed. An additional table in the living room expands a dinner party to 26.

The guest rooms are set up as twins, doubles, and a king with en suite bath on the spacious lower level. The lower level, which also has a futon that converts to a bed, becomes a private family suite when needed. Guests have decamped here for up to a week.

The home's great success, Cooper observes, is that consideration to specific entertainment requirements have been integrated into the basic plan.

There's the bridge club that meets in the living room; the cocktail parties for 35 to 40; the long weekends with five to six house guests; the holiday affairs that can run for a week; the frequent causal evenings with one or two other couples, plus family dinner parties for up to 26.

Then, later this summer, the really big event: a wedding with a sit-down dinner for 65.



PHOTOS BY JOE BURTON

"I sketched out all the seating and serving requirements," Cooper says. "There will be eight tables seating four each on the porch that circumscribes the house; six more larger tables on the veranda. Plus, separate stations for the buffet, plates and cutlery, and one for the wedding cake."

Q: And who's the lucky couple?
A: "It's me," she acknowledges. "After Tony and I are married, the extended family will include nine children and 14 grandchildren."

Q: So you will be entertaining for years to come?
A: "Isn't it fun?"

Guest Room Shuffle

Local designers suggest thrifty and generous ways to decorate for out of town guests.

BY MEREDITH BILLMAN-MANI
THE CONNECTION

Local interior designers Lauren Liess from Herndon and Jill Sorensen from McLean have turned many rooms into guest rooms for their clients. They have spent years learning the tricks for updating a guestroom quickly and inexpensively while creating an inviting space. Though their decorating talents are in high demand and the jobs they do command top dollar, Liess and Sorensen have each developed several tricks that can work on any budget to create a guest bedroom with appeal.

If the homeowner is fortunate enough to have a dedicated space for a guest bedroom, the prep work before a guest arrives is less.

"Guests are looking for a room that's comfortable and inviting but empty enough for them to put their things. You don't want it to be as cold as a hotel," says Liess. Liess said that having a space for two suitcases, on a stand or on the floor, is key and that clearing space in a closet for guests to hang their clothes is important. "These touches will make them feel welcome," Liess said.

"A fantastic mattress, super soft sheets and great towels," are the elements Sorensen sees going into an elegant guest room and generous budget. "Comfort makes the difference. I would add a seating area and a desk. And situate the room in a quiet part of the house," Sorensen said.

Both agree that thinking ahead to anticipate your guests' needs will make for an easier trip for everyone. Small details, like a cleared space on a night stand, an alarm clock and soap and towels they know are for their use make guests feel welcome and autonomous because they do not immediately have to ask their hosts for things.

Champagne tastes can still be achieved on a low budget if the homeowner is willing to get creative with what they have. Designers do this all the time. They will walk through a home and pick up decorative items or

hanging art and bring it from one room into another to give it a polished look.

If it's been awhile since you had company, chances are your guest room has morphed into a catch-all room with boxes of out of season clothes, a desk from a deceased relative and anything else that needed storage space. These rooms need a little work but can be transformed for under \$100.

"Paint your dressers a fun color and tie it in with fun bedding and pillows," said Liess. "If you've just used it to store, get everything out of there and put it in another room for a little while."

Sorensen agrees. "Clear clutter; most bad design starts with clutter. Empty is better than a bunch of mismatched stuff. Donate your unused items to a shelter or to someone who needs it. Paint the mismatched furniture one color to make them go together."

Colleen Donnelly of Herndon said the best thing she puts on the dresser for her out of town guests are copies of the local bus schedule going downtown. "Everyone wants to go to DC. I've gone a million times by now, so I have copies of the bus schedule. It has times and where it stops so they can go into the city whenever they want without needing us to drive them."

Sometimes space is at a premium and a family member, usually a child, will give up their room while guests are in town. Liess and Sorensen have some suggestions to keep guests from feeling as if they are intruding on someone's space. "The first thing is to take down anything personal or gender specific," Liess says. "Clear off the desk completely and make sure the guests know it's their space to use. If there's cutesy bedding, take that off. And make sure it's not Toyland in the room," said Liess.

What if unexpected company calls and you aren't ready. What do designers suggest you do then?

"Make sure it's neat and clean. Put in a bouquet of fresh flowers and a bottle of water by the bed. They'll feel welcome and won't worry about the rest," said Sorensen.

OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 18 & 19



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

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Herndon

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11992 Star Ct. \$689,900 Sun 1-4 Pat Stack Weichert .. 703-597-9373

Manassas

8482 Kirby Road \$179,900 Sun 1-4 Cathy/John McCambridge .. Samson Props .. 703-906-7067

McLean

1409 Cola Drive \$849,900 Sun 2-4 JD Callander Weichert .. 703-606-7901
1701 Crescent Ln \$989,000 Sun 2-4 Leslie Wilder McEneaney .. 703-798-7226

Oakton

11013 Langton Arms Ct. \$687,500 Sun 1-4 Pat Stack Weichert .. 703-597-9373

Reston

12013 Talliesin Pl #31 \$270,000 Sat. 1-4 Denise Rodriguez .. Keller Williams .. 571-271-3112
2221 Wheelwright Ct \$360,000 Sat 1:30-4 Yuri Huarota Weichert .. 703-725-6622

Sterling

47492 Saulty Drive \$550,000 Sun 1-4 Myrna Shepro .. Long & Foster .. 703-474-2560

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1330 Vanetta Ln \$795,000 Sun 1-4 Pat Stack Weichert .. 703-597-9373
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To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Salome Gaibler at 703-778-9421 or salome@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.

McLean & Great Falls

REAL ESTATE

Top Sales for April



5 10011 High Hill Place, Great Falls — \$1,555,000



1 7853 Langley Ridge Road, McLean — \$4,250,000



7 498 Seneca Knoll Court, Great Falls — \$1,310,000



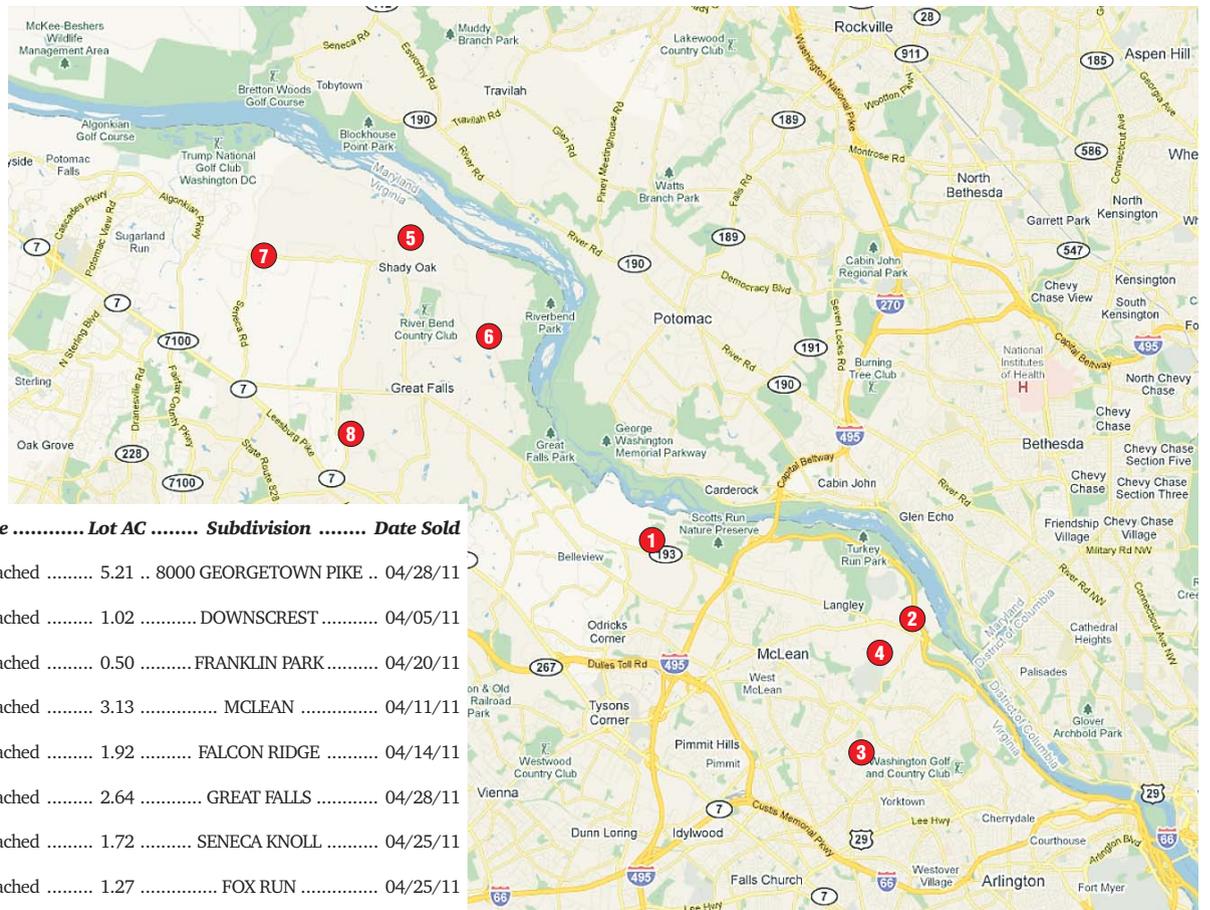
2 1123 Litton Lane, McLean — \$2,875,000



3 1942 Virginia Avenue, McLean — \$2,228,774



8 10551 Fox Forest Drive, Great Falls — \$1,310,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 7853 LANGLEY RIDGE RD	8	10	2	MCLEAN	\$4,250,000	Detached	5.21	8000 GEORGETOWN PIKE	04/28/11
2 1123 LITTON LN	7	6	2	MCLEAN	\$2,875,000	Detached	1.02	DOWNSCREST	04/05/11
3 1942 VIRGINIA AVE	6	6	1	MCLEAN	\$2,228,774	Detached	0.50	FRANKLIN PARK	04/20/11
4 1338 POTOMAC SCHOOL RD	6	3	1	MCLEAN	\$1,775,000	Detached	3.13	MCLEAN	04/11/11
5 10011 HIGH HILL PL	5	5	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,555,000	Detached	1.92	FALCON RIDGE	04/14/11
6 401 RIVER BEND RD	5	4	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,410,500	Detached	2.64	GREAT FALLS	04/28/11
7 498 SENECA KNOLL CT	5	5	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,335,000	Detached	1.72	SENECA KNOLL	04/25/11
8 10551 FOX FOREST DR	5	4	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,310,000	Detached	1.27	FOX RUN	04/25/11

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

Antique Car Show. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Co-sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority and The Model A Ford Club of America. More than 400 antique and classic cars. Buy a car at the Car Corral. Flea Market with more than 100 vendors. Live music by Jumpin' Jupiter. Tour the first floor of the 1794 house included. \$9 adult, \$8 senior, \$6 child. 703-437-1794.

Michelle Shocked: Roadworks 2011 Campfire Girl and The Sweater Set. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

"Jack and the Bean-Stalk." 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. With an irreverent Cow, a crafty, bean-peddling Stranger and a saucy Hen What Lays the Golden Eggs. Tickets \$15 at www.1ststagetysons.org or 703-854-1856.

The Grandsons. 5 p.m. Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association.

Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Line dance lessons at 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Admission \$5-\$12. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

NVTA 2010 One-Act Play Festival. 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Tickets \$14-\$35. 703-615-6626 or www.nvtaweb.org.

Bluebirds at Meadowlark. 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Virginia Bluebird Society members offer an opportunity to observe bluebird behavior and nests. Some

off-trail walking required. Free with paid admission. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-6227.

DC Opera presents the Barber of Seville for Children. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. DC Opera outreach program for children presents a program about the Barber of Seville with audience participation and facts about opera and Spanish culture. 703-757-8560.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

Plant Clinic hosted by the Master Gardeners. 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Gardening questions. Adults. 703-790-8088.

RAIN-A Tribute to The Beatles. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$40 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 19

"By Jeeves." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A musical inspired by the P. G. Wodehouse stories of Bertie Wooster and Jeeves. \$30 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/jeeves.

"Jack and the Bean-Stalk." 12 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. With an irreverent Cow, a crafty, bean-peddling

Stranger and a saucy Hen What Lays the Golden Eggs. Tickets \$15 at www.1ststagetysons.org or 703-854-1856.

The Shields Brothers. 6 p.m. Concerts on the Green, Great Falls Village Center, Great Falls. Rock. www.gfvcca.com/concerts.

Movie Premiere: "Mosby's Combat Operations in Fairfax County".

5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Cinema Arts Theatre, 9650 Main St., Fairfax. Captain John Singleton Mosby was given a small group of rangers from his former commander, General JEB Stuart, to conduct independent partisan operations into Northern Virginia. These rangers would eventually become the 43rd Battalion, Virginia Cavalry. Through on-site video, hundreds of historical photos and an accompanying map, this documentary presents a visual history of the Civil War. DVDs of the movie, including a map of all the operations, will be available. Admission \$8. www.cinemaartstheatre.com, 703-978-6991 or 703-709-9539.

The Monkees. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Celebrating their 45th anniversary. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

David Berkeley and Seth Glier. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Claude Moore Colonial Farm Wheat Harvest. 1-4 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Watch the colonial farm family cut the grain, then help bind and stack the crop. Lend a hand churning butter, and learn how the farm wife bakes fresh wheat bread. \$3 adults, \$2 children and senior citizens. www.1771.org/ev_wheat.htm



A Benefit Art Auction will be held on Saturday, June 25 at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. Preview items donated for the 3rd Annual Silent Auction Art Benefit for the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna from 10 a.m. through the close of bidding at 4 p.m. Paintings, photography, jewelry, ceramics, and more. Light refreshments served. Free. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna is a local nonprofit providing free services and enrichment programs to older adults. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

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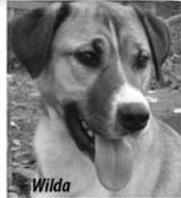
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PEOPLE

Sharon Rainey Receives Honors

FROM PAGE 6

hand." The Great Falls Fourth of July Fireworks are supported and managed by the Neighbors Foundation. In addition, the Foundation is committed to, "Creating a network to provide comfort and support for chronically ill residents throughout our community," such as those who have been diagnosed with advanced, chronic Lyme disease like Rainey and the other members of her family.

The House Resolution permanently designates May as Lyme Disease Safety Awareness Month in Virginia, states that, "All Virginians should become educated and aware of the signs and symptoms, prevention tactics, and treatment of Lyme Disease." Rainey's path has taken her from teaching middle school, to informing members of the community through her public speaking and her blog, and now, to writing another book, together with a Lyme Literate Medical Doctor, that she hopes will bring awareness to the public that Lyme disease does exist and that will bring hope for treatment to those who are suffering with the disease.



PHOTO BY JEAN T. JIANOS/THE CONNECTION

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) recognizes Sharon Rainey for her work in support of the permanent designation of May as Lyme Disease Safety Awareness Month by the Virginia General Assembly during the 2011 legislative session.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, would like to invite the public to attend the 2011 Father's day celebration and Old Fashioned Ice Cream social on Sunday, June 19 at 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be Terry Wigglesworth, founder of the Wigglesworth Company. Every father attending will receive the book "The Measure of a Man" by Gene Getz. Afterwards, there will be an Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social. www.antiochdoc.org or 703-938-6753.

The choir of **St. John's Episcopal Church**, 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean, will sing Mozart's Missa Brevis in B Flat Major - KV 275 during the Holy Eucharist services on Sunday, June 26, at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. The Mass will be accompanied by the Sunrise String Quartet and organ and vocal soloists. 703-356-4902, or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

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

Epiphany United Methodist Church, 1014 Country Club Drive in Vienna, presents a special worship service on June 19 at 11 for Father's/Men's Sunday. Guest speaker is former Epiphany pastor The Rev. Dave Lough. 703-938-3494 or office@epiphanyumc.com.

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

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Third State Crown Sets Saxon Dynasty

Langley boys win third straight lacrosse championship.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The recently completed postseason presented plenty of challenges for the Langley High boys' lacrosse team. But through them all, the Saxons, just as they did in both their 2009 and 2010 playoff journeys, persevered and ultimately were the last team standing.

Langley captured its third straight Virginia state tournament championship on Saturday night, June 11. As three-time state champions, the Saxons, under longtime head coach Earl Brewer, have certainly earned high school "dynasty" status as one of the greatest all-time sports programs in the history of the Virginia High School League, the governing body of high school sports in the state.

The Saxons, facing a Northern Region rival, Chantilly, which has known its own share of postseason success in recent years (state champions in 2009; state runner-ups in 2010), made their stamp on the finals game early on and never faltered thereafter. Langley, in the championship tilt played



Langley's Luke Salzer (3) makes a move with the ball during the Saxons' state title game win over Chantilly Saturday night, June 11, at Westfield High School. Salzer scored two times in the victory.

in front of a near-capacity crowd at Westfield High School, tallied the game's first five goals on way to a dominating 17-8 win.

"We've worked hard and come together as a team," said Langley senior attack player Mike Adams, who scored nine goals to lead the three-time champions. "This feels awesome. I knew when we stepped up nobody

could beat us. And we definitely stepped up tonight. It wasn't any one individual. It was a team win."

Langley (19-3) started the postseason off with three consecutive wins at the Liberty District tournament, including a finals win over Madison High School on May 12. The Saxons then won their first two games — victories over T.C. Williams and Oakton —

at the 16-team Northern Region tournament.

But a semifinals round upset loss to Annandale, 12-8, on May 23 at Oakton High School ended Langley's region title hopes and put them in the uncomfortable third place consolation game versus West Springfield. At stake in the contest with the Spartans, a team experiencing a breakout season, was a berth at the eight-team state playoffs. The Saxons, putting away the disappointment of the loss to Annandale, rose to the occasion and handled the scrappy West Springfield squad, 11-7, to advance to states.

"That loss to Annandale definitely motivated us," said Adams. "I think [in the long run] it helped us."

At Battlefield High (Haymarket) in a state quarterfinals round game, Langley pulled out a gritty, 6-5, overtime victory on June 3. Then, in a rematch with Annandale five days later at Westfield High, the Saxons avenged their earlier regional playoff loss to the Atoms with an inspiring 10-7 triumph which put the Saxons back into the state championship game for a third straight year.

By that point, Langley, having tasted both good and bad moments during its five-week postseason march, was not about to be denied and handled the Chargers to garner their third consecutive state title.

"It's surreal to win it again," said Langley junior goalie Andrew Spivey.

SEE LANGLEY, PAGE 18

McLean Girls Win State Crown in Soccer

Highlanders come from behind to shock Cox in girls' soccer finals.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

When Andrea Romness, McLean High's outstanding girls' soccer midfielder, was asked by coaches earlier this spring what her expectations were for the Highlanders' season ahead, she came back with an all or nothing reply.

"I said, 'Win the state title, anything else will be a failure,'" said Romness, of her heart-felt reply.

On Saturday afternoon, June 11, McLean reached the pinnacle of high school team sports when the Highlanders, fueled by a brilliant late game comeback, stunned the Cox High Falcons (Virginia Beach), 3-2, in the Virginia State AAA championship game played at Westfield High School.

Trailing 2-1 following a Cox goal with just over 22 minutes remaining in the second half, McLean scored two times over the final 13 minutes — both scores coming from senior forward Melissa Downey — to defeat the Falcons and claim its first state crown in program history.

"We won [the finals game] because of our fight and heart," said Romness. "We gave it our all."

McLean (17-4-2), which earlier in the postseason had beaten Stone Bridge High for the Liberty District title but fell to W.T. Woodson, 1-0, at the Northern Region finals, won three straight games at states to bring home the ultimate state prize. Coach Rob Bouchard's squad, over 10 playoff games this spring, went an outstanding 9-1, outscoring its postseason opponents, 29-10.

THE HIGHLANDERS, who a year ago saw their season end with a first round region playoff loss to Yorktown, reached the state finals contest versus Cox, the No. 2-seed from the Eastern Region, by getting wins over Chesapeake's Grassfield High, the top seed from the Eastern Region, and Battlefield High (Haymarket), the top seed from the Northwestern Region. In the finals win over Cox, McLean played hard and well throughout against a talented Falcons' team which seemed to have the Highlanders on the verge of losing. But McLean never

wilted. Instead, over the final part of the contest after having fallen behind, the Highlanders were relentless and focused in their pursuit of coming back and winning.

The game-tying goal came as a result of a tenacious McLean offensive rush which resulted in Becca Latimer, a junior forward, getting brought down from behind by the Cox goalkeeper as she was attempting to corral the ball and get off a shot from the left side. The goalie contact resulted in a penalty.

Downey, a First Team All-Region selection this season, was the Highlander called upon to take the penalty kick. With McLean's chances of tying the game resting solely on her shoulders, she came through with the equalizer score on a hard groundball shot which went into the right side of the Cox net to make the score 2-2 with 12 minutes, 42 seconds remaining in the second half.

Romness, on the sequence that resulted in the successful PK, had set up the Highlander rush on the goal with a nice throw-in from the right sideline.

Cox fans in the nearside stadium bleachers were vocal and adamant in their view that officials had made a poor call on the penalty. But Latimer, in fact, had been knocked down in plain sight. The Cox goalie was given a yellow card on the play.

Downey capitalized with her clutch PK.

"I just didn't want to think of everyone watching but I could feel the anxiety a little bit," said Downey, of the big moment pressure of having to convert the penalty kick. "It was just me and the goalie. I just had to roll it in."

Downey credited Latimer with being in position to bring about the penalty call.

"She drew that foul because of hard work," said Downey.

Latimer recalled getting the ball off a crossing pass and then going down.

"As I was shooting the goalie slid behind me," she said. "I'm so glad we got a penalty kick."

"I thought Becca really hustled to get that call, and Melissa had a great finish [on the PK]," said teammate Katie Yensen, a senior midfielder. "It was really necessary we get that goal. Everybody was tired and the heat was getting to us."

The game's momentum was clearly in McLean's favor after the successful penalty kick, and over the next several minutes the Highlanders continued to put the pressure on. Then, with just over five minutes remaining, McLean came up with the charge that led to the go-ahead and winning score.

McLean junior forward Rose Sommovigo started the rush with an upfield kick that

SEE MCLEAN, PAGE 18

Confused Yet Again



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I really hope that the nesting/organizing/getting-things-in-order-type behavior I've been exhibiting lately is not my subconscious cashing a check that my conscious hasn't even written. Certainly we're all entitled, periodically, to spring-clean but when you're post-the-end-date of your oncologist's original prognosis (two years), everything takes on added significance – and meaning. And simply being grateful for having lived beyond your doctor's original expectations doesn't always carry the day; there are nights to worry about, too. So yes – in my head, anyway, I wonder why I'm doing things and I am extremely sensitive as well, to what my body is doing (or not doing), that is: whether what I'm feeling/how I'm behaving is a symptom of my having stage IV lung cancer or predictable – and normal, middle age?

Hopefully, my arranging/simplifying my life-activity of late is nothing more than time on my hands and the motivation to use them to try and make that life easier/less complicated. Then again, it might not. It might be the part of our brain that we don't use – or even control, making decisions for me. I keep remembering a M*A*S*H episode when Radar was telling Capt. Pierce about his Uncle Ernest who sort of knew things in advance (like Radar), and how two days before he died, Uncle Ernest moved closer to the undertaker. "How thoughtful," Hawkeye wise-cracked. I don't believe I'm Uncle Ernest reborn (after all, he was a fictional character); still, being affected by television programming as I have – and am, I can't completely ignore Radar's story, humorous though it was meant to be.

And another coincidence is worrying me, again. My wife, Dina, thinks our two cats, Biscuit and Cappuccino, are hanging around me more, as if they know something life-changing (heck, let's be honest; life-ending) is imminent. We've noticed this animal-instinct behavior twice before: once when I was chemo-sick and another time when our rabbit, Chester, now deceased, was having health problems – to which he eventually succumbed. The cats hung around Chester's cage. I'd like to think, although I'm having a little difficulty convincing myself, totally, that the cats are hanging around me because they love me and because I "treat" them, feed them – mostly, and clean out their litter box – always. Dina is not so sure. She thinks, if I were to characterize out of context, that the cat's attentiveness is a version of the elephant's graveyard (if you know your Tarzan movies), the place where elephants go to die when they know they're close to death. I don't want to believe any of it, except I did grow up watching Johnny Weismuller's Tarzan movies and since I never had any real pets growing up (other than parakeets and those 50-cent turtles once sold at Woolworth's), and Dina did, I've never observed animal behavior other than on television. Dina was raised with lots of pets, even had a horse, and never watched Tarzan movies so maybe she knows something – that I certainly don't, about animal behavior that she actually witnessed which possibly could be relevant now or even accurate? Then again, perhaps the cats' behavior of late is simply about proximity and familiarity and any similarity to instinctual/sixth sense-type behavior is purely coincidental?

Nevertheless, it's impossible to ignore certain behaviors, both mine and others who live with me/see me most often. Somebody knows something. Perhaps those closest to me know the most. Presumably they would notice the slight, almost imperceptible signs, changes that most casual observers, even non-casual observers like myself might miss (or who are loathe/afraid to admit). And since I have never been one to look in the mirror, especially when I was bald for all those months during – and a little bit after – my heavy chemotherapy, another set of eyes would likely see some truths that are not self-evident.

As much as I try not to focus on myself and my circumstances, however, invariably an unexpected observation or a twinge or a random thought will cause the inevitable trip back to cancer land. It's not always a horrible trip, and so far, all my trips have not resulted in falls, nor have they been one way. But they have been my way. And in my opinion/experience, there's only one way to view all this cancer stuff: askance, or not. Ergo my continuing problem/dilemma.

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

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SPORTS

McLean Girls Win Soccer Title

FROM PAGE 15



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean's Becca Latimer, preparing to get off a shot, gets taken down by the Cox goalie during a key second half play in Saturday's state finals game. A penalty was called and McLean's Melissa Downey tied the game on a penalty kick.

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got the ball to Downey down the right side of the field behind the defense. Downey then moved with the ball left to right across the field with two defensive players' right behind her. She then, while still moving left, scooted a hard, straight-on shot from 25 yards out. The solidly struck ground ball kick, off her left foot, went into the right side of the net. Just like that, McLean led 3-2 with 5:02 left.

"I saw Rose," recalled Downey, of Sommovigo's long kick that started the scoring chance. "I said 'If I don't score now, this could be our last chance.' I wanted to finish it. I was just so happy [when the ball went in]. I was exhausted after that run, I didn't have anything left."

"I knew I had to get the ball up there to her," said Sommovigo. "I played it up the line to Melissa. From there it was all her. I had confidence in her. She always makes those."

McLean held off Cox over the remaining five minutes to secure the lead and the state championship win.

"I'm so proud of everyone," said Latimer. "We played great."

MCLEAN HAD FALLEN behind, 1-0, less than five minutes into the start of the game. But five minutes later, the Highlanders made a clear early game statement that they meant business when senior forward Jordan Walker, off a crossing pass from the left by Yensen, scored from 10 yards out to tie the contest at 1-1 with 29:51 showing on the clock.

"I got the ball on a throw-in and beat a defender with a little move," said Yensen, of the scoring play. "And then I crossed it

back to Jordan. She had a great shot. That goal was huge because it gave us motivation and momentum."

THE SCORE would remain the same up to the half and through the first 18 minutes of the second half before Cox would regain the lead. But the Highlanders, on this day, would not be denied and went on to get the two late goals to gain the hard-fought victory.

McLean, following its 1-0 region finals loss to Woodson at Madison High School on June 3, never gave up the belief that it could still win a state title.

"Losing in the region finals is definitely

the game to lose because it doesn't mean the season is over," said Romness. "We didn't play that well. It was a wake-up call."

The Highlanders bounced back from the loss to the Cavaliers by getting the state playoff wins over Grassfield, 5-2, and Battlefield, 1-0. The lone goal in the semifinals win over Battlefield came from Downey.

"In the region finals we didn't play our best, but at the state tournament we got it back," said Yensen. "We knew we had the talent to make it [to the state finals]."

"It's really rewarding," said Sommovigo, of being part of a state title winning team. "Our seniors have brought this team so far in their four years."

Langley Wins State Lacrosse Crown

FROM PAGE 15

THREE GOALS WITHIN the first four minutes of play – scores from sophomore midfielder Luke Salzer (12-yard bounce shot off the right wing); junior midfielder Hunter Bentz (catch and shoot goal from close range); and Adams, who, off the right wing, flung a shot into the net from 10 yards out — resulted in an early Chantilly timeout.

The Chargers came back out and got off three good scoring chances, including a wrap-around, close range shot from senior Craig Penman, whose attempt hit metal and bounced away. But Chantilly could not break through into the scoring column.

A short time later, Adams, off an assist from senior attack Jack Sandusky, scored off the right corner from close range to make it 4-0 Langley. Less than a minute after that, Sandusky, on the move, sent a sizzling bouncer into the net from the right wing. That made the score 5-0 with just over five minutes remaining in the first period.

"I think they came into the game [rolling]," said Chantilly senior attack/middle Devon Westerman, of the Saxons' fast start. "We were waiting for things to happen, waiting for someone else to make a play and that hurt us."

Chantilly's Daniel DeCenzo, a junior attack, scored the Chargers' first goal, a quick turnaround liner over his right shoulder off the right side, to make it 5-1, with 4 minutes, 23 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Langley's Salzer, shortly after a Langley timeout, scored from 18 yards out on a bouncer shot off the left wing to make it 6-1 Saxons, the score going into the second quarter.

"Coming out and leading 5-0, 6-1 and getting that much momentum, that was a great feeling," said Spivey, the Langley goalie who made several stellar stops in the net at the close of the first quarter as Chantilly was trying to gain some life. "I was confident. I had a few saves early in the game and that helped me."

Langley's dominance continued through-

out the second quarter as the Saxons scored the first five goals of the 12-minute session to build an 11-1 lead. Adams scored three of his team's goals during that stretch.

Chantilly carried a little momentum into the half following scores from Cole Fitzgerald and Kyle O'Connor but the Chargers still trailed 11-3 at the intermission.

THE LANGLEY LEAD increased to 13-3 over the first five minutes of the third quarter. Chantilly then came up with its best scoring spell of the game, scoring three straight goals — scores from Kyle Louis, Westerman, and Penman — to get the Chargers within 13-6 going into the final quarter.

The Saxons put the game away for good early on in the fourth on consecutive goals by Adams and one from senior midfielder Davis Wagner to make the score 16-6. The final ended up being 17-8.

"We won the little balls, hustled to ground balls and Spivey played great for us," said Adams, pinpointing a few keys in his team's win.

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