

McLean CONNECTICUT

Arita Matini, a McLean native, started Sweetleaf more than two years ago, while still a senior in college. Matini, who runs the business with her mother and brother, opened up her second location in Vienna a few months ago.

MCA Urges Surplus Solution

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Fairfax to Richmond: Do Us No Harm

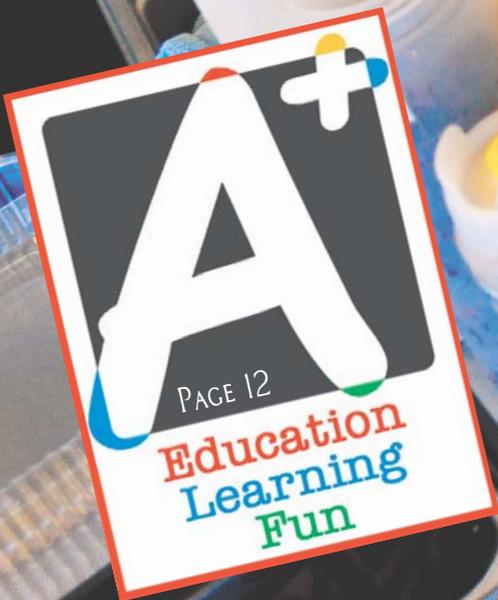
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Matinis Finding Success Is Sweet

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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DECEMBER 14-20, 2011

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State senators George Barker (D-39) and Richard Saslaw (D-35) and Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) listen as state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) addresses local officials during the meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly on Wed. Dec. 7 at the McConnell Public Safety Transportation and Operations Center.

PHOTOS BY
VICTORIA ROSS/
THE CONNECTION



Fairfax to Richmond: Do Us No Harm

Transportation funding dominates discussion.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The message Fairfax County Board of Supervisors delivered to legislators at its annual 2012 session was summed up in four words: Do us no harm.

“Our theme is basically ‘Leave us alone,’” said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), chairman of the board’s legislative committee. “We recognize it’s difficult this year, and we’re begging our legislators not to make it worse for Fairfax County. It doesn’t sound collaborative, but we know we lose in all the funding formulas, so we’re saying don’t make it any worse.”

The 2012 General Assembly Legislative Work Session, held at the McConnell Public Safety Transportation and Operations Center on Wednesday, Dec. 7, followed the Boards’ unanimous decision to support the 2012 legislative agenda at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The county’s legislative program outlines four priorities: education funding; transportation funding; restoring the decimated level of state funding; and enhancing local authority, giving the county the flexibility to “modernize” its local tax structure, particularly in areas such as taxation and land use.

“I know we’re speaking to the choir here,” Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) said to the mostly Democratic state legislators in the room. “But now is the time for the state to begin the process of rebuilding the funding partnership with local government, by providing adequate funding for core services and avoiding shifting additional state costs and responsibilities to localities.”

THE CONCEPT OF DEVOLUTION, or shifting responsibilities from the state to the county, was a heated topic during the three-hour session.

“Basically, devolution means we don’t have enough money to go around,” said Del. Ken Plum (D-36) “so we end up pushing it down to counties. We’re not living up to our end of the bargain.”

During the session, Fairfax County executives said two facts merge to make FY 2012 a difficult year



School Board member Ted Velkoff (D-At-large), Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) and Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) at the meeting.

financially: funding shortfalls exacerbated by diminishing federal stimulus dollars and the state’s declining revenue sources.

“The pie has shrunk. The money the state has been able to send us has dropped ... some of that decrease did not feel as bad because of the stimulus,” said James J. Regimbal Jr., a consultant from Fiscal Analytics who presented a fiscal forecast of state aid to Fairfax County during the session.

Regimbal said state revenues are not rebounding fast enough after the recession, which impacts core services such as education, transportation and human services. He predicted that Medicaid and Virginia Retirement System demands will continue to outstrip the state’s general fund revenue, putting pressure on state funding for other core programs.

“Without new revenues and expecting modest economic growth, the state will continue to reduce fund

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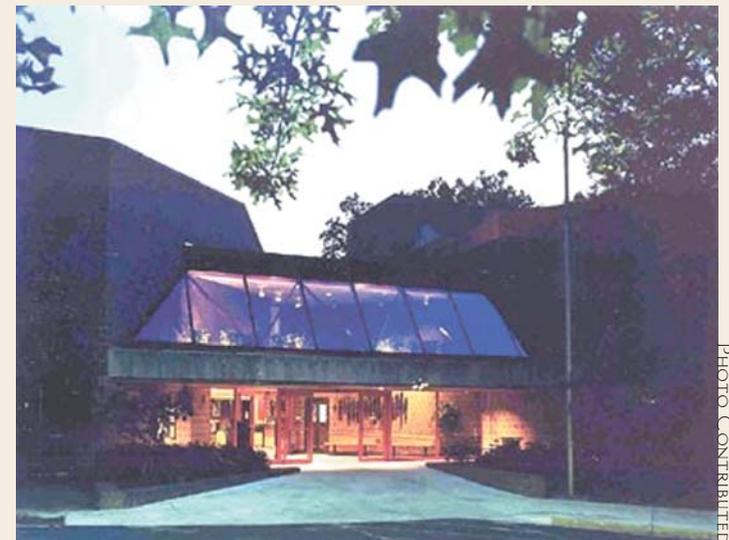


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The McLean Citizens Association passed a resolution Dec. 7 to urge the McLean Community Center Governing Board to come up with a plan for their General Fund surplus.

MCA Urges Surplus Solution

McLean Citizens Association asks MCC to examine future of general fund surplus.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Citizens Association passed a resolution at their Dec. 7 meeting to address the surplus in the McLean Community Center’s General Fund. The fund, which consists of money raised through a real estate assessment on residents of the special tax district, has outgrown the money needed to maintain the center over the past several years.

The McLean Community Center has reduced the assessment from 2.6 cents per \$100 of assessed real estate value in Fiscal Year 2009 to 2.2 cents for the Fiscal Year 2013 budget, which was submitted to Fairfax County in September. While this would reduce the balance by a little more than half a million dollars, the general fund would stand at \$11.9 million.

“The MCA strongly urges the MCC Governing Board and the Board of Supervisors to resolve the question of the disposition of the taxpayer-funded surplus and the possible expansion of the MCC’s facilities in the Fairfax County budget,” reads the resolution, which was put

together by McLean Citizens Association president Rob Jackson and Budget and Taxation Committee Chair Ted Smith.

Sally Horn, McLean Citizens Association’s first vice president, called the resolution a “polite but very direct shot across the bow, saying please come up with a plan for this money.”

Kevin Dent, chair of the McLean Community Center’s Governing Board says the board has a three-pronged approach for the future of the fund, but that it’s too late to change the Fiscal Year 2013 budget, which was due to the county Sept. 30.

He said the board is planning to scale back the assessment, but also is maintaining the money for possible expansion and renovation of the facility.

“We want to look at things that there might be a need for, such as gym facilities or another rehearsal hall, which is one of our heavily used facilities,” Dent said. “I accept that it’s been a slow process, but we’ve reduced the assessment over the past three, four years, and we don’t want to make any decision about the future without

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County Sends 'Hands Off' Message to General Assembly

FROM PAGE 3

ing for locally-administered, but required programs in the 2012-14 budget. The Governor is going to have to balance the budget. Think about what he might do," Regimbal said.

County Executive Anthony Griffin said Fairfax County's budgetary shortfall is expected to be about \$114 million in Fiscal Year 2013, and the county is taking several steps — including looking at fee increases and analyzing agency cuts of up to 5 percent — to bridge the financial gap.

"Quite frankly, we're running out of places to make reductions. This is a struggle now, and it's going to continue to be a struggle for my successor," Griffin said, alluding to his retirement in April 2012.

Griffin said there was some good news. Job growth in Northern Virginia has continued to grow each month since April 2010, and Fairfax County's unemployment rate remains stable at 4.6 percent (which is about 28,000 unemployed residents), compared to 6.4 percent across the state and 9 percent in the nation.

ALTHOUGH GOVERNOR Robert McDonnell (R) has not yet proposed specific road devolution legislation, House Republicans have been looking at ways to shift spiraling road-maintenance responsibilities

back to localities for several years.

Fairfax County leaders have been unequivocal in their opposition to any prospect of road devolution, saying it's tantamount to an unfunded mandate that would force the County to increase property taxes.

"It's a major concern for anyone who cares about transportation, but frankly anyone who cares about anything else localities have to keep up because all those elements would be affected," said McKay. "My greatest fear is that [with road devolution] we would be pitting roads against schools and public safety."

Tom Biesiadny, director of Fairfax County's Department of Transportation, estimated that Fairfax County would have to make a one-time investment of up to \$208 million to take local control of local roads, which would mean a property tax increase of about \$479 for the average household.

He said that localities that maintain their own roads typically spend about 25 percent more than what the state allocates. For example, he noted that in Fiscal Year 2010, Arlington spent \$18 million, while the state spent \$15 million.

"Counties in Northern Virginia already spend millions of dollars a year to mitigate the effects of state underfunding of road construction, which has created some of the worst traffic in the nation," Biesiadny said.

Bulova added that if counties are required to maintain their secondary roads, the resulting disparity in road conditions will affect Virginia's ability to attract business.

During the roundtable discussion, Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) agreed the county's roads are in terrible shape.

"At some point we have to act," he said, suggesting a referendum asking voters to decide whether to increase certain taxes, similar to a 2002 failed referendum on the sales tax, in order to pay for transportation costs.

State Sen. Richard Saslaw (D-35) told the elected officials not to "punt the damn ball."

"I can tell you this: It ain't gonna happen with my vote ... I will not ever, ever, ever, if I have anything to say about it, allow taxes to be put to a referendum. That's what the voters elected you to do. If they don't like what you did, they will show you the door the next election. We have no business putting revenue-raising measures to a referendum. Plain and simple."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said he thought road devolution was viable if done correctly.

"It's not going to be pain-free, but there are ways to do it," Cook said. "If we're going to have the responsibility, we ought to own the streets. And if we're going to own them ... we ought to have the mechanisms to raise the money we need to raise," Cook said.

"Would you be supportive of raising taxes to do it?" Bulova asked. Cook did not respond.

ON THURSDAY, DEC. 8, the Governor outlined his transportation policy and funding plans for the upcoming 2012 General Assembly session. Speaking to more than 700 industry and transportation agency professionals during the 2011 Governor's Transportation Conference in Norfolk, McDonnell called for changes in laws governing the allocation of future surpluses to transportation, dedicating portions of revenue growth attributable to transportation infrastructure projects to transportation and increasing the portion of sales tax dedicated to transportation.

Several legislators, including state Senators Chap Petersen (D-34), Dave Marsden (D-37), Janet Howell (D-32) and Del. Ken Plum said they will hold Governor McDonnell to his promise of a dedicated source of revenue for a transportation bond package passed last session.

"There's a fundamental disconnect," Marsden said. "Any transportation solution is not acceptable if it doesn't come with money ... What we were promised was a funding stream and not the transfer of responsibility to localities. I think we need to let the governor know this is not acceptable."



On his 3rd tour in Iraq in 2008, Spc. Josh Schictl was driving a Humvee which was hit by two IED's. He suffered life-threatening injuries to his face and head. Despite the quick work of medics, Spc. Schictl lost his right eye and nine teeth. Nearly all of the bones in his face were broken but were stabilized before transport to Walter Reed Medical Center. He also suffered a TBI.

Wounded warriors and their families struggle for years to recover physically, emotionally and financially from the sacrifices they make in wartime. Operation Homefront seeks to walk with them on their journey and ease the hardships they face. The DC Metro Chapter assisted Josh and Emily with transitional housing, household furnishings, holiday gifts and grocery gift cards during these difficult times.

There are many ways you can work with the DC Metro Chapter to assist local military families like Josh and Emily.

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NEWS

PHOTO BY LAURA SHERIDAN/WOMAN'S CLUB



Woman's Club president Virginia Sandahl looks on as Bonnie O'Neill, of Share, Inc., acknowledges to club officers Kay Burnell (at left) and Helen Peterson (at right) receipt of the club's contribution to Share, Inc.

Woman's Club Donates \$9,600 to Local Causes

The Woman's Club of McLean donated a total of \$9,600 to eight local charities and nonprofits on Tuesday, Dec. 6, presenting checks to their representatives at its monthly meeting. The recipients were the McLean Project for the Arts; Share, Inc; Alternative House; Capital Hospice; Girls' State; Fisher House; Claude Moore Colonial Farm; and the McLean Volunteer Fire Department.

The club recently completed its 45th annual Holiday Homes Tour. The tour has been an annual event providing the sole source of funds for the club's projects. All profits from the tour are turned back into the community in the form of many and varied service projects. In addition, the club makes periodic donations throughout each year.

— LAURA SHERIDAN

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SCHOOLS

Completing Turkey Trot 5K

On Nov. 13, members of Churchill Road's Ready to Run club participated in the Vienna Turkey Trot 5K. More than 40 girls and their Langley High School sponsors braved the chilly temperatures to put their two months of training to the test. All of the Churchill Road students completed the race, thanks to the efforts of Langley coaches and track team members Molly Bremer, Devon Clark, Annie Cross, Esther Jeong, Lydia Fernandes and Allie Pivik.



PHOTO BY DEVON CLARK

Churchill Road Ready to Run club members and their Langley HS coaches gather at Madison HS prior to the 2011 Turkey Trot 5K on Nov. 13.



PHOTO BY CHERYL BAMDAD

Langley HS senior Devon Clark crosses the finish line of the Vienna Turkey Trot along with Churchill Road students and Ready to Run club members Genevieve Bourgeois and Lily Kleinknecht.



PHOTO BY ALEX MCCLEARY

McCleary Completes Eagle Scout Project

Boy Scout Alex McCleary, with the assistance of Troop 128 members, completed his Eagle Scout project at Churchill Road Elementary School over the October 8th weekend. Alex planned, organized, and supervised the installation of a 60-foot path, made of pavers, through the school's Bird and Butterfly Garden. Completion of the project required more than 100 hours of labor. The group picture shows: Matthew McCleary, Christian McCleary, Jim McCleary, Simon Sutcliffe, Reilly Jeddy, Mary-Kate McCleary, Steve Gillis (Scoutmaster), Morgan Gillis, JT Edwards, Garrison Edwards, Haynes Stone, Jake Huffnagel, Seth Bartow, Alex McCleary and Carol McCleary.

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NEWS

Essay Contest on Women's History

The Fairfax County Commission for Women is sponsoring an essay contest to commemorate Women's History Month 2012. The contest is open to every high school senior attending a Fairfax County public school, college bound or not, male or female. The deadline is Dec. 31. Winning essays can win up to \$1000. More information about the topic and requirements can be found at: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/news_press_releases/2011/1107-essay-contest.htm.

MCC Surplus Addressed

FROM PAGE 3

doing due diligence."

THE MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER has explored options for opening another downtown facility, as well as ways to renovate the existing center on Ingleside Drive.

Darren Ewing, second vice president, said expansion is not a good excuse for allowing the fund to grow so large.

"If they do come up with a plan to expand, we should have a referendum, which I believe has been done with the center's previous expansions, not amass this war chest," he said. "We need to draw it down and reduce the burden on the taxpayer."

The resolution also calls for periodic reports about the board's objectives, plans and decisions to county staff and the citizens of the small tax district, and calls for the board to "secure the acceptance" of residents before any comprehensive expansions.

Dent says that the board will continue to provide opportunities for the public to comment on the budget, and that any major projects will undergo the public forum process.

"Previous plans for expansion weren't very attractive, which is why we're starting to give back, but we also want to be in the position to be opportunistic," he said. "I understand the frustration, but we've been looking hard at options for the past few years. I think it's taken longer than we'd all like, but it's a plan that's eventually going to come together. My guess is by the next budget, we'll be able to reduce the reserve, and be further along with any renovation and expansion plans."

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OPINION

Five Suggestions for the New School Board

Half of the School Board members are new.

On Monday, Dec. 19, the newly elected members of the Fairfax County School Board will be sworn in, marking the largest number of new members at one time in memory.

The change on the board comes from open seats with previous members deciding not to run. Fully half of the board will be new members, although most are also familiar faces.

But it was apparent from the election that voters were motivated by the school board races, turning out to have their say. It's a mistake to view the election as a vote of approval for all current policies or as a repudiation of particular policies. The level of interest and controversy indicates that it's a great moment for the new board to engage the public.

The fact that 70 percent of voters supported the school bond for county schools shows that county residents understand the importance of quality schools.

The school board consists of three at large members who represent the entire county, plus nine district members. Each voter had the op-

portunity to vote for four, three at large and one for their district.

Iryong Moon is the one incumbent remaining at large; Ryan McElveen and Ted Velkoff will join the board at large. District members are: Megan McLaughlin, Braddock; Janie Strauss, Dranesville; Pat Hynes, Hunter Mill; Tammy Kaufax, Lee; Sandy Evans, Mason; Dan Storck, Mount Vernon; Patty Reed, Providence; Elizabeth Schultz, Springfield, and Kathy Smith, Sully. Moon, Strauss, Evans, Storck, Reed and Smith are returning members.

It's important to respect the dedication and motivation of school board members. It's hard to understand why anyone would want these jobs. The hours are never ending. The pay is symbolic. Few decisions will come without acrimony from some quarters. These are people who really are dedicated to service.

That said, we offer a few suggestions, some very general, some very specific, for the new board as it steps up to serve.

1) On with campaign. Begin with a listening tour. Hold some full-board listening sessions around the county. Hold some regional listening sessions in schools and parents' living rooms. Listen in small groups and individually.

Invite teachers and administrators to come out on tour with you. Don't forget to listen to teachers as well as students, parents, administrators and more.

2) Fix large classes. You don't have to reduce the "average" class size. But do something about every class of 30 students or more. It's the exceptionally large classes where students don't even fit in the room that drive parents wild. It doesn't matter if it's a classroom of poor students or wealthy students or something in between, really large classes are not appropriate.

3) Are surveillance cameras really the best use of scarce dollars? No matter what the current board decides to do later this week (likely vote on Dec. 15 after Connection deadline), set the decision aside until after the listening tour.

4) Don't wait for a state law. Instruct administrators to call parents to be present if they plan to question a student about behavior that could result in serious disciplinary measures or legal action.

5) Celebrate the specific and varied successes in Fairfax County Public Schools.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Businesses Need Community Support

To the Editor:

How happy I was to see your editorial [Shop Locally, The Connection, Nov. 30 - Dec. 6]. Our small business has been serving the McLean community since 1965.

As you eloquently stated, local independent small businesses do need community support now more than ever. As a member of the Langley Shopping Center merchants association I frequently discuss "how business is going" with fellow merchants. Simply stated, we need our neighbors support now more than ever.

The link below should interest you. Our 3rd generation family business is a member of The 3/50 Project and we prominently display this organization on our website. Personally, in my humble opinion, I think this organization's mission would make a great article for your newspapers. Most people have little idea of the impact they make within their local community with their buying decisions.

http://www.the350project.net/keep_the_cheer_home.html

Thank you again on behalf of the many local independent merchants of McLean. Your article will have a positive impact on our sales

and our ability to continue to give back to the local community.

Charlie Boswell
President, Color Wheel Inc
McLean

Taking Exception

To the Editor:

I just received the Nov. 30-Dec. 6 issue of the McLean Connections. This is usually a pleasant, respectable presentation of events — especially those involving youth of the community — and avoids issues of poor opinion. Due to that image, I was very disappointed to see the opinion/article by a Del. Kenneth Plum (D-36) complaining about the wise and healthy stand for the protection of the life of the unborn ["Personhood Bill Introduced"]. I hope his last statement is correct, and that the passage of this Republican bill to save and value each life "...may influence political direction for the year." The definition of a civilized society involves the protection of life — particularly the weakest and most vulnerable of that society. Those societies that don't respect all life should be defined as dangerously anti-social. If the weak in a society are not protected, no one is safe. I am surprised to see an elder man such as Mr. Plum with such poor judgment. Anyway, I

hope such ideas will never again have space in our local paper, which is known for well-presented reporting of local events. I really appreciate your good work and that of the staff.

Amanda Kelley
McLean

Woman's Club Thank You

To the Editor:

To the McLean, Vienna and Great Falls communities: The Woman's Club of McLean would like to express its gratitude for your support

of the club's 45th Holiday Homes Tour. Preliminary results show that the tour successfully met its goals of providing vital support to local charities and nonprofits. The proceeds will be especially helpful in this time of general need, which is felt most strongly during the holiday season.

Thank you again for your generous support. Best wishes to all for the holidays and a new year filled with peace and prosperity.

Virginia Sandahl
President, Woman's Club of
McLean

Write

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

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail: mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

THE CONNECTION

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Haycock's winning Lego Legion team, from left: Sarah Hashen, Mika Huffman, Ian Hicklin, Scott Becker, Miles Simpson and Bennett Hunter.

Haycock Students Win State Title

Six students at Haycock Elementary School participated in the Virginia State FIRST@LEGO® League competition held at James Madison University on Dec. 3 and 4. The sixth graders, Scott Becker, Sarah Hashem, Ian Hicklin, Mika Huffman, Bennett Hunter and Miles Simpson, competed in four categories: robot design, robot mission, team research project and teamwork.

The team, named "Lego Legion," won first place for the team research project presentation. They considered the issue of underreporting food-borne illnesses to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The students hypothesized that creating a website or cell phone application could facilitate increased reporting. Shortly before the com-

petition, the students held a phone interview with officials from the CDC to share their ideas.

As part of the team research project, the team interviewed food safety experts from Food Chemical News and the Food and Drug Administration and attended a food safety expo. They also attended several robotics demonstrations, including a painting robot, programmed by Pindar Van Arman, that painted their team logo.

FIRST@LEGO® League's mission is to get children excited about science and technology — and teach them valuable employment and life skills.

The team was sponsored by Radiant Technologies, Inc.

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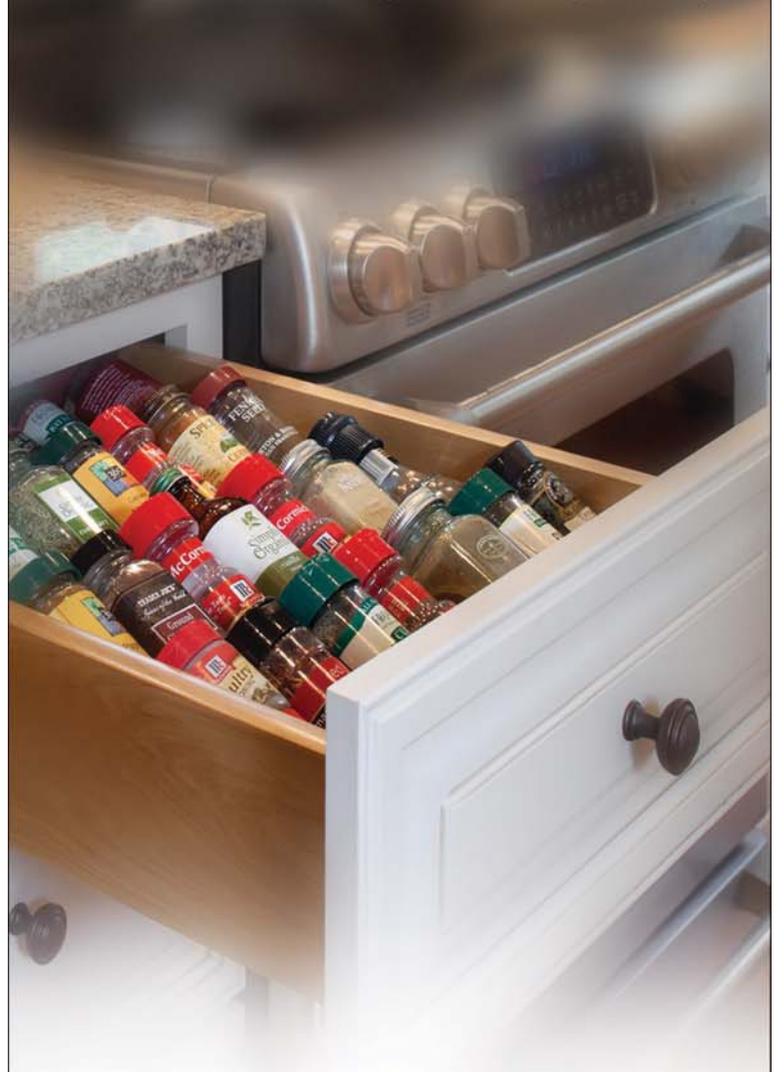
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Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connectionnewsPapers.com

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Celebrating Christmas at Colvin Run Mill

Park hosts Santa, carolers and crafts for children.

Colvin Run Mill returned to an earlier time in Virginia when it hosted Santa Claus at the mill, complementing Santa's visit with a roaring bonfire, carolers from the Virginia 49th Infantry and their families, crafts for children and marshmallow roasting. Luminaria lined the path from the general store to the miller's house where Santa Claus sat in the miller's office, warmed by a fire blazing in a brick fireplace. A Victorian-decorated Christmas tree welcomed families.

Hot chocolate waited for cold hands and, inside the general store, old-fashioned gifts, including a variety of puzzles for children and adults, lined the shelves of the rustic shop. Teen volunteers guided children's craftmaking activities inside the barn. Snowflake design



The Virginia 49th Infantry Regiment, CSA, and their families gathered around a bonfire to lead guests in a holiday sing-along.

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/ THE CONNECTION

and pipe cleaner candy canes were big hits. Families came from throughout Northern Virginia for the holiday celebration at Colvin Run Mill, many saying that they come often to events there.

"This is a nice atmosphere to see Santa," said Alexandria mother Sarah Wrazen, in the barn with husband David and their children, Evie, 2, and Clara, 6. "There's crafts and carolers, people singing along. It feels like Christmas here."

The Kile sisters, Emily, 11, and Annika, 5, along with Santa, shared what it is that they like the most about Christmastime. For Annika, it's snow and making a snowman. Emily said that what she likes most about the season is "time

off from school." And Santa said he likes getting a chance to bring things to boys and girls, to bring some joy into the world.

COLVIN RUN MILL PARK, still with a working mill, celebrated its 200th anniversary this year. Throughout the year, the Fairfax County Park Authority sponsors programs for all age groups, from maple syrup boil-downs to ice cream making and wood carving. On Dec. 3 and 4, Colvin Run Mill hosted children's shopping days where children shopped for family members at the general store.

The park features a G-gauge holiday train layout on Saturday, Dec. 17, and Sunday, Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For details, call 703-759-2771. There's no charge to watch the model trains chug through a replica western town.

— DONNA MANZ



Clara Wrazen, 6, learns how to make her own pipe cleaner candy cane as her sister Evie, 2, watches.

At the school's annual Colonial Day, Churchill Road 4th graders Nash Leaptrot and Katherine Walker dance the Virginia Reel while their classmates await their turn.



PHOTOS BY JEFF PALK

Colonial Day at Churchill Road

On Friday, Dec. 9, Churchill Road fourth graders participated in the school's annual Colonial Day, an immersion into the life styles and customs of the colonial days. Students, teachers and parents participated in a variety of activities that included tin punching, calligraphy, candle-making, stenciling, quilting, soap carving, dancing, corn husk doll making and more. Parents and students dressed in period garb and thoroughly enjoyed the daylong events. The event was organized by CRS fourth grade teachers Rachel Dunleavy, Dave Ickowski, Nick Kilpatrick, Claire McHale, Mary Lynn Robosky and Dave Suchoski.



As part of a reenactment of Colonial crafts, Churchill Road fourth graders Nathan Ward and Joey Park learn how to make corn husk dolls from parent volunteer Sarah Walter.

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Getting into 'Right Fit' Private School

Experts explain how to navigate admissions process for area's most elite schools.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Each year, parents who opt out of their neighborhood public school in favor of an independent school must sift through the long list of the Washington area's independent schools to find one that meets the needs of their child.

They must then navigate the lengthy application required by most schools, and hope that their efforts are deft enough to gain acceptance in a competitive environment. Some schools report receiving as many as nine applications for each available slot.

Even for prospective pre-kindergarten students, the independent school admissions process often includes a written application, admissions tests, parent statements, student interviews, parent interviews, playdates, school visits, transcripts and teacher recommendations.

"What we're trying to do is get a whole picture of a child and look at information from a variety of different sources," said Christina Tait, director of admission and financial aid at The Langley School in McLean.

THE APPLICATION PACKETS provide insight for both the school and the applicants. "We have a fairly detailed process so that we get to know the girls and they get to know us," said Pilar Cabeza de Vaca, head of the Madeira School in McLean. "Our goal is to find girls who are the right fit for our school and for whom our school is the right fit."

The role of each component of the application varies depending on the age of the applicant. "The admission [process] for young children is especially complex and difficult because we have to use both explicit and intuitive measures because we have less data," said Diane Dunning, director of admission and financial aid at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "If you were looking at a ninth grade [admissions] folder, you would have eight years of report cards and maybe four years of standardized testing. You are also able to interview [older applicants] in a different way than when you are interacting with the young children."

Why is so much probing necessary?

"Schools are looking for consis-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

The Madeira volleyball team recently won the Independent Student League title.

teny in grades, attitude, testing and recommendations," said Lindsay White, educational consultant with the School Counseling Group in Washington, D.C. "[For example] If there is a huge difference between a [teacher] recommendation and what they are seeing on the grades, that is going to be a red flag."

Most schools want prospective applicants to spend time on campus. "The [school] visit is important to us. It gives the boy and his family a chance to experience the Heights first hand," said Richard Moss, director of admission at the Heights School in Potomac, Md. "On the flip side, it gives us a chance to really get to know the boy. How is he interacting with his peers? Is he friendly? Is he courteous? Does he have a good, firm handshake? Does he look the teachers in the eye when he greets them in the morning?"

Most applications ask parents to answer questions describing their children. Here are two questions from the Langley School's application: What do you believe is your role as a parent in your child's education? What qualities do you consider to be most

"Our goal is to find girls who are the right fit for our school and for whom our school is the right fit."

— Pilar Cabeza de Vaca, head of the Madeira School in McLean

important for your child's education?

Consultants say schools look at the way parents answer questions. "There are a lot of parents who regurgitate the school's mission statement and all the language that is used on the school's website. Schools can see right through that," said educational consultant Clare Anderson, of Chevy Chase, Md. "They want to know that the family is in line with how [the school] works with students and [their] approach to education."

Schools also pay attention to a parent's evaluation of their child. "Red flags go up when everything is just perfect and they've never encountered a setback or difficulty," said Anderson. "[Schools] are looking for honest, candid responses. Obviously parents are going to frame it in a positive light, as they should."

Most schools require admissions tests. Depending on the age and grade of the child, these tests include the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI-III), Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) and the Secondary School Admission Test for (SSAT).

"Testing often creates the most anxiety," said Dunning, of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

THE TESTS are used differently depending on the age of the applicant. "Tests for [young children] are used as standardized tools to give an overall picture of a child's learning profile. These are not predictors for academic

success. They give broad overviews of how a child learns," said Anderson. Tests given to middle and high school applicants are more meaningful. "Those tests measure how well your child has done with the information he or she has learned in school. If they see an eighth grader who has only average grades, but remarkable SSATs, they are going to ask, 'Is this an underachiever? Why is this child not excelling in the classroom?'"

Should children prepare for tests? When it comes to young children, most consultants say no. "It is unethical and makes your test scores invalid," said Anderson. "You are going to shoot yourself in the foot [if you prep your young child]. Your child will be the first to announce it either in the tester's office or at the school on the playdate. Then the scores are invalid."

The scenario is different for those applying for slots in middle and upper school. "I've had students who've taken [admissions tests] without prep, and then I worked with them and their scores [went] up considerably," said Christa Abbott, an Arlington-based independent test prep tutor.

Anderson agrees. "Just like you preheat your oven, you've got to get your child ready for the test. Just knowing the format of the test can really help," said Anderson. "But I caution parents about [taking expensive test prep classes]. There has to be a primary concern that something is going to get in the way of your child being able to show what he or she knows."

Some parents hire educational consultants like White or Anderson, hoping to get a competitive advantage. Consultants say their role is to guide families through the process. "The number one mistake that I think parents make is thinking that hiring an educational consultant is going to give them an advantage at a very competitive school," said Mark Sklarow, executive director of the Independent Educational Consultants Association in Fairfax. "That is just not the way the system works. Consultants don't have a secret handshake that they can use with an admissions director to help get a student in. The reason you hire an educational consultant is to find a good fit between a student's needs and a school's strengths. A consultant's role is to [identify] a school where a child is going to thrive."

So what can parents do to make sure their child's application shines in a pool overflowing with many attractive applicants?

"It is always nice to think about what is special about your child," said White. "What is the one special strength or talent your child might have, whether it be academics or an extracurricular interest? What is the potential for your child to contribute to the school?"

Anderson says she encourages parents to view admissions procedures as multi-pronged. "My hope is to help parents understand the process and see that there really is a method and [schools] are looking to get the best from your child."



St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School students Isabella Norton, Leah Joseph, and Ulises Giacoman with Upper School Science Teacher Julie Krane.

HOME SALES

In October 2011, 60 homes sold between \$7,501,310-\$118,000 in the McLean and Falls Church area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$7,501,310-\$322,500 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision
903 TURKEY RUN RD	6	7	2	MCLEAN	\$7,501,310	Detached	1.00	22101	TURKEY RUN	
8537 OLD DOMINION DR	9	8	5	MCLEAN	\$2,950,000	Detached	3.10	22102	MB DAWKINS PROPERTY	
1932 FRANKLIN AVE	6	5	1	MCLEAN	\$2,315,000	Detached	0.32	22101	FRANKLIN FOREST	
1332 WINDY HILL RD	5	4	2	MCLEAN	\$1,950,000	Detached	1.39	22102	LE ROBERTS PROPERTY PCL B	
8020 GREENWICH WOODS DR	6	6	3	MCLEAN	\$1,794,500	Detached	1.32	22102	GEORGETOWN PLACE TWO	
8403 HOLLY LEAF DR	4	5	1	MCLEAN	\$1,725,900	Detached	0.86	22102	SUMMERWOOD	
6516 HEATHER BROOK CT	5	3	1	MCLEAN	\$1,284,140	Detached	0.54	22101	LANGLEY OAKS	
2216 BEACON LN	5	5	2	FALLS CHURCH	\$1,210,000	Detached	0.24	22043	CHURCHILL	
1507 CHAIN BRIDGE CT	4	2	1	MCLEAN	\$1,199,000	Detached	0.25	22101	CHAIN BRIDGE SQUARE	
4063 RIDGEVIEW CIR	6	5	0	MCLEAN	\$1,190,000	Detached	0.27	22101	CHAIN BRIDGE FOREST	
1707 JAMES PAYNE CIR	5	3	1	MCLEAN	\$1,159,000	Detached	0.35	22101	CHESTERBROOK HILLS	
1450 EMERSON AVE #403	2	2	1	MCLEAN	\$1,050,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	22101	PALLADIUM AT MCLEAN		
6006 SOFTWOOD TRL	3	3	0	MCLEAN	\$885,000	Detached	0.35	22101	CHESTERBROOK WOODS	
1605 KIRBY RD	6	3	0	MCLEAN	\$776,500	Detached	0.34	22101	CHESTERBROOK WOODS	
2421 CARON LN	6	4	0	FALLS CHURCH	\$771,000	Detached	0.31	22043	FALLS HILL	
1632 COLONIAL HILLS DR	3	3	1	MCLEAN	\$750,000	Townhouse	0.03	22102	HUNTING RIDGE	
6901 LEMON RD	4	4	1	MCLEAN	\$712,000	Detached	0.25	22101	DEVON PARK	
6923 POPPY DR	4	2	1	MCLEAN	\$700,000	Detached	0.25	22101	MARLBORO ESTATES	
1304 EARNESTINE ST	4	3	0	MCLEAN	\$700,000	Detached	0.35	22101	HANSBOROUGH	
6209 NELWAY DR	4	3	0	MCLEAN	\$695,000	Detached	0.29	22101	POTOMAC HILLS	
1147 COLONIAL RD	4	3	1	MCLEAN	\$690,000	Townhouse	0.07	22101	KINGS MANOR TOWNE HOUSES	
6219 MORI ST	3	3	0	MCLEAN	\$675,000	Detached	0.24	22101	POTOMAC HILLS	
6842 BLUE STAR DR	4	2	1	MCLEAN	\$650,000	Detached	0.25	22101	DEVON PARK	
1503 NATALIE JOY LN	4	3	1	MCLEAN	\$644,000	Townhouse	0.04	22101	LEWINSVILLE SQUARE	
6329 MORI ST	4	3	0	MCLEAN	\$643,000	Detached	0.39	22101	POTOMAC HILLS	
1926 FOXHALL RD	4	2	0	MCLEAN	\$640,000	Detached	0.29	22101	FOXHALL	
6522 ELNIDO DR	3	2	1	MCLEAN	\$640,000	Detached	0.29	22101	EL NIDO ESTATES	
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2204 KINGS GARDEN WAY	4	3	1	FALLS CHURCH	\$550,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.04	22043	DOMINION	
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1608 DUNTERRY PL	3	2	2	MCLEAN	\$531,500	Townhouse	0.04	22101	STONELEIGH	
1919 STORM DR	3	2	0	FALLS CHURCH	\$449,000	Detached	0.24	22043	PIMMIT HILLS	
7718 SHREVE RD	2	1	0	FALLS CHURCH	\$440,000	Detached	0.76	22043	DOMINION HEIGHTS	
8220 CRESTWOOD HEIGHTS DR #414	1	1	0	MCLEAN	\$386,900	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	22102	ONE PARK CREST		
8220 CRESTWOOD HEIGHTS DR #1013	1	1	0	MCLEAN	\$385,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	22102	ONE PARK CREST		
2012 LEONARD RD	3	1	0	FALLS CHURCH	\$365,000	Detached	0.26	22043	LEONARD	
7011 FALLS REACH DR #307	2	2	0	FALLS CHURCH	\$352,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	22043	PAVILION THE		
7719 LUNCEFORD LN	3	1	0	FALLS CHURCH	\$343,500	Detached	0.27	22043	PIMMIT HILLS	
2230 GEORGE C MARSHALL DR #727	2	2	0	FALLS CHURCH	\$322,500	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	22043	RENAISSANCE 2230		

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FAITH NOTES

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

St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean, has announced their Christmas Worship Services. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

*Sunday, Dec. 18. 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. A traditional service of lessons and carols with the Choirs of St. John's Church accompanied by organist Dr. John C. Wulff, and the Sunrise String Quartet with Teri Lazar and Osman Kivrak.

*Saturday, Dec. 24. 4 p.m. Christmas Eve family service of Holy Eucharist, with Christmas music beginning at 3:30 p.m.

*Saturday, Dec. 24. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. A traditional service of Holy Eucharist including familiar carols. Music begins at half an hour before each service.

*Sunday, Dec. 25. 10 a.m. Celebrate Christmas with the Holy Eucharist and carol singing.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers three Sunday services and a host of musical, educational, outreach, and fellowship ministries to enrich spiritual growth. 7:45 a.m. Worship Service without music; 9 a.m. Worship Service, Children's Chapel and Children's Choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum; and 11 a.m. Worship Service with Adult Choir. 703-759-2082.

Epiphany United Methodist Church, 1014 Country Club Drive N.E. in Vienna, will hold a Christmas Eve Family Service on Saturday, Dec.

24 at 5 p.m., featuring the Praze Band and a Christmas Children's Program. On Sunday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day worship and communion service will be at 11 a.m. office@epiphany.com or 703-938-3494.

McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike in Vienna, will host two free Christmas concerts at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15 and Friday, Dec. 16. "Joy: An Irish Christmas" will feature modern hymn writers Keith and Kristyn Getty, as well as artists from the McLean Bible Church staff. Doors will open at 7:15 p.m. Free. There will be sign language interpretation for the Thursday concert. <http://mcleanbible.org/christmas>.

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.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM!



Saturday 12/24 6:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE BY CANDLELIGHT

A McLean Tradition featuring carols and candles, storytelling and scripture reading.

Sunday, 12/25 10:00 AM CHRISTMAS GLORY

A majestic celebration of Christ's birth complete with pageantry, strings, classic Christmas music and Communion. Afterwards we'll share a birthday cake in honor of Christ.



PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH
8980 Brook Road; McLean, VA: Route 7 just 2 miles west of Tysons.
Preschool childcare available. 703-893-5330
www.providencetoday.org

Visit These Houses of Worship

Join A Club, Make New Friends, or Expand Your Horizons...

Assemblies of God
Arlington Assembly of God...703-524-1667
Calvary Gospel Church...703-525-6636

Baptist
Bon Air Baptist Church...703-525-8079
McLean Baptist Church...703-356-8080
Memorial Baptist Church...703-538-7000

Buddhism
The Vajrayogini Buddhist Center
202-331-2122

Churches-Catholic
St. Agnes Catholic Church...703-525-1166
Cathedral of St Thomas More...703-525-1300
Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek Catholic Church...703-734-9566
Our Lady of Lourdes...703-684-9261
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic
703-979-5580
St Ann Catholic Church...703-528-6276
St. Charles Catholic Church...703-527-5500

Vatican II Catholic Community
NOVA Catholic Community...703-852-7907

Church of Christ
Arlington Church of Christ...703-528-0535

Church of God-Anderson, Indiana
Church of God...703-671-6726

Churches-Episcopal
St Andrew Episcopal Church...703-522-1600
St George Episcopal Church...703-525-8286
St Johns Episcopal Church...703-671-6834
St Mary Episcopal Church...703-527-6800
St Michael S Episcopal Church
...703-241-2474

Churches Lutheran(ELCA)
Advent Lutheran Church...703-521-7010
Faith Lutheran Church...703-525-9283
German Lutheran Church...703-276-8952
Lutheran Church of The Redeemer
...703-356-3346

Resurrection Lutheran Church...703-532-5991

Churches Lutheran(Missouri, Synod)
Our Savior Lutheran Church...703-892-4846

Churches-Nazarene
Arlington First Church of the Nazarene
...703-525-2516

Church-Brethren
Church of The Brethren...703-524-4100

Churches-Baptist
Arlington Baptist Church...703-979-7344
Cherrydale Baptist Church...703-525-8210
First Baptist of Ballston...703-525-7824
Mt. Zion Baptist Church...703-979-7411

Churches-Baptist-Free Will
Bloss Memorial Free Will
Baptist Church...703-527-7040

Churches-Christian Science
McLean-First Church of Christ, Scientist
...703-356-1391

First Church of Christ,
Scientist, Arlington...
703-534-0020

Churches-Presbyterian
Arlington Presbyterian
Church...703-920-5660
Church of Covenant
...703-524-4115
Clarendon Presbyterian Church
703-527-9513
Little Falls Presbyterian Church
703-538-5230
Trinity Presbyterian Church...
703-536-5600
Westminster Presbyterian ...
703-549-4766

**Churches-Unitarian
Universalist**
Unitarian Universalist Church
of Arlington 703-892-2565

Churches-United Methodist
Arlington United Methodist Church
...703-979-7527
Trinity United Methodist Church
of McLean...703-356-3312
Charles Wesley United Methodist
...703-356-6336
Calvary United Methodist...703-892-5185
Cherrydale United Methodist...703-527-2621
Chesterbrook United Methodist
...703-356-7100

Clarendon United Methodist...703-527-8574
Community United Methodist...703-527-1085
Mt. Olivet United Methodist...703-527-3934
Walker Chapel United Methodist
...703-538-5200

Churches- United Church of Christ
Bethel United Church of Christ
...703-528-0937
Rock Spring Congregational
United Church of Christ...703-538-4886

Non-Denominational
New Life Christian Church- McLean Campus
...571-294-8306

Metaphysical
Arlington Metaphysical Chapel...703-276-8738

**Presbyterian Church
in America Churches**
Christ Church of Arlington...703-527-0420

Synagogues - Conservative
Congregation Etz Hayim...703-979-4466

Synagogues - Orthodox
Fort Myer Minyan...703-863-4520
Chabad Luvavitch of Alexandria-Arlington
...703-370-2774

Synagogue - Reconstructionist
Kol Ami, the North Virginia
Reconstructionist Community
...571-271-8387

Saint Ann Catholic Church

SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM
1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy
5312 North 10th Street
Arlington Virginia 22205
Parish Office: (703) 528-6276

DAILY EUCHARIST:
Weekdays
Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM
Saturday, 8:30 AM

All Are
Welcome!



PARISH WEBSITE:
www.rc.net/arlington/stann

To highlight your Faith Community call Karen at 703-778-9422

ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker. 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$28-\$122, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

Winter Orchestra Concert. 7 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A celebration of France, with music by Faure, Herold, Saint-Saens, and Bizet, poetry readings and a mime. Silent auction and refreshments. Free. smcquade2002@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more take to the stage to share their love of music. Tickets \$15-\$75, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

Buon Natale Featuring Natalie York & Friends in a benefit for Food for Others. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

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

Holidays Around the World. 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Cody & Bj interactive holiday music show. All ages. 703-938-0405.

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

"Parfumerie." 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Two Budapest shop clerks bicker by day, oblivious to the fact that they've fallen for each other exchanging anonymous love letters. Tickets \$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more take to the stage to share their love of music. Tickets \$15-\$75, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

Bill Kirchen's Honkey Tonk Holiday Show. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Living Nativity and Christmas Concert. Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean. The Living Nativity is from 6-8 p.m. and the Concert at 7:30 p.m. Live animals in the Manger, hot chocolate and bake sale. The Concert includes the Bell Choir, Praise Team, Traditional Choir, Youth Choir and Student Symphonic Orchestra. 703-356-3346 or redeemermclean.org.

Friday Afternoon Chess. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Players of all levels welcome. All ages. No registration necessary. 703-757-8560.

Friday Flicks. 10:30 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Call for title. All ages. 703-790-8088.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Model Railroad (HO Scale) Open House and Display. 1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The layout depicts the Western North Carolina Railroad (now a portion of the Norfolk



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Langley High School Madrigals will perform in the Sounds of the Season Winter Concert on Tuesday, Dec 20, 7:30 p.m. at Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. In addition, all of the LHS choirs will perform selections. Free admission. smayman@verizon.net or 703-283-1697.

Southern) during the period of transition from steam to diesel. The Open House also features Thomas the Tank Engine and some of his friends. Free, donations accepted. www.nvmr.org or 703-938-5157.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music. 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more take to the stage to share their love of music. Tickets \$15-\$75, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

5th Annual Rocknocker Holiday Singalong at 11 a.m.; **5th Annual Rocknocker Holiday Singalong and Happy Family Hour** at 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Christmas in Cape Breton. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster performs traditional and contemporary Celtic melodies and Christmas carols. \$25-\$50. www.gmu.edu.

"Parfumerie." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Two Budapest shop clerks bicker by day, oblivious to the fact that they've fallen for each other exchanging anonymous love letters. Tickets \$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

Candlelight Tour: Civil War Christmas. 4:45-7 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Hear 19th century fiddling by Michael McDonnell. Witness Confederate officers dining at Sully as JEB Stuart's cavalry did in December 1862. See what goes into

the Christmas box being packed for soldiers in the field. Ladies make their own holiday decorations. Watch members of the 28th Virginia Infantry cook Christmas dinner in the yard. Tour the 1794 home in the glow of natural candlelight, hear seasonal music, make holiday ornaments, and sample sugar cookies. \$10 adults, \$7 seniors and children. Reserve at 703-437-1794 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully/calendar.htm.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Rd., Falls Church. Attendees are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign. The line dance lesson at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance lesson at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Couples and singles welcome. Admission \$5-\$12. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

Book Talk: Your Emotional Type. 1 p.m. Books-A-Million, 1457 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Author Michael Jawer on emotional types and susceptibility to chronic illnesses. Assessment survey provided. Free. mjawan2001@yahoo.com.

Movie Day at the Library. 1 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Call for title. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Holiday Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. All you can eat pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, and more. Santa will make an appearance at 11 a.m. \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$6 age 5-12, free age 4 and under. www.vvfd.org.

Piano Recital. 1 p.m. Steinway Hall, Tysons Corner Center, McLean. With students of the Elite Piano Academy. 202-674-0499.

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Yosi and the Superdads Rockin' Hanukkah Concert. 3 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$10-\$15. www.mcleancenter.org.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music. 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more take to the stage to share their love of music. Tickets \$15-\$75, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano: Fiesta Navidad. 4 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Fiesta Navidad mixes traditional Mexican and American holiday songs with dancing, authentic, costumes and an audience sing-along. \$23-\$46. www.gmu.edu.

"Parfumerie." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Two Budapest shop clerks bicker by day, oblivious to the fact that they've fallen for each other exchanging anonymous love letters. Tickets \$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

Candlelight Tour: World War II, Christmas on the Homefront. 4:45-7 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. The 51st Engineers Battalion set up camp in front of the house. Listen to holiday radio broadcasts of Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. See how Fairfax families celebrated a homemade Christmas and helped the troops, and how Christmas dinner was enjoyed in spite of rationing. Enjoy cider and cookies, have their photos taken on an antique sleigh. Tour the 1794 home in the glow of natural candlelight, hear seasonal music, make holiday ornaments, and sample sugar cookies. \$10 adults, \$7 seniors and children. Reserve at 703-437-1794 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully/calendar.htm.

MONDAY/DEC. 19

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

TUESDAY/DEC. 20

Sounds of the Season Winter Concert. 7:30 p.m. Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The LHS Madrigals will perform Renaissance holiday music in elaborate period costumes. In addition, all of the LHS choirs will perform selections. Free admission. smayman@verizon.net or 703-283-1697.

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

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

Mystery Book Discussion. 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Call for title. Adults. 703-790-8088.

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

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 21

Student Volunteer Training Session. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Students receive training from library staff and sign up for volunteer hours. Age 12-15. 703-293-6227.

Sleeping Through the Winter. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Stories about animals getting ready for winter. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-356-0770.

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

Rock-a-Bye Baby. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Rhymes, stories and songs. Birth-11 months with adult. 703-938-0405.

Model Investment Club of Northern Virginia. 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Meeting on the third Wednesday of the month. New visitors welcome. 703-790-8088.

THURSDAY/DEC. 22

Jammin Java Presents Todd Wright's 9th Annual Christmas Spectacular. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Mother Goose. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories, songs and fingerplays. Birth to 23 months with adult. 703-293-6227.

Patrick Henry Book Club. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. Adults. 703-938-0405.

FRIDAY/DEC. 23

"Parfumerie." 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Two Budapest shop clerks bicker by day, oblivious to the fact that they've fallen for each other exchanging anonymous love letters. Tickets \$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

Jammin Java Presents Todd Wright's 9th Annual Christmas Spectacular. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 24

Good For The Jews: Putting The Ha! In Hanukkah Tour featuring Rob Tannenbaum and David Fagin. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 26

FunkMnkyz and Do It With Malice. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/DEC. 27

"Nutcracker." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Annandale, Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Performed by the Virginia Ballet Company and School. \$30 adults, \$20 children, students and seniors. www.virginiaballetcompany.org or 703-249-8227.

Dinobabies. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.



Holiday Recital at Chesterbrook Residences

On Saturday, Dec. 3, Aaron Grossman (Cooper Middle School), Matthew Gregory (Longfellow Middle School), Aaliyah Booker (McLean High School), and Julia Kushan (Saint John Academy) performed their semi-annual concert at Chesterbrook Residences, an assisted living community in McLean, with a full house ready to enjoy a "Piano and Violin Holiday Recital."

Marshall's DECA Makes Wishes Come True

The Marshall High School DECA chapter is sponsoring the Treats for Treatment project during the week of Dec. 12-16 to collect and fund items for pediatric patients at Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children.

Led by DECA members Luke Dzedzic, Rachel Killmeyer, and Lauryn Johnson, the Treats for Treatment project will be collecting wish list items — including markers, playing cards, bubbles, and play dough — to make a child's visit at the hospital more comfortable. Items from the INOVA Fairfax Hospital for Children wish list can be found at <http://www.inova.org/upload/docs/Foundation/IFHC/Wish-List-Change-a-Life-2010x6081.pdf>.

DECA has planned a number of activities throughout the week to benefit the hospital. Donations will be collected throughout the school and at the varsity basketball game on Tuesday, Dec. 13, against Fairfax High School. Students can make cash donations to the wish list fund in the cafeteria

and will be recognized by having their name placed on a Treats for Treatment bandage on the cafeteria wall. At 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13, Leigh Bauman, development officer with Inova Health System Foundation, was scheduled to talk about how the project will help young patients at the hospital. On Thursday, Dec. 15, from 5 to 9 p.m., Jason's Deli in McLean will donate 10 percent of its dine-in sales to fund purchases from the wish list.

DECA is also holding a silent auction featuring restaurant gift cards, autographed Redskins memorabilia, and Washington Capitals tickets. Bids can be made in the school office, at Tuesday's basketball game, or during the fundraiser at Jason's Deli on Dec. 15. All proceeds will fund purchases from the wish list. DECA members will also host a number of student-centered events during the week, including Shoot the Shot, Find the Band-Aid, and Rock the Doc.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Allison Pepper of Vienna has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list Villanova University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Villanova, Pa.

Shilpa Darivemula of Vienna has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at Union College of Schenectady, N.Y. The James Madison High School graduate is majoring in leadership in medicine.

Marine Corps 1st Lt. **P. Heg** of Vienna has graduated from the Combat Engineer Officer Course at Marine Corps

Engineer School, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N. C. Heg studied operational and planning skills in engineering related subjects pertaining to mobility, survivability, and general engineering. The 2000 graduate of Oakton High School joined the Marine Corps in July 2001.

Kerry Jordan Aldrich of Vienna has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at Washington University School of Engineering and Applied Science in St. Louis.



The ingredients for Sweetleaf's potato and leek soup are on display for all to see.

Matinis Finding Success is Sweet

Family run Sweetleaf is finding place in community.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Arita Matini knows about the restaurant business. Her mother Sherry has been in the business for 20 years, and growing up Arita and her brother Andre were always behind the counter. Arita Matini, McLean native and graduate of Langley High School, went to college to study Interior Design, but couldn't escape for long.

"I convinced my mom after college that we should team up again, that food was the way to go," she said. "I knew what had to be done to make it work, and I know the area, the community and I'm comfortable with it."

Arita opened the first Sweetleaf in McLean more than two years ago, while she was still a senior in college. She modeled it after her mother's Sweet Stuff shop, but with a few alterations.

"It's sort of the same concept, but we gave it a new face. We added more salads and some newer concepts, everything is made in front of you," she said. "We wanted to combine the feel of a café with a sandwich shop and more, and make it sort of a one stop shop. Sometimes a couple comes in and one wants a salad, the other a more substantial sandwich, and we can meet both of those needs."

Using her background in Interior Design, Arita Matini designed the McLean location and

the new Vienna location, with bright green walls and a relaxed atmosphere.

THE RESTAURANTS are run with freshness at the top of the priority list. The McLean location features a garden that is the source of many of their vegetables.

"Hopefully we can help people get away from that fast-food sort of lifestyle and provide people with something fresh and healthy to eat," Arita Matini said.

Arita currently runs the Vienna location, while Sherry runs the McLean one. One of Sherry's biggest contributions to the store is her soups, which she makes fresh daily using the minimum amount of ingredients.

"I love the soup, and I've found it's practically a staple when it starts to get cold," said Lisa Wall of McLean. "It really tastes like something you'd find in your family's kitchen, not something you're buying at a restaurant."

John West, a childhood friend of Arita Matini's, says he is impressed with her drive and vision.

"It's been interesting to watch her as an entrepreneur create an enterprise like this, that's so focused on the community and its' families," he said. "There's a line out the door every month. In this bad economy, they were confident it would work, but so far, it has."

IN ADDITION to a full menu of toasted sandwiches and soups, Sweetleaf features milkshakes, ice cream and frozen yogurt, as well as a full children's menu. Arita



Arita Matini, a McLean native, started Sweetleaf more than two years ago, while still a senior in college. Matini, who runs the business with her mother and brother, opened up her second location in Vienna a few months ago.

Matini said this is to attract as many different members of the community as possible.

"Whether it's regulars or people just passing through, the best part about this job is interacting and meeting with new people," she said. "I think we're able to fill a nice niche, to give someone anything they could want."

The Vienna location is at 262 Maple Avenue E and the McLean Sweetleaf is at 1359 Chain Bridge Road. More information is available at www.eatsweetleaf.com.

SPORTS

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The Madeira School women's varsity swim and dive team opened its 20th anniversary season with a 96-90 win over defending Independent School League (ISL) champion Georgetown Visitation on Dec. 1.

Event winners for Madeira included seniors and captains Ann Griffin (200 IM) and Brittany Jansen (100 fly); juniors Maddie Alagia (200 free) and Grace Johnson (100 free); and freshman Farrin Saba (100 back). Freshman diver Carly Yosaitis took first in the 1-meter diving event.

Madeira, which is under the direction of head coach Rod Montrie, took first place in the 200 medley relay. The winning relay team was made up of Griffin, Jansen, Alagia, and Saba. Also, Madeira's foursome of Jansen, Alagia, Johnson, and Saba teamed up to take first in the 400-free relay.

Senior Captain Kat Pfleeger had a strong meet, scoring crucial points in the 200 IM.

On Dec. 6, Madeira, nicknamed the Snails, met private school opponent Flint Hill School in a meet competition. Madeira came out on top with a 121-58 victory to improve to 2-0 on the young season.

Madeira won the 200-medley relay with the team of Griffin, Alagia, Johnson and Saba. Event winners for Madeira included senior and captain Jansen (200 free); senior Caroline Peterson (100 breaststroke); Alagia (200 IM); and Saba (100 fly). Carly Yosaitis took first in dive.

"Caroline Peterson had a great meet winning the 100 breaststroke," said coach Montrie. "Also, senior Melanie Brown posted a season personal-best in the 500 free. First year swimmers Marta Corvinos, Aerryn Rees, Gianna Duda, Rachel Tate, and Kelsey Compton turned in good performances as well."

Courtney Cross, a Great Falls resident and a current senior at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, signed a National Letter of Intent on Nov. 14 to play Div. 1 women's lacrosse at Villanova University. Cross has played lacrosse within the Great Falls youth program since she was in second grade. She has been a varsity starter for the past three years at Ireton and a team captain for two years. Along with excelling in soccer, Cross is a member of both the National Honor Society and French Honor Society. She is set to graduate from O'Connell in May of 2012.

The Langley Saxons' ice hockey team defeated Herndon, 10-0, in a recent district contest, which took place in Reston. Before an enthusiastic crowd of more than 100, all three lines of the Saxons' squad racked up points against a much thinner Herndon bench. Drew Schneider led the Langley pack with a hat trick (3 goals), and goals were also scored by: Kevin Diner (2), Evan Sterling, Atte Happonen, Colin



PHOTO COURTESY/MADEIRA SCHOOL

The Madeira High girls' volleyball team won the Virginia state private school championship by defeating Liberty Christian Academy in the finals. Pictured, left to right, are: seniors Claire Karakozoff, Nicole O'Donnell, Bre Atkinson, and Catherine Humphrey. The seniors led Madeira to its first state championship in history. O'Donnell (setter) and Atkinson were selected to the all-tournament team, with Atkinson earning MVP honors. Also selected to the all-tournament team was sophomore middle hitter Paige Humphrey.

Framinan, Lizzy Weingast, and Zach Shames. Mikey Adams had four assists on the night, while seven other Langley skaters — Framinan (2), Shames, Schneider, Happonen, Peter Nam, Derick Paxton, and Colin Dibble — contributed assists to the rapid fire scoring effort. The Herndon goalie defended 25 shots from Langley, while Saxon goalie Ryan Framinan stopped 10 Herndon shots and recorded his first shut-out of the season.

Pro boxer Jimmy Lange, a Great Falls resident, will return to the Patriot Center on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012 for another world-class fight card featuring top area boxers. Considered one of the mid-Atlantic region's premier boxing showcases, the event is scheduled to host three world championship title fights, headlined by junior middleweight Jimmy Lange's first title defense of his World Boxing Union (WBU)



PHOTO COURTESY OF BISHOP O'CONNELL ATHLETICS

Courtney Cross of Great Falls signs her collegiate letter of intent to play women's lacrosse at Villanova.

154-pound championship belt. His opponent has not yet been determined.

Lange (37-4-2, 25 knockouts), who has headlined all 13 previous Patriot Center boxing shows since returning from his participation on 'The Contender' TV series, captured the WBU title last September by knocking Raul Munez down three times en route to his 25th victory by knockout. The Great Falls fighter continues to draw large, enthusiastic crowds from across the region while advancing the ranks in the junior middleweight division.

The Feb. 11 boxing card will include: Michelle Garland Nelson (5-0-1) of Ashburn in a World International Boxing Association middleweight championship; Zain 'Tiger' Shah (6-0) of Chantilly, who will meet Tony Jeter (12-2-1) of Stevensville, Md. in a six-round

middleweight contest; and undefeated, rising welterweight prospect Todd 'White Lightning' Wilson (11-0) of Fairfax.

Doors will open at 6 p.m., with the first fight scheduled to begin at 7. Tickets will be available for purchase through all Ticketmaster outlets, including the Patriot Center box office and by phone at 703-573-SEAT.

The Marshall High School Boosters are once again sponsoring the Christmas Tree Lot this holiday season. Trees, garland, wreaths, White House Ornaments, and spirit wear will be available. The lot opened on Saturday, Nov. 26 and will be open daily through Dec. 18. Hours of operation are 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Monday through Friday), and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Customers can pre-purchase trees this year with a credit card as long as they bring a receipt. Go to: www.gcmhsboosters.org, and hit the link.

Purchases at the lot will again be check/cash only. All proceeds from the Tree Lot will go directly into the Marshall High students' activities account, which sponsors 21 teams. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of uniforms and equipment; field maintenance, capital improvements, and trip expenses; as well as a variety of clubs and activities on campus.

Both the Flint Hill School men's and women's swim teams won their winter season openers against Georgetown Day this past week, by scores of 107-43 and 92-65, respectively. Double-event winners for Flint Hill included Rob Ikeda, Rachel Swarts and Natalie Brendsel. Single event winners included Jonah Chang, Allison Kennedy, Zach Thornburg, Sam Shorris, Brian DeMocker, Aaron Frederick, and Alana Suter.

Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS) held its elections for the expiring terms of the FAS President, 1st Vice President (Umpires), and Treasurer at its Board of Directors meeting on Monday, Nov. 14. Carl Ey of Alexandria

begins his first term on the executive committee as Treasurer. Incumbents John Carney, of Clifton, and Scott Semmler, of Centreville, were re-elected by acclamation as President and 1st Vice President (Umpires). They begin their new term of office in January 2012.

FAS depends heavily on volunteers and is always looking for new personalities to share ideas. Directors meet monthly throughout the year to review and establish policies and rules for the operation of the program, to provide direction concerning financial and administrative operations, and, in November, to elect the officers of the corporation. These officers comprise the Executive Committee which meets monthly to direct the FAS program. The Executive Committee includes the President, 1st Vice President (Umpires), 2nd Vice President (Rules), Secretary and Treasurer. They serve staggered two-year terms to provide for corporate stability.

Go to FairfaxAdultSoftball.com for more information on the organization.

Local Northern Region high school cross country runners Sophie Chase (Lake Braddock Secondary), Ahmed Bile (Annandale High), and Sean McGorty (Chantilly High) each placed in the top 10 at the Foot Locker Cross Country South Regional Championships, held Saturday, Nov. 26 at the McAlpine Greenway Park in Charlotte, N.C. By finishing among the top 10, the three local student-athletes qualified to compete in the Foot Locker Cross Country Championship National Finals, set for Saturday, Dec. 10 at Morley Field, Balboa Park in San Diego, Calif. Chase, a junior at Lake Braddock, finished second at Saturday's South Regionals in Charlotte with a time of 17:06, qualifying her for Nationals for the second straight year. In the boys' race, Bile, a two-time National Finalist, claimed second place in 14:38.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LANGLY HIGH ATHLETICS

Langley High girls' lacrosse player Kelly Martins, shown here with Saxon head coach Richard Desomma, recently signed her letter of Intent to play collegiate women's lacrosse at William & Mary next school year. Martins, this upcoming spring, will be playing her fourth season with the Langley varsity.

Abstract or Intact



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How does one not become consumed with something that is all-consuming? Moreover, how does that same one take certain information in stride that potentially is anything but stride-worthy? And if one were not to be all-consumed by the information that, disturbing as it was, was in fact taken in stride, how does that one not feel guilty and/or responsible about neglecting to act – if there was even anything to be done about the unsettling news that may have spawned this initial paragraph?

I don't. I can't. I won't. Somehow. Not that I received any news of late that was particularly jarring or life-abbreviating but, as a terminal patient, so far as I know (and how far do I really know, since I've never been a terminal patient before), information that is not positive is negative (almost by definition) and the fine line of life upon which I straddle every minute of every day becomes that much more difficult to sustain, especially if the negative begins to overtake the positive. I have equated the sensation to taking the first few curious steps across a newly frozen pond – in winter, each step more precarious than the last, waiting for the cracking – or not, and the associated fear. You want to go forward, but not at your own peril. Yet going backward seems equally ill-advised. I mean, you've been there and done that. Backwards represents the past. Forward represents the future. Personally, I don't want to live in the past. I want to live in the present/future. Receiving results which prevent you from going forward – which may stop you in your tracks, are not so much safe as they are insecure. For me, it's all about momentum. I don't want to lose what progress I've gained, nor do I want to retrace my steps. However, survival may be about knowing when to redirect those energies/treatment, to rest and/or retreat (to fight another day) and to work with your body, not against it.

But who knows? For a terminal patient, changes in anything are disproportionately significant. It could mean anything. It could mean nothing. Objectivity disappears the day your oncologist tells you have an incurable disease. Accordingly, it's extremely difficult to shrug off any abnormal medical findings. How do I not think that the beginning of the end starts at the end of the beginning? The point at which my body begins to weaken and reveal indicators that reflect a body in distress and one whose underlying diagnosis is starting to assert itself and break down all the barriers that have been constructed (metaphorically speaking) over the previous 34 months?

In summary, how do I interpret change? For the better? The worse? Meaningful? Meaningless? As a cancer patient who has now outlived his original prognosis ("13 months to two years") by a rather significant amount of time, how do I remain objective about lab work, urine specimens, diagnostic scans, etc.? I can't. However, worrying about any or all of it likely produces no real tangible benefit either, whereas not worrying about it, not stressing about it might, anecdotally speaking, anyway. Unfortunately, worrying and stressing are not simply emotions I can switch off, especially when you're consumed by a terminal disease, whether figuratively or worse, literally.

Diagnosis to date, my cancer-related problems have been figurative, mostly. Nevertheless, it's difficult to not react negatively when results are changing right before your eyes, literally. Yet somehow, I have to. If I don't, I'll likely make matters worse. And given my underlying stage IV lung-cancer diagnosis, I probably don't need to go out of my way to cause any more trouble. It's already found me.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice – Environmental Permit
PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality to limit air pollution emitted by a facility in Arlington, Virginia.
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: December 15, 2011 to January 17, 2012
PERMIT NAME: State Operating Permit to Operate Issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Air Pollution Control Board

NAME, ADDRESS AND REGISTRATION NUMBER OF PROPOSED PERMIT HOLDER: Vornado/Charles E. Smith, 1901 S. Bell Street, Arlington, VA 22202; Registration Number: 73980
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Vornado/Charles E. Smith has applied for a State Operating Permit for their facility located at 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia. The facility is a commercial office building that has (1) emergency generator rated at 1050 kW.
HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by the DEQ within the comment period. The public may request a public hearing. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named below. The draft permit is also available on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov. To request a public hearing, written comments must include: 1) the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the requester and of all people represented by the requester. 2) The reason a hearing is requested, including associated air quality concerns. 3) A brief, informational statement regarding the extent of the interest of the requester, including how the operation of the facility affects the requester.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENTS, REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
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NEWS

MWAA Resists New Members

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf 'extremely disappointed.'

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

The Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority apparently never tires of resisting U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf and other Virginia officials from gaining more control of the authority's operations and its handling of the Dulles Rail project.

After President Obama signed into law a measure that increases Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority's membership from 13 to 17 members and called for an additional two Virginia members, Airports Authority Chairman Charles D. Snelling, wrote to Wolf that the authority did not plan to immediately abide by the law.

"Soon after the enactment of this legislation, the Airports Authority retained outside legal counsel to provide an independent legal opinion on the implementation of the legislation and, more specifically, on whether the changes made by the legislation were operative upon enactment or require an amendment to the MWAA compact in order to become operative," Snelling said.

The authority engaged Jenner & Block, one of the nation's best known and most expensive law firms, to examine the constitutionality of the law. In 22 pages of legal dissertation, the firm said it might be unconstitutional but the issue would likely have to be settled in a federal court.

Robert Yingling, a public affairs spokesperson for Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, said he could not report on how much this legal opinion cost public funds because the bill for the work had not been submitted.

According to Snelling, the Jenner & Block opinion found that the "new legislation is not operable until the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia approve changes to the governing MWAA compact. Accordingly, it is the opinion of our outside counsel that the legislation is best understood as authorizing Virginia and the District of Columbia to amend the MWAA compact, and not unilaterally bringing about that amendment itself."

He said Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority would not permit any new members appointed under the law to "participate in board duties until changes are made

to governing MWAA compact."

Wolf said he was "extremely disappointed" that the Airports Authority "is choosing to fight bipartisan changes contained in Public Law 112-55." Wolf said the "intent of Congress could not be more clear" and there was "no need for MWAA to go the expense of hiring outside counsel." Wolf said he has asked the U.S. Transportation Department's Inspector General to find out who ordered the report and what it cost.

The role of board members acting out after expiration of their term arose when a member whose term had expired was allowed several years ago to vote from house arrest in the Ivory Coast.

Wolf said that members with expired terms will not be allowed to participate in Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority activities.

Meanwhile Virginia is where the two airports are located and where the Airport Authority is building a \$6 billion Metro line to Dulles Airport. In 2007 the cost of that Metro line was estimated at \$2.7 billion, but the cost has now doubled and Wolf has charged part of that is due to mismanagement by Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority.

1,300 Pounds of Food Raised

The Education Department organized Everest College Tysons Corner 4th Annual Food Drive for the Capital Area Food Bank. During the month of November, staff, faculty and students came together and donated over 1,300 pounds of food. This broke the school record for the school Food Drive. In 2010, 885 pounds of food were donated for the month of November.

The goal of Everest students and staff was to provide some relief to those in need. President Sheri DeLozier encouraged students and staff to bring in as much as they could because as the holidays grow closer, more families are in need for meals.

The Food Drive was spearheaded by Andreia Lucanu (Student Success Coordinator) and Peter DePascale (Academic Dean). Donations included pastas, cereal, snacks, household items, canned fruits and vegetables.

The class that showed the most generosity was Robert Dalpee's Medical Assistant class; they raised 267 pounds of food. Staff contributed 305 pounds of food. Medical Assistant students, Olga Avalos and Arryal Liverman collected more than 160 pounds.



Food collected by Everest College Tysons Corner 4th Annual Food Drive for the Capital Area Food Bank.

Robert Dalpee's Medical Assistant class raised 267 pounds of food.

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