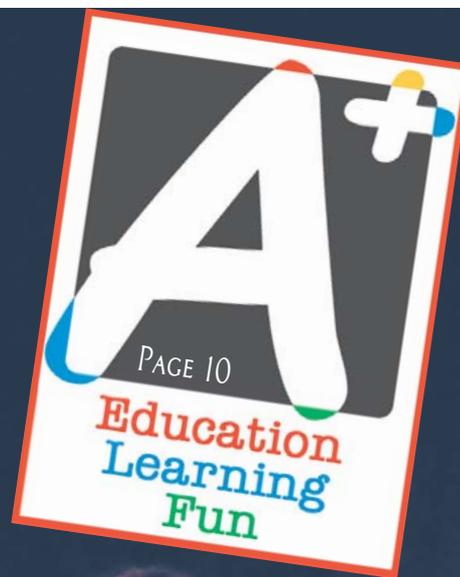


Langley Presents One Acts



NEWS, PAGE 3

From left, Captain Hammer, played by John Higgins tries to woo Penny, played by Izzy Hefner while Dr. Horrible, played by Andrew Jones, listens in disbelief. "Dr. Horrible's Sing Along Blog" was one of the plays presented at Langley High School's night of one-act plays.

Panel Addresses College Drinking

NEWS, PAGE 2

Allen Declares War on Unions

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OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 14 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18

PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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From left, Jeff Levy, president of Virginia College Parents, Casey Ligan of the Commonwealth's Attorney, Ryan Smith, a graduate student at Virginia Tech, Capt. Bruce Ferguson, commander of Fairfax County Police Youth Services Division and Dr. William Hauda, emergency physician, members of a panel discussion on college drinking at McLean High School Wednesday, Jan. 11.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/ THE CONNECTION

Panel Addresses College Drinking

Unified Prevention Coalition hosts event at McLean High School.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County and the McLean High School PTSA presented "Perils of the College Drinking Culture" Wednesday, Jan. 11. The program featured a panel of speakers who discussed the health and legal consequences of underage and binge drinking, as well as a short film.

The film told the story of Gordie Bailey, a freshman at the University of Colorado at Boulder, who died at a fraternity house of alcohol poisoning in 2004. It presented a real life case of an underage person who drank too much and wasn't given proper care while intoxicated.

"The photos of Gordie dead on the floor of that fraternity house, with the writing all over him and his face blue will haunt me for a while," said Marianne Marshall, a parent of a high-schooler and a college student who came to the presentation. "I couldn't stop picturing my kids in that same spot, and it really made me want to open up lines of communication with my kids when it comes to drinking."

DR. WILLIAM HAUDA, an emergency room physician at Inova Fairfax Hospital and one of the panel members, said the high school years are crucial when it comes to informing students.

"If you look at our eighth graders, the numbers are well below the national average, but our seniors are catching up to the national average," he said. "In college, 50 percent of students admit to binge drinking. So what's happening is, in high school, students are unlearning the results of using alcohol to excess."



Col. David Rohrer, Fairfax County Chief of Police, speaks at the "Perils of College Drinking Culture" forum at McLean High School Wednesday, Jan. 11.

Capt. Bruce Ferguson, commander of the Fairfax County Police Youth Services Division and one of the panelists, said the underage drinking problem has gotten worse in recent years.

"Things have gotten worse because access has gotten easier. Our attitude about alcohol has changed to make it something you have to do. You can't watch a sporting event without seeing a beer commercial that says if you drink this, you get the girl and the sports car," he said. "We need to change our attitude, through education, and change the culture of alcohol."

Col. David Rohrer, Fairfax County Chief of Police, was at the event, and he remembered his days as a patrol officer finding alcohol around schools and county parks.

"The issue's been here for a long time. The reality is that too many people think of alcohol as a way to stimulate fun, but it also leads to a lot of consequences," he said. "We've all had to go make death notifications for someone killed in an accident involving alcohol or involving

alcohol abuse, the list of consequences is long: fights, assaults, unwanted sex. As adults and as a society we simply need to stop condoning and tolerating alcohol abuse."

THE EVENT was attended by more than 200 people. Becky York of the Unified Prevention Coalition, said that their surveys showed most parents came from the McLean High community, but parents from Langley, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson and W.T. Woodson high schools, as well as middle school parents and parents from Arlington County attended.

The coalition's mission is to prevent violence, drug and alcohol use by youth in the county. The next forum will be held Wednesday, March 28 at 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria. More information is available at www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

VIEWPOINTS

What was the most important message of the evening?

—MARY GRACE OAKES



Nicole Landau, Senior, The Madeira School

"The film really hit home and served as a warning of how easily things can go wrong. It demonstrated that the more you drink, the harder it is to identify how serious a problem may be. The program reminded me that good values and good choices keep me safe, and that I am responsible for my well being once I leave home."



Rummer Bershstein, Senior, McLean High School

"I think that the most important message of the film was...if you see a friend with possible alcohol poisoning...you need to make the call for help without fear of repercussion."



Alex Tausch, Senior, Yorktown High School

"The most important message was that you need to think about your actions...to know what you're going to do before you do it, and to not go down that slippery slope that leads to alcohol abuse. Before going to a party, you need to know what strategies you'll use to stay safe, or just not go at all."



Delia Maresco, Senior, The Madeira School

"To me, the idea that seemed to be expressed the most was the need for communication with our parents; having an honest and straightforward discussion about drinking and responsibility is the best way to prevent dangerous situations."

Andy Lindsay, Sophomore, McLean High School

"I think the most important message was that binge drinking is not the only issue...it can start with one drink and continue exponentially."

Michael Ramada, Senior, Thomas Jefferson High School

"The most important message was of the awareness factor...you have to look out for each other."

Langley students play the various parts of a man and woman's subconscious in the one-act play "Reservations." Langley presented 10 different one act plays last weekend, which were all student-directed.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Langley Presents One Acts

Students direct, write 10 one act plays.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Students at Langley High School presented their annual One Act Plays Friday and Saturday, giving the students a chance to not only act, but write and direct the performances as well.

More than 50 students participated in the 10 plays, five of which were written by students. The plays differed widely in subject matter. "Linda Her," directed by senior Brian Patterson explores a woman's growing disenchantment with her domestic life during a sleepless night, while "Dr. Horrible's Sing Along Blog," directed by seniors Justin Cecil and Alex Lichtenstein features a tongue-in-cheek musical look at the superhero genre.

Cecil, who adapted the play from an internet miniseries, is directing his fourth performance at Langley, but this is his first musical.

"This was probably the most fun I've ever had, even though I found it's harder to direct a comedy," he said. "Me and Alex had a great time adapting the miniseries into a one-act play."

Cecil started acting in the theater, and eventually expanded his horizons to writing and directing. He says he's learned more with each performance

From left, Kaity Hinojosa, Neil Patil and Natalie Harris perform in "Linda Her," one of the one act plays presented last weekend by the Langley High School theatre arts department.



he's directed.

"I used to be more strict with my actors, but I've learned to give them more leeway," he said. "I found a more relaxed feel helps, and when it's more fun, people feel worse about forgetting their lines."

Sophomore Hayley Wenk made her directorial and writing debut with her play "Creation."

"I've written some things, but this is the first one that's made it outside of my computer," she said. "It was really cool to see everything come to life on the stage. I think the cast took it in a lot of cool directions."

Junior Alex Swann served as the tech director for the plays, and said the variety of shows presented in a short amount of time presented a unique challenge.

"I think 'crazy' is an accurate description of the schedule. We usually work on one show at a time over three or four weeks, now we're doing 10 shows in about two weeks," he said. "The hardest part is the props, our prop closet has mostly furniture, so we have to do a lot of searching."

Langley Theatre Arts Director Phyliss Jaffe said the one acts are a good chance for the school to take advantage of the depth of talent available.

"Since it features about 50 students, the one acts are a great chance to give everyone some experience," she said.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS

The General Services Administration warehouse site, which Fairfax County is proposing for the relocation of the new FBI headquarters, is located in Springfield.

FBI Makes County's 'Most Wanted' List

Board of Supervisors votes to lobby for FBI relocation.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County placed its marker on the table Tuesday in what promises to be a high-stakes contest to persuade the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to relocate its headquarters to a government-owned site in Springfield.

Prince George's and Loudoun County officials have already signaled their interest in providing a new FBI home, a move that is anticipated to come with at least 12,000 jobs and a \$1.2 billion complex.

Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-Large) and Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said the County will lobby its Congressional delegation, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the FBI to move its headquarters to the former GSA warehouse site on Loisdale Road, near Metrorail's Blue Line and the soon-to-be redeveloped Springfield Mall.

"This is our starting point," said McKay after the meeting. "It's an opportunity for the Federal government to overcome the mistake of the BRAC/MARK Center debacle. Our site is strategically located, meets all the criteria, and is a great opportunity for continued robust revitalization of greater Springfield."

"The message we need to send to the FBI is that this is the site that will best allow them to accomplish a very important mission in terms of our national security," said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield.)

In December, the Senate

Committee on Environment and Public Works authorized the GSA to seek a consolidated headquarters, subject to approval and funding by Congress. McKay said renovating or rebuilding in DC is not feasible because of the estimated \$1 billion price tag, and the lack of required post-9/11 security features.

According to the resolution authorizing the GSA to find a consolidated headquarters, the government has to own the land and the location has to be "transit-oriented," within two miles of a Metrorail station and 2.5 miles from the beltway. The FBI needs two million square feet of office to consolidate its network of about 20 satellite locations. Currently, there are about 17,000 FBI employees and contractors at 40 sites across the nation.

"The former GSA site not only meets the needs of the FBI, but gives Fairfax County a valuable new employer and new jobs. The area is located near Metro and the VRE, and prime for redevelopment, and this kind of project could spur that," said Bulova.

"The GSA site is already owned by the federal government. It's adjacent to the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station, VRE, Amtrak, bus service and every highway except Route 66," McKay said. He pointed out that airport access will soon be served by two Metro stations once rail to Dulles is complete.

As for other jurisdictions also competing for the prize?

"You just can't get a better spot than Springfield," McKay said.

Reaching the Unreachable

Inspirational “Man of La Mancha” arrives at Alden Theatre.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

An enduring work of musical theater, the Tony Award-winning “Man of La Mancha” is coming to the Alden Theatre, courtesy of the McLean Community Players. Inspired by Miguel de Cervantes’ “Don Quixote,” it is the musicalized quest of a knight daring to confront wickedness, trying to make the world better.

The musical takes the form of a play within a play as Cervantes finds himself in prison awaiting a hearing before the medieval Spanish Inquisition. Out of his vivid imagination comes forth Don Quixote, an armor-clad, “mad” knight-errant striving ever forward to help others with his side-kick Sancho Panza providing witty remarks along the way.

Director Don Petersen said the show is “admired for the power of its story, the humor in its dialogue and the beauty of its music.” In today’s world when the phrase “it is what it is” is dismissively used to avoid responsibility, “Man of La Mancha” provides “the belief that things should be better than they are, that one man can change a dark and indifferent world.”

“After all, we are not really just helpless and hopeless. If you can dream it, you can make it happen,”

Where and When

“Man of La Mancha” presented by the McLean Community Players at the Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave. in McLean. Performances Jan. 27 – Feb. 11. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$18-\$20. Call: 1-866-811-4111 or logon: www.mcleanplayers.org. Note: Adult situations. Suitable for audiences of ages 16 and up.

said Petersen.

Working with Petersen to bring the production into the mind’s eye are creative artists like Walter (Bobby) McCoy, the musical director and Kayce Allison, choreographer. The production features over 20 cast members and a 14-piece orchestra and a rich score including the iconic “Impossible Dream.”

Mike Baker Jr. plays the inspirational Cervantes/Quixote characters. His Quixote provides deep courage and strong heart as he reaches for the unreachable. “This show still speaks to us today with its timeless message about setting goals and having ambitions. To not be afraid to try to do what you believe.”

For Janice Rivera, playing the role of Aldonza/Dulcinea is a fulfilled dream. Her peasant character has lived a tough, loveless life. She must learn “how to respond to care and love. She just doesn’t believe love can be real or that she is worthy of it. It takes time for herself to allow unconditional love in her life.” Nathan Tatro plays Sancho Panza, bringing his character’s antics and comic relief to the evening as he accompanies Quixote on his valiant journey.

The original 1965 “Man of La Mancha” Broadway production ran for 2,328 performances with book by Dale Wasserman, lyrics by Joe Darion and music by Mitch Leigh.

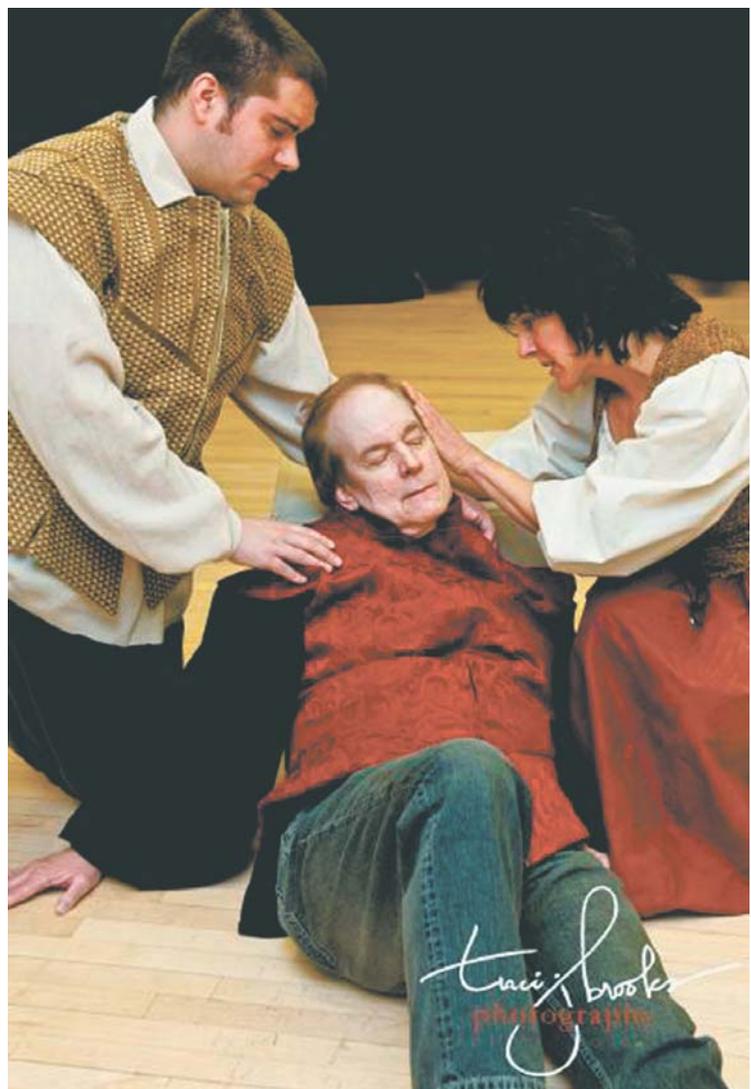


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MCLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

From left, Nathan Tatro, Mike Baker Jr. and Janice Rivera in the McLean Community Players’ production of the “Man of La Mancha.”

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NEWS

Woman Sets Commercial Building Fires

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department fire investigators charged an adult female, Thursday, Jan. 12, with intentionally setting multiple fires in a commercial building in the McLean area. Fire investigators charged the 33-year-old Arlington resident with burning an occupied commercial office building in the 1300 block of Dolly Madison Boulevard over a period of several weeks. The fires were primarily set in mechanical rooms and bathrooms.

Damage totals are estimated at \$500. She is being held at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center on \$10,000 bond.

MCC Receives Community Partner Award

McLean Community Center has received a Community Partner Award from the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia, Inc. (ECNV). Every year, ECVN presents an award to a community partner that goes "above and beyond" to make the community more accessible to people with disabilities. The award was presented at the organization's Annual Meeting on Dec. 16, 2011.

The award reads "In recognition of its support for the community integration of citizens with disabilities, which has demonstrated by the establishment of a Specially Adapted Resource Club (SPARC) program for youth with autism at the Old Firehouse Teen Center."

SPARC provides dynamic and enduring learning opportunities for adults with life-long disabilities in a community setting. The nonprofit organization, in partnership with Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services' Therapeutic Recreation Division, gives club participants the opportunity to make self-directed choices. The new club at OFTC meets from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

For more information, contact the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

Wolf to Kick Off Campaign

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WEEK IN MCLEAN

FROM PAGE 5

kick off his 2012 re-election campaign at his biennial "Birthday Party" celebration on Jan. 26 at the Washington Dulles Airport Hilton.

The event starts at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$30 each. To make reservations, contact the Wolf for Congress Committee at 703-817-9691.

Wolf, the most senior of Virginia's 11 members of Congress, has been involved in nearly every major transportation initiative in northern Virginia over the last 30 years,

including reducing HOV restrictions on I-66 and getting the full funding to complete the original 103-mile Metrorail system. He played a key role in securing the funding to replace the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and has been the driving force behind the effort to extend rail to Dulles airport and Loudoun County. He also pushed for the additional westbound lane on I-66 inside the Capital Beltway, which is now open, and worked to permanently open the Monument Avenue and Stringfellow Road slip ramps on I-66. In addition, he continues to draw attention

to the high tolls on the Dulles Greenway and is a vocal proponent for distance pricing on the road.

Wolf was re-elected in 2010 with nearly 63 percent of the vote.

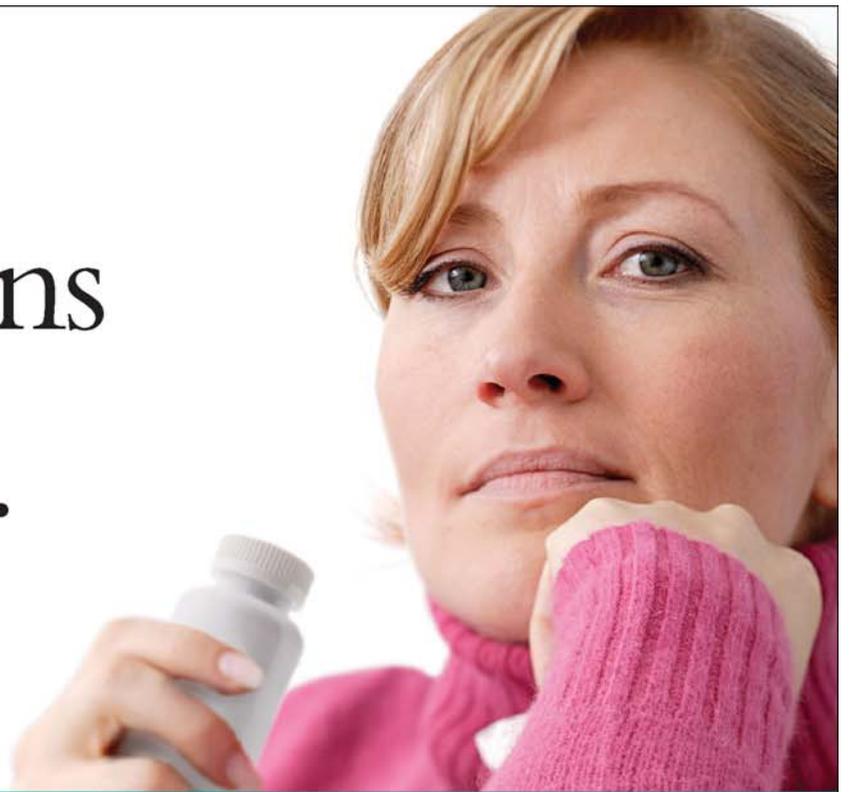
Acentia Comes to Area

Gov. Bob McDonnell announced that Acentia, a premier provider of technology and management solutions to the federal

government and commercial markets, will invest \$3.1 million as it moves its headquarters to Fairfax County from Montgomery County, Md. The move creates 60 new jobs in Fairfax County.

Acentia is moving its headquarters to 3130 Fairview Park Drive in the Falls Church area. Nearly 200 employees will occupy two floors of the 46,000 square-foot office space. The Fairview Park business campus also is the headquarters for three Fortune 500 companies: CSC, General Dynamics and Northrop Grumman.

When two aspirins just aren't enough.



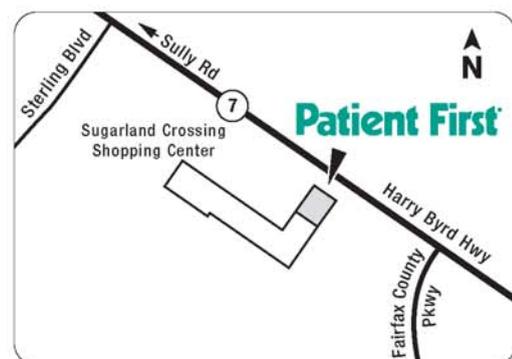
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Shopping Bags' History

McLean resident's bag collection presents history 'worth preserving and telling.'

BY CYNTHIA CROSS
THE CONNECTION

To most people, the shopping bag is the most mundane of objects, used and then quickly forgotten about once the contents are removed. But to McLean resident Howard Forman, the shopping bag represents infinitely more: a cultural icon, a fragment of history, a piece of conveyable art, an emotional tie to the wife he lost to cancer three years ago and right now, a very, very absorbing hobby.

Forman is the dedicated caretaker of a vast and impressive collection of bags begun by his wife Lee in the early 1970s and meticulously built by the couple over the next 40 years into its current imposing size, which Forman estimates at over 7,000 items. A portion of these reside in Forman's historic McLean home, originally a farmhouse built in 1854 and rumored to be a stop on the Underground Railroad. Bags fill dozens of countertops, shelves, tables and other surfaces, and bag-shaped lamps, sculptures, trinkets, paintings and other artwork adorn the floors and walls of nearly every room. But the bulk of the collection is housed above Forman's garage, in several temperature-controlled and fireproofed rooms where Forman is consumed by the seemingly endless task of cataloguing the enormous - and still expanding - collection.

THE COLLECTION was born as a series of Bloomingdales bags that Lee Forman accumulated when she worked at the department store in White Flint, Md. beginning in 1971. "She didn't see it as a collection at first," says Forman. "Like a lot of people she kept the bags just because she liked them so much." But the bags quickly multiplied well beyond department store-issue. When the family sold its wholesale liquor business in 1999, the Formans gained both the time and the means to acquire serious collector's items and to build an enormously varied collection that today includes items dating from as early as the late 1800s and originating from as far away as Helsinki, Finland.

There are bags from nearly every presidential election campaign since 1948 (Forman lent five of those - two from the Barry Goldwater campaign and one each from the campaigns of Hubert Humphrey, George McGovern and Bob Dole - to the Minneapolis Institute of Art for an exhibit during the 2008 Republican National Convention). There are bags produced and signed by famous artists including Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein; there is an Elvis Presley-autographed bag that once held a cheeseburger, and one containing a 45 rpm record signed by all four Beatles. There are bags with themes from sports (the 1952 Olympics) to world events (Queen

SEE SHOPPING BAGS. PAGE 13

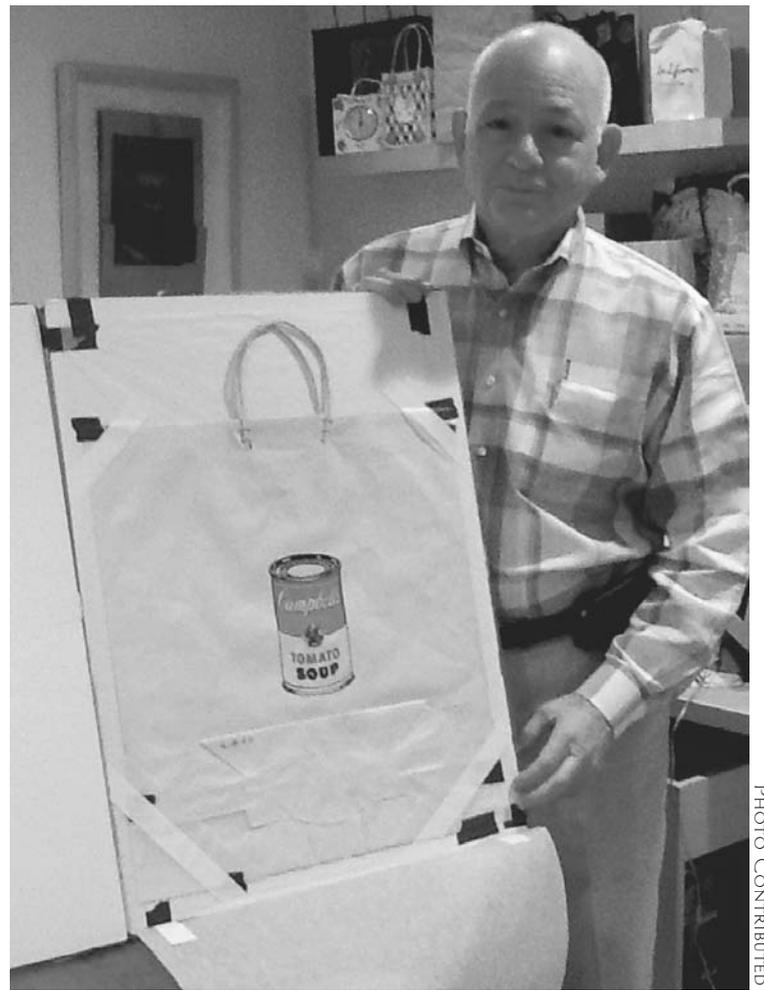


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Howard Forman holding a bag produced and signed by Andy Warhol, with the image of his iconic Campbell's Soup can.

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THE
CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

OPINION

Building on Pro-business Culture

New industry sectors are critical to Fairfax County's continued economic success.

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Sharon Bulova

critical element in the county becoming the economic engine of the Washington area as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia. And, of course, the commercialization of government technology, including the Internet, has also helped create businesses and jobs in

Fairfax County.

We are proud that 66 of the nation's 100 largest government contractors have a presence in the county, including 22 that are based here. Government contractors employ Fairfax County residents and perform some of the most vital tasks required by the nation.

Of course, no community can sustain itself over time unless it has a diverse economy. Fairfax County will continue to foster the business-friendly climate that has attracted so many corporate relocations in the last several years, and we will continue to welcome government contractors to our community. But, we also will redouble our efforts to attract companies from a wide array of appropriate industry sectors to diversify our economic base.

The county, working through the Economic Development Authority, has in recent years landed the headquarters of high-profile large employers that are helping us diversify our economy. Volkswagen Group of America and Hilton Worldwide give us important inroads in the automotive and hospitality industries, for example. Most recently Bechtel, one of the largest engineering and construction companies in the world, announced it would relocate its global operations headquarters to Fairfax County. That is the kind of progress that the county can build upon for future economic success.

In my inaugural speech, I also referred to a business owner who moved his IT firm to the county. He told me how much he liked the mood here and that he wanted to be in a place where people enjoy what they do and are "charged up" about their work and their community. Our corporate leaders, like our residents, appreciate that, during these challenging times, Fairfax County has developed and improved on our pro-business culture. That will continue to be important in these difficult times as we look for new opportunities to improve the economic stability of the county in 2012 and beyond.

Sharon Bulova chairs the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

In the speech I gave Dec. 13 as I was sworn in as chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I quoted Albert Einstein, who said, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." The continuing economic problems that afflict the nation, and the federal budget cuts that could take effect soon, provide Fairfax County an opportunity to continue the significant and diversified economic development successes of the past several years.

Fairfax County is fortunate to be at the doorstep of the nation's capital. Our proximity to Washington has made us a natural base for companies that want to do business with the federal government, and our ability to attract and retain government contractors has been a

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Playing by Rules

To the Editor:

Much has been said in recent days about the Republican Presidential primary ballot and the news that only Mitt Romney and Ron Paul have been certified to be placed on the ballot by the State Board of Elections for the March 6 primary election.

To understand what happened, the process must first be understood. State law is very clear that to be certified, a candidate must obtain on petitions the signatures of 10,000 qualified voters in Virginia with at least 400 in each congressional district.

Again, by the law the state political parties are required to examine the submitted petitions, verify that the minimum threshold is met and issue certifications for those who meet these requirements. The process is well defined in the Code of Virginia and all of the Republican candidates were made aware of these requirements which, incidentally, have been in place for a number of years.

The real question now is why did the results turn out as they did? Some have suggested that the State Board of Elections and Republican Party manipulated things to produce these results. From the understanding which I obtained from news reports, two candidates (Romney and Paul)

submitted petitions and met the 10,000 valid signatures requirement and two other candidates (Gingrich and Perry) submitted petitions but "did not come close to the 10,000 valid signature threshold," to quote from a statement provided on the website of the Republican Party of Virginia.

The other three candidates (Bachman, Santorum and Huntsman) did not submit any petitions and, therefore by default, did not meet the requirement to be certified. I am confident that the State Board of Elections and the Republican Party believe in the "rule of law." It is my opinion that they did their very best to follow the intent and spirit of the law in carrying out the proscribed process.

I believe it is regrettable that only two candidates qualified but all of the candidates knew the requirements of the law. If people have questions about the fairness of the situation, I suggest they immediately contact their Delegate and State Senator to initiate amendments to the law (Section 24.2-545 of the Code of Virginia). The law specifies the process and if you are not satisfied with the results of that process, then you should work to change the law.

Anne Damon
Fairfax



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Volunteering on MLK Day

Talia Schmitt, 16, of Fairfax, helps Tyler Prevett, of Vienna, and his children James, 5, and Jessie, 3, make compost boxes on the campus of George Mason University on Monday morning. Talia was volunteering for Volunteer Fairfax's third annual Family Volunteer Day in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

McLean CONNECTION

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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. 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.

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.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed and strength is gained. 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students.

bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.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.

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and children. Rev. Kathleen Card, Pastor. 703-356-7100 or www.ChesterbrookUMC.org.

A **Centering Prayer Group** meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at mmthomas211@hotmail.com or call the church at 703-759-3509.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

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PHOTO BY CHRISTIE ZEPEDA, PHOTOGRAPHY

Isabel Vasquez, Charlotte Smith, Conor Powell, Avery Dick, Katrina Dubee, Clara Godard and Sarah McCutcheon practice yoga at Sun and Moon Yoga Studio in Arlington.



PHOTOS BY JIM VECCHIONE

Yoga students, including Maya Ettleson (center) practice a downward dog tunnel at Budding Yogis studio. Experts say yoga is good exercise for children.



Akari Davidson, Eva Schulman and Joey Schulman practice goddess pose at Budding Yogis studio. Yoga has been credited with improving focus and concentration in children.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOKID

Children take a YoKid yoga class in Alexandria. Teachers keep young students engaged by adapting traditional yoga poses for children. Classes often end with a relaxation exercise.

The Yoga Generation

Yoga credited with relieving stress, boosting self-esteem and improving grades in children.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Hannah Ticardi deals with the pressure of competitive soccer games or rigorous science classes by striking a pose. The 16-year-old Vienna student usually prefers downward facing dog or cobra.

"It is really important to have a stress reliever, and yoga is really good for that," said Ticardi who is an 11th-grade student at James Madison High School in Vienna.

Katherine Harris, who has practiced yoga since middle school, agrees. "What I like best about yoga is the feeling I have after class where I feel like I'm floating," said Harris, a high school junior who takes classes at Sun and Moon Yoga Studio in Arlington.

Ticardi and Harris are part of a generation of children who are growing up with yoga, the practice impacting their lives from in utero through high school. Most studios now offer prenatal classes as well as instruction for toddlers, elementary, middle and high school students.

"When I visit my prenatal students in the hospital after they have their baby, I can pick up the newborn child and they almost al-

ways take a deep breath and say 'om,'" joked Luann Fulbright of Dream Yoga Studio and Wellness Center in McLean.

Aficionados, educators and researchers credit the discipline for addressing issues ranging from self-control to self-awareness. A study conducted by researchers at the California State University, Los Angeles' College of Education showed that regular yoga practice boosted students' self-esteem and improved their physical health, behavior and academic performance.

"It is amazing to watch what happens with these children. Their focus and concentration is improved," said Dawn Curtis, owner of East Meets West Yoga Center in Vienna.

Yoga classes for middle and high school students incorporate exercises that deal with issues like peer pressure and body image. "We use warrior pose, for example, where kids come into the pose with their arms stretched up to the ceiling or out to their sides, and we say 'Feel how strong you are,'" said Annie Moyer of Sun and Moon Yoga Studio in Arlington. "It is a gesture of opening oneself up to the world and creates the feeling of real confidence."

Instructors say it's good exercise.

"It helps them to get physically fit," said Freddy Margolis of Village Yoga in Potomac.

SISTERS Joey and Eva Schulman, who practice at Budding Yogis studio in Washington, D.C., agree. "My favorite yoga pose is eagle pose, said 11-year old Joey. "It challenges your body to balance, to twist and to be strong all at the same time."

Eva gets a charge from the down dog tunnel. "You have to run, stretch into downward dog and then hold that pose for a long time. It's like a cardio, stretch and strength workout. I like it because it challenges all of your body," said the 14-year old.

Classes are structured to appeal to children at each age group. "For smaller children, everything is done on a theme. Sometimes classes are themed around the holidays or seasons or animals or stories," said Curtis.

Moyer's young yogis often pass a swath of brightly colored fabric across the room by balancing it on their heads or grasping it with their elbows. The object is for the students to work in tandem to get the cloth from one side to the other without using their hands.

"We're all pursuing this goal together," said Moyer. "It is a group effort. It's team building. None of the games we play are about winning. We all win. Some of the things kids do at school are goal oriented and have a component of pressure and stress. In yoga, there is never anything that you have to

achieve or attain except for a good feeling inside."

Teachers keep students engaged by using age-appropriate language and adapting traditional yoga poses for children. "We learn poses that relate to nature or animals," said Cynthia Maltenfort, an instructor at Sun and Moon Yoga in Fairfax. "There is a lot of interaction and developing a connection with themselves and with each other. We start to address feelings and emotions."

Each class ends with a relaxation technique often referred to as shavasana. "We teach them how to calm themselves," said Moyer. "They lie down or curl up and listen to a story, a poem or music. Often, the most fidgety kids you've ever seen in your life will just chill and let go of everything when you set the right tone."

Many yoga studios also host yoga summer camps and yoga birthday parties. There is also yoga for families. "Family yoga classes give parents and children a chance to be together in a supportive, non-threatening, non-hierarchical way," said Fulbright. "They can just interact and enjoy each other without the parents having to discipline. There's lots of laughter and lots of fun. You build a stronger, healthier connection with your child."

SOME LOCAL SCHOOL officials have embraced yoga for children. Potomac Elementary School students are offered yoga classes from instructors at Village Yoga in

Potomac.

"I believe that exercise and relaxation techniques should start at a very early age," said Linda Goldberg, principal of Potomac Elementary School. "Children will enjoy exercise throughout their lifetime when they experience pleasurable learning when they are young."

YoKid, a non-profit organization that makes yoga available to at-risk and underserved youth, also deploys instructors to a growing number of public schools in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and the District.

"I have some teachers who, when the class is getting too busy, say to the students, 'Stand up and everybody take some deep breaths,' and they do a yoga position, sometimes just to calm children down," said Marjorie Myers, Ed.D., principal, Francis Scott Key Elementary School in Arlington. "We have an after-school yoga class that the parents put together, and there is a family yoga night where parents come in with their children and everybody does yoga together. One of the pluses is that these activities have demystified yoga for the children."

YoKid runs Key's after-school yoga program. Alexandria resident Michelle Kelsey Mitchell, the program's co-founder and executive director, says yoga's principle of self-acceptance can help boost self-esteem and confidence. "In yoga, kids don't have to prove anything to anybody. They can just

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

come and be who they are."

YOGA HAS BEEN criticized for having religious overtones. "We often 'om'" at the end of class ... We also say namaste. While the words aren't religious, they can be construed that way," said Linda Feldman, director of Budding Yogis, a studio that caters solely to children. "I tell our teacher trainees that if they're in a public school scenario or where there are concerns over religion, they can use a word other than om or namaste."

As with any physical activity, injury is possible, but preventable. "Sometimes [children's] muscles haven't yet developed to hold things where they need to be, so we have to be strict with them in making sure their alignment is proper," said Margolis.

Instructors say incidents are rare, even among the most vulnerable students. "I've had kids with all sorts of limitations like partial paralysis due to stroke, cerebral palsy, ADHD, Asperger's syndrome and others," said Feldman. "All have been able to practice yoga with no concerns or injuries."

While many doctors agree that

yoga is a healthy practice, they say the benefits children get from yoga can also be found just as effectively elsewhere. "The good thing is that there [are] a variety of cost-efficient and simple ways for children and teens to relax and unwind," said Kristin Anderson, M.D., M.P.H., family and preventive medicine physician for Molina Healthcare, Community Health Care Network clinic in Reston. "Going on walks as a family can also help everyone get the exercise they need as well as spend quality time together while they de-stress. This can help kids and their parents improve posture, relieve anxiety, practice deeper breathing, build lungs and stretch muscles."

But Ticardi, who is planning for college and preparing to take the SAT this spring, believes that yoga is the best stress reliever for her. In fact, she approached Curtis about starting a Yoga club for teens at East Meets West Yoga Center. Curtis agreed and will begin classes later this month.

"It's nice to have an hour every week where I don't need to think about anything but my breath," said Harris.

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Allen Declares War on Unions

Seeking his old Senate seat, former governor goes on the offensive against organized labor.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Hoping to capitalize on anti-union sentiment in Virginia this year, Republican George Allen is giving labor issues a starring role in his bid to recapture the Senate seat he lost to Jim Webb in 2006. In a meeting with Connection Newspapers reporters and editors, Allen proposed a series of specific measures to undercut the power of unions. The agenda would undercut the power of the National Labor Relations Board, prohibit mandatory labor agreements on federal projects and ensure secret ballots before a labor union can be created.

“Unions are a big part of the Democrats’ political operation,” said Allen. “There’s no secret about that.”

Allen says the series of proposals were inspired by the National Labor Relations Board’s lawsuit against airline manufacturer Boeing, which sought to punish the company for locating a new plant in South Carolina in retaliation for strikes by unionized workers at its existing facility in Washington state. The lawsuit was dropped last month, but Allen and other Republicans are now hoping to capitalize on the issue on the campaign trail.

“This is an issue that hits a sweet spot for Republican voters,” said Kyle Kondik, political analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. “So it certainly helps him in the primary against Jamie Radtke. It remains to be seen whether it’s something that would appeal to voters in the general election against Tim Kaine.”

ALLEN SAYS the freedom to work is “under assault,” and repeatedly used the lawsuit against Boeing as a reason for the federal government to take decisive action. But Allen’s agenda is broader than simply undercutting the power of the National Labor Relations Board. He would also like to amend the National Labor Relations Act to prevent workers from being compelled to pay union dues or fees to get or keep a job, essentially expanding Virginia’s Right To Work law nationwide. He would also work to guarantee that workers have the opportunity to cast secret ballots before a union can be organized.

“None of George Allen’s proposals would help workers in Virginia like me in any way,” said Karen Conchar, Fairfax County employee and member of Local 5 Service Employees International Union. “Taking away



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Former governor George Allen discusses campaign issues as candidate seeking the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate.

“Unions are a big part of the Democrats’ political operation. There’s no secret about that.”

— George Allen

rights at the workplace doesn’t help the middle class put food on the table or pay the mortgage, and it doesn’t help businesses create good jobs.”

As governor in the 1990s, Allen says he saw firsthand how the commonwealth’s Right to Work Law helped encourage investment and expansion of business in Virginia. If elected to the Senate, he says, he wants to advance an agenda to undercut the power of unions in a way that would help businesses create jobs, save taxpayers money and protect the liberty of non-unionized workers. One of his goals would be to repeal the Davis-Bacon wage laws that he says diminish competition and inflate costs to taxpayers for construction when the federal government is involved. Ultimately, Allen said, he’s hoping that voters send a mandate for action.

“The reality is that it matters who the president is,” said Allen. “President Bush didn’t allow project labor agreements. This president is all for them.”

ONE OF ALLEN’S proposals would have particular resonance in Northern Virginia: It would prohibit the federal government from entering into mandatory project labor agreements, a collective bargaining agreement that establishes terms and conditions for a specific construction project. These are frequently large-scale infrastructure projects, such as bridges or Metro expansion to Dulles International Airport. Allen says that taxpayers would get more bang for their buck if the federal government was prohibited from engaging in collective bargaining on these projects.

“The reason you don’t want to have these is that they increase the cost of a project, on average by 22 percent,” said Allen. “You

have less competitive bidding.”

Union groups dispute this notion, questioning if taxpayers would really save money by hiring low-wage workers. Supporters of project labor agreements say unionized workers are paid more money because they produce better work. As a result, supporters say, they also create infrastructure that is less likely to break down or fail — sometimes with catastrophic consequences.

“Sometimes what you see is that without project labor agreements you end up with a more exploitable workforce,” said Julie Hunter, spokeswoman for the Virginia AFL-CIO. “These are workers that tend to not have the same training that the union workforce has.”

ALLEN’S OPPONENTS don’t have much to say about his specific proposals. Campaign officials for Jamie Radke, the Tea Party candidate hoping to challenge him in the Republican primary, declined to respond to multiple requests for an interview. Her campaign website says she would oppose laws that would require a worker’s secret ballot in union elections. The site also says she would support Virginia’s Right To Work Law and oppose collective bargaining between government entities and public employee organizations and unions.

“The fundamental right to associate with those we choose assures workers the right to form labor organizations,” Radke said in a written statement on her campaign website. “However, this fundamental right of association also guarantees the individual the right not to associate.”

If he’s successful against Radke, Allen will face former Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine — pitting two former governors against each

other in a Senate race. Like Allen, Kaine also supports Virginia’s right-to-work law. When contacted about Allen’s labor proposals, the Kaine campaign issued a statement saying that the former Democratic governor upheld the law as governor and will continue to support states’ rights to establish their own rules on this issue as senator. The campaign did not respond to a request to address Allen’s specific proposals.

“The answer to our economic challenges is not tinkering with workplace rules, as George Allen suggests,” said communications director Brandi Hoffine in a written statement. “The real answer is building a high-talent economy by investing in education and workforce development.”

ALLEN’S SUITE OF PROPOSALS will pit traditional political opponents against each other, labor unions and their Democratic allies on one side and business leaders and allies in the Republican party on the other. What’s different about this election is the recession, with the unemployment rate in Virginia currently at 6.2 percent. Another difference with this election cycle is the growing Occupy movement, which seeks to cast a spotlight on the same wealth inequality that gave rise to the original labor movement in the late 19th century. Now, Allen says, it’s time to move away from that model and adopt a more free-market approach.

For voters in Northern Virginia, the stakes are high.

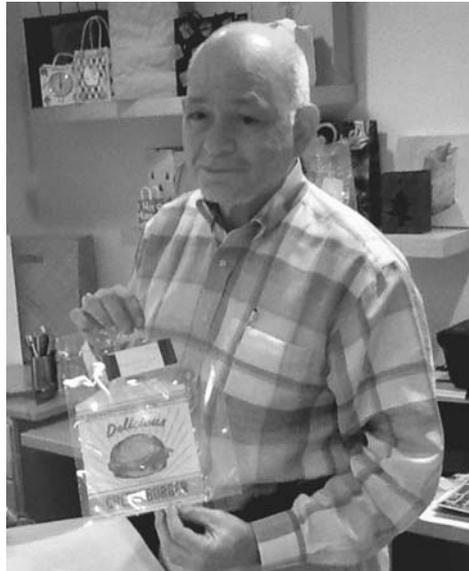
“This artificially increases the costs and it also ends up with less competition so you end up with a higher cost to the taxpayers,” said Allen. “If you look at the Metro extension to Dulles, the ones who will ultimately have to pay for these unnecessarily higher costs will be the taxpayers.”

Museum of Shopping Bags Considered

FROM PAGE 7

Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee in 1977, and the 1981 English Royal Wedding) and bags made by companies from Apple to Fendi to Hermes. There is a book on cooking with paper bags published in 1911 and a rug made from plastic bags, and there is an original model of a bag-making machine used for a patent issued in 1863. The variety is breathtaking, but what all the items have in common, Forman points out, is their connection to history. "All these pieces represent history to be preserved," he says.

To that end, the Formans set out in 2002 to start a museum of bags. They formed a non-profit entity for that purpose and spent the next several years researching what it would take to open and maintain a museum. Recognizing the need for substantial outside funding not only for the museum's opening but for its upkeep, they launched the museum's website (www.museumofbags.org) in 2007, hoping to attract donors. It was about this time that Lee Forman was diagnosed with cancer, and the museum idea stalled. Since her death in March 2009, Howard has continued collecting in her memory, and is still exploring possibilities for permanently exhibiting the collection. He did meet with two Smithsonian officials who were intrigued by the collection. "The person in charge of political objects on display at the Museum



Howard Forman holding a bag autographed by Elvis Presley. The bag originally contained a cheese-burger.



Howard Forman in one of his bag storage rooms.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

of American History told me that he'd been collecting political stuff for a long, long time but had never thought about bags. He thought this was amazing."

In the meantime, the collection grows daily.

FORMAN JUST ACQUIRED - from a graphic designer in Wichita - nearly 1,000

bags that now sit boxed and waiting to be analyzed and catalogued. It is a monumental task, but one that Foreman clearly relishes, for two reasons. "The collection," he says, "is a tribute to the work and memory of my wife. She was the force behind it - it was part of what drove her. And second, there is a history in bags that I believe is worth preserving and telling."

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

SATURDAY/JAN. 21

McLean Little League Spring Registration. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. McLean Little League Fields, 1836 Westmoreland St., McLean. www.mcleanll.com.

McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women. 9:30 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With Linda Martin, advisor at Dogwood Elementary in Reston for the GEMS Club (Girls Excelling in Math and Science). Public welcome. 703-536-6498 or www.mcleanaauw.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 24

Providence District Council Meeting. 7:15 p.m. The Library at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Land, Vienna. ProvidenceDistrictCouncil@yahoo.com or www.facebook.com/providencedistrictcouncil.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 25

McLean Community Center Governing Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Tax district residents (Small District One A-Dranesville) who wish to speak during the "Citizen Comment" portion of the meeting are asked to call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY 711 to be placed on the agenda. www.mcleancenter.org/contact/governing.asp.

SATURDAY/JAN. 28

Federal Job Application Workshop. 10 a.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. \$25-\$35. Federal opportunities, federal sources of information, usajobs.gov, federal application process, federal-styled resume and more. komeara@thewomenscenter.org.

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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!



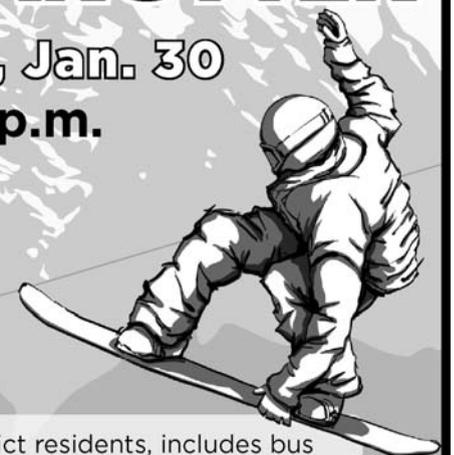
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Elevate your child's Teacher Work Day off with an invigorating trip just for 5th-9th Graders!

SKIING AT MASSANUTTEN

Monday, Jan. 30
8 a.m.-7 p.m.



\$125/\$100 district residents, includes bus transportation, ski rental and lift ticket. Discount rates available for those who bring skis. Please bring money for food and other incidentals. Enjoy an exciting day of skiing in beautiful western Virginia with the Old Firehouse Teen Center staff. Register now at www.mcleancenter.org, Activity No. 8303.312.



The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org



ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 19

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. Chapter 227. 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Leonard Ignatowski will discuss the road building of QL-20 in South Vietnam and his return to QL-20 in July 2011. The general public and all veterans are invited. Free admission. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

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

Christine Lavin. 8 p.m. Barns at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk music. \$20. www.wolftrap.org.

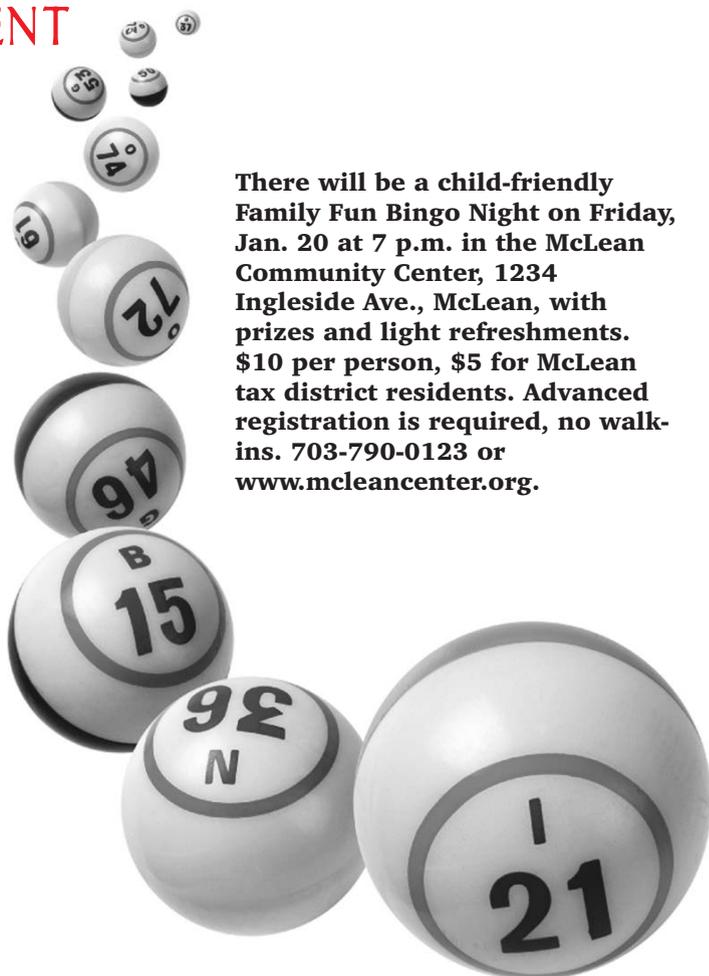
Aztec Two-Step 40th Anniversary Tour CD Release. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 20

"Circle Mirror Transformation." 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. Comedy-drama about four New Englanders in a six-week drama class. \$11-\$13. 703-255-6360 or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

Friday Afternoon Chess Group. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Players of all ages and all skill levels welcome. 703-757-8560.

Family Fun Bingo. 7 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Prizes and light



There will be a child-friendly Family Fun Bingo Night on Friday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. in the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, with prizes and light refreshments. \$10 per person, \$5 for McLean tax district residents. Advanced registration is required, no walk-ins. 703-790-0123 or www.mcleancenter.org.

refreshments. \$10, \$5 McLean tax district residents. Advanced registration required, no walk-ins. 703-790-0123 or www.mcleancenter.org.

Front Bottoms, Mansions and Blind Man Leading at 6 p.m.; Three Legged Fox, Quincy

Mumford And The Reason Why at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 21

"Circle Mirror Transformation." 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. Comedy-drama about four New Englanders in a six-week drama class. \$11-\$13. 703-255-6360 or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

The Songwriters' Association of Washington Concerts. Open Mic 7-8 p.m., Main concert 8-10 p.m. New Life McLean, 1988 Kirby Road, McLean. Songwriters and Americana artists Ruthie Logsdon (Ruthie and the Wranglers) and David LaFleur will be the featured performers. www.goosecreekmusic.com/ruthie-and-the-wranglers.

McLean High School Madrigals 59th Annual Boar's Head Feast. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Stage and musical performances inspired by the European Renaissance and a catered three course, family-style dinner served by members of the "King's Court." The Boar's Head Feast is an annual fundraiser and provides scholarships for choral students; donations accepted. Tickets at boarsheadfeastmclean.eventbrite.com.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Line dance lessons at 7:30 p.m., beginning Two-Step at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Couples and singles welcome. Admission \$10-12. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

VITA Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$50k. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Tom Chapin. 7:30 p.m. Barns at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Singer/songwriter. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

The Beat. 7:30 p.m. Caffe Amouri, 107 Church St., N.E., Vienna. Coffeehouse open mic experience for acoustic music, poetry, singer songwriters, monologues and more. 703-615-2847 or

caffeamouri@gmail.com.
Madi Diaz CD Release and Lucy Schwartz at 7 p.m.; **Along Those Lines, The Chuck Shaffer Picture Show and The Velvet Ants** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 22

"The Human Spirit" Concert. 3 p.m. Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. American Youth Philharmonic with Music Director Daniel Spalding and harpist Dotian Levalier. Instrument Petting Zoo after the concert. \$14 adult, \$10 seniors and students, free age 18 and under. 703-642-8054 or www.aypo.org.

An Evening with Judy Collins. 7:30 p.m. Barns at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Singer/songwriter, performing traditional and contemporary folk, cabaret, show tunes and more. \$45. www.wolftrap.org.

Action Against Hunger with Let's Be Honest, Hit This City and Light Up The Sky at 1 p.m.; **Aer, Ballyhoo! and Poor Man's Copyright** at 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 23

Tiny Tot Time. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Songs, rhymes and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-356-0770.

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

Country Rocker Rick Caballo. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Ayr Hill Garden Club: Winged Wildlife of the Potomac River. 10:45 a.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Cliff Fairweather, Environmental Education Coordinator for the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, will share photographs and information about the birds and butterflies, dragonflies and more. Open to the public. plhweiss@yahoo.com.

Call For Fire, TBS, Theycallmepiano and Rick Caballo. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 24

Tuesday Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Stories, songs and activities. Age 1-2 with adult. 703-790-8088.

Personalized Internet Training. 2:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A 45-minute one-on-one Internet training session with a technology volunteer. Call for appointment. 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.

Castle of Genre, The Howlin Bends, Amanda Badzé and Nor Cator & The Ooh La La's. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 25

Wonderful Woodpeckers. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Discover how birds fly and how woodpeckers stay warm in winter. Presented by Riverbend Park. 703-356-0770.

Ingram Hill, Matt Duke and Sarah Miles. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 26

Griffin House and Matthew Perryman Jones. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Ari Hest with Sarah Siskind. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Indie-folk. \$18. www.wolftrap.org.

Griffin House and Matthew Perryman Jones. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 27

"Man of La Mancha." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Inspired by Don Quixote, suitable for age 16 and older. Tickets \$18-\$20. 703-790-9223 or www.mcleanplayers.org.

River North Dance Chicago. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Jazz-based contemporary dance ensemble. \$21-\$42. www.gmu.edu.

"Circle Mirror Transformation." 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. Comedy-drama about four New Englanders in a six-week drama class. \$11-\$13. 703-255-6360 or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

Animals Underground. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Learn about animals that live underground. Presented by Riverbend Park. Age 2-6 with adult. 703-757-8560.

Friday Afternoon Chess Group. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Players of all ages and all skill levels welcome. 703-757-8560.

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With watercolorist Catherine Hillis as featured artist. 703 790-0123.

Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. An eclectic blend of rock, country, blues, western swing and California honky-tonk \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

Elizaveta at 7 p.m.; **Future Says Farewell To Charlie Bucket** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 28

Grey Seal Puppets: The Emperor's New Clothes. 1:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$10. www.mcleancenter.org.

Crabgrass Puppets: The Lion and the Mouse and Other Tales. 2:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$10. www.mcleancenter.org.

"Man of La Mancha." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Inspired by Don Quixote, suitable for age 16 and older. Tickets \$18-\$20. 703-790-9223 or www.mcleanplayers.org.

Aquila Theatre: Macbeth. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Shakespeare's classic tragedy. \$20-\$40. www.gmu.edu.

"Circle Mirror Transformation." 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. Comedy-drama about four New Englanders in a six-week drama class. \$11-\$13. 703-255-6360 or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

FAMILY FUN BINGO

**Friday, Jan. 20
7-8:30 p.m.**

\$10/\$5 McLean district residents
Children 36 months and
younger admitted free.
Advance registration is required.

Vertical, horizontal, diagonal or
picture frame—whatever your
strategy, join us for this family
fun-filled afternoon of bingo!

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

VITA Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$50k. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Concert from Kirkwood. 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. The GMU School of Music Piano Quartet, with violinist Peter Haase, violist Nancy Thomas, cellist Kenneth Law and pianist Kelly Ker Hackleman, performing works by Mozart, Schubert, and Fauré. Free, reception to follow. kirkwoodconcerts@gmail.com or 703-451-5320.

Merrifield Records Presents: An All Ages Afternoon Show at 1 p.m.; 3MTs at 6:30 p.m.; **The Highballers, The Resistance EP Release and The WeatherVanes** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

McLean Chocolate Festival. 12-5 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Taste the specialties of area Chocolatiers while children play chocolate-related games. \$1 admission, age 6 and under free. Sponsored by the McLean Rotary Club and the McLean Community Center. www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org.

"Man of La Mancha." 2 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Inspired by Don Quixote, suitable for age 16 and older. Tickets \$18-\$20. 703-790-9223 or www.mcleanplayers.org.

Calling Chocolate Lovers!!

An event for the whole family



Games for Kids!
Vendors with treats!
All things chocolate!

McLean Chocolate Festival

Sunday, January 29, 2012 Noon to 5 pm

McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue
(703) 790-0123

Admission: \$1 Children 6 and under are free



Sponsored by the McLean Community Center



McLean
Community
Center
The Center of It All



Here's What's Happening at MCC



@ The Alden

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

Wednesday & Thursday, Jan. 18 & 19, 8 p.m.
\$45/\$35 district residents

Family Fun Bingo

Friday, Jan. 20, 7-8:30 p.m.
\$10/\$5 district residents;
free 36 months or younger



Puppet Festival

Saturday, Jan. 28, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
\$10; children 24 months and
younger admitted free

Calling All Chocolate Lovers!

McLean Chocolate Festival

Sunday, Jan. 29, 12-5 p.m.
\$1; children admitted free



Just in time for Valentine's Day!

5th Annual McLean Jewelry Showcase

Saturday, Feb. 4, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$3, (save \$1 off admission with this ad)

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Highlander Boys Continue to Roll in Basketball

McLean closes 2011 by capturing Bulldog Bash title at Westfield.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

A remarkable 10-game win streak by the McLean High boys' basketball team was snapped last Friday night when the Highlanders experienced a rare defeat as they lost their Liberty District game to visiting Fairfax High, 59-53.

The setback put the Highlanders at 12-2 overall on the season, and 5-1 in district play. McLean had won all of its previous district games this season - triumphs over South Lakes, Madison, Stone Bridge, Marshall, and Jefferson - prior to the loss to the Rebels. McLean was set to wrap up the first half of its district schedule earlier this week when it traveled across town to meet defending district champion Langley on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

McLean's top three scorers in the loss to Fairfax were senior guards Gordon Rogo (19 points) and Sango Amolo (14), and senior forward Thomas Van Wazer (14). The Highlanders built a 14-10 lead after one quarter but were held to just eight second quarter points and trailed 26-22 at halftime. Fairfax, which had a huge game from Zack Burnett (25 points), extended the lead to 46-39 after three quarters and went on to the six-point margin of victory. John Robic contributed 14 points for the Rebels.

Earlier in the week, McLean had extended its win streak to 10 with a 58-46 district win at Jefferson. McLean, which built a 28-18 halftime lead, received a balanced scoring attack which included 14 points from Van Wazer and 13 from Rogo. Other scoring contributions came from Amolo (9 points), senior forward Kevin Lastova (7), and senior guard Daniel Lewis (7).

In district games the week before, McLean had begun the New Year (2012) with home wins over Stone Bridge, 71-64, on Jan. 3, and Marshall, 67-49, on Jan. 6. In both wins, the Highlanders broke the games open with strong fourth quarters of play.

"Both Stone Bridge and Marshall did very good jobs handling our pressure and executing their offenses against us before we were able to extend a lead in both games in the fourth quarters," said McLean head coach Kevin Roller. "We were very fortunate to be up at the half in both games, 40-39 versus Stone Bridge and 35-30 versus Marshall. Both games showed us that we needed to place more focus and energy in our half court defense. We allowed them to get the ball to their spots and both teams made shots. Our point of emphasis has been of-



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Gordon Rogo (23) and the McLean Highlanders had won 10 games in a row before losing a Liberty District home game to Fairfax last Friday night.

fering much more opposition and resistance and not relying on our ability to outscore opponents, as you will not always shoot well."

OVER THE HOLIDAYS, McLean won all three of its games to capture the title at the Bulldog Bash Holiday Tournament, hosted by Westfield High School. The Highlanders defeated Battlefield High (Northwestern Region) of Haymarket, 67-61, in the title game on the night of Thursday, Dec. 29. Van Wazer led the champions with 23 points. Three other Highlanders - Amolo (17 points), Rogo (11), and junior forward Samer Abdelmoty (10) - scored in double figures. The contest was close throughout with McLean leading 19-16 after one quarter, 37-31 at halftime, and 51-44 through three quarters.

Battlefield, which started the season 0-4, had won four in a row going into the finals game against McLean. In the semifinals a day earlier, the Bobcats had beaten host Westfield, 46-45, thanks to a clutch three-pointer in the final 20 seconds.

Battlefield, in the championship, gave McLean a strong game.

"They were most definitely the 4-0 team and not the 0-4 team [against us]," said Roller.

In the win, McLean's Amolo and Van Wazer combined for 37 points. Van Wazer (20 points) was selected as the Tournament MVP and both Amolo (17 points) and Rogo (11) were also named to the All-Tournament Team. Abdelmoty scored 10 points in

the title game win and John Pascoe, McLean's junior center, added six points.

McLean, on the afternoon of Dec. 27, had won its first game of the Bulldog Bash, 65-63, over Potomac High of Dumfries (Northwest Region). The game came down to the final seconds when Lewis, with McLean trailing by one, made a steal of an inbound pass. On the transition the Highlanders missed a shot with about 10 seconds to go, but Amolo tracked down the loose ball in the corner and then connected on a turnaround 18-footer for what proved to be the game-winner with five seconds remaining.

"If he misses that shot, instead of going on to win the tournament we are playing at 9 a.m. the next morning in the consolation bracket," said Roller, of Amolo's clutch shot.

McLean's top scorers in the win were Rogo with 24 points, Van Wazer with 11, and Amolo with 10. McLean had led 18-9 after one quarter before Potomac came back to get within 34-32 at the half. The Highlanders still led by two after three quarters and went on to the hard-fought win.

"The game was back and forth the entire game," said Roller.

McLean, following the dramatic win over the Panthers, came out the following day and played perhaps its best game of the season in a 68-43 victory over Flint Hill School (Oakton).

THE HIGHLANDERS held a double-digit lead before Flint Hill battled back to within seven points early in the fourth quarter. But McLean played outstanding the remainder of the game.

"It was a great run by Flint Hill to close it to seven with five minutes to go, but our seniors were able to get their feet back underneath them and reverse the momentum," said Roller. "But the final score was not indicative of the entire game."

McLean played outstanding defense in the win over Flint Hill.

"We showed our maturity as we changed our normal game plan of pressing and pushing tempo and instead came out in our 1-3-1 zone [defense]," said Roller. "It caused Flint Hill some difficulty and, except for a few possessions, we played it the entire game."

McLean, which led the Huskies 15-4 after one quarter, had solid games from Van Wazer (18 points), Lewis (11), Lastova (10), Rogo (10), and Amolo (8).

McLean, following the semifinals win over the Huskies, went on to defeat Battlefield in the title game.

"It was a well-run and exciting tournament," said Roller, of the Bulldog Bash.

This week, McLean was set to play local rival Langley on Tuesday and will travel to Reston to take on South Lakes this Friday night, Jan. 20.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

McLean Youth Soccer (MYS) Spring 2012 Registration has begun on MYS's website at www.mcleansoccer.org for all returning and new families to the area. MYS offers various programs for children ages four through 18, including Recreation, Travel, McLean Premier Soccer Travel, U5 for Pre-K players, and TOP Soccer for children with special needs. The season will begin the week of March 26 and extend through mid-June. Register no later than Jan. 31 to take advantage of the early discounted registration fees. Contact the MYS Club Administrator at admin@mcleansoccer.org if you have any questions or call the MYS Office at 703-506-8068.

Great Falls Soccer Club (GFSC) Spring 2012 Registration continues on the GFSC website at www.greatfallsoccer.com for returning players and new families in the area. Great Falls Soccer offers a variety of programs for children ages three through 18, including Little Kickers for ages 3-4, Recreational teams for players 5-16, Travel teams playing in multiple local leagues, and an Adult League.

All recreational teams have professional soccer trainers working with volunteer coaches to help develop players. Travel teams are coached by professional coaches. The season begins the week of March 26 and ends in mid-June. Register no later than Jan. 31 to avoid late fees. Contact the Club Administrator at administrator@greatfallsoccer.com if you have any questions.

Great Falls Soccer is announcing Try Us and Love Us program. The travel teams conduct open training sessions year round that are available to children from the U9 through U19 age groups. The club welcomes SFL and travel players from other leagues to try the program out. Children can drop in for a winter practice or a spring practice before the official spring tryouts and see why parents and players alike love Great Falls Soccer Club.

For more information, contact Technical Director, Sam Bader (hussam81@hotmail.com).

The Flint Hill Huskies boys swim team defeated St. Stephens St. Agnes School, 102-55, while the Saints girls beat Flint Hill by a score of 100-71. Double event winners for the Huskies included: Brian DeMocker, Rachel Swarts, and Natalie Brendsel. Single event winners were Rob Ikeda, Allison Kennedy, and Eric Tang.

HOME SALES

In December 2011, 63 homes sold between \$4,000,000-\$138,000 in the McLean and Falls Church area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$4,000,000-\$565,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
7826 SWINKS MILL CT	6	7	3		MCLEAN	\$4,000,000	Detached	1.13		22102	SWINKS MILL
8100 SPRING HILL FARM DR	5	5	3		MCLEAN	\$3,000,000	Detached	0.84		22102	SPRING HILL FARM
8891 OLSON CT	5	5	2		MCLEAN	\$2,025,000	Detached	1.72		22102	BRYAN POND
1318 KURIZ RD	4	4	2		MCLEAN	\$1,922,210	Detached	0.57		22101	SALONA VILLAGE
6196 ADELINE CT	6	5	1		MCLEAN	\$1,873,700	Detached	0.24		22101	HASTINGS ESTATES
931 MACKALL AVE	5	5	1		MCLEAN	\$1,862,000	Detached	0.74		22101	LANGLEY FOREST
1949 MASSACHUSETTS AVE	6	5	1		MCLEAN	\$1,750,000	Detached	0.50		22101	FRANKLIN PARK
1343 BALLS HILL RD	6	5	1		MCLEAN	\$1,532,500	Detached	0.50		22101	LEWINSVILLE
1423 HARVEST CROSSING DR	4	4	1		MCLEAN	\$1,500,000	Townhouse	0.07		22101	EVANS FARM
6353 CHOWNING PL	5	5	2		MCLEAN	\$1,379,000	Detached	0.47		22101	CARLIN PLACE
6500 DEIDRE TER N	5	3	1		MCLEAN	\$1,230,000	Detached	0.47		22101	LANGLEY OAKS
6012 CLAIBORNE DR	5	4	1		MCLEAN	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.46		22101	POTOMAC HILLS
6200 VERNON PALMER CT	5	3	1		MCLEAN	\$1,050,000	Detached	0.63		22101	EVERMAY
6788 STOCKWELL MANOR DR	4	3	1	FALLS CHURCH		\$970,000	Townhouse	0.07		22043	STOCKWELL MANOR
7720 DESDEMONA CT	4	2	1		MCLEAN	\$920,000	Detached	0.33		22102	MC LEAN HAMLET
8220 CRESTWOOD HEIGHTS DR #516	2	2	1		MCLEAN	\$900,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			22102	ONE PARK CREST
7240 EVANS MILL RD	4	3	1		MCLEAN	\$863,000	Townhouse	0.09		22101	EVANS MILL POND
2033 FRANKLIN CLUSTER CT	4	3	1	FALLS CHURCH		\$825,000	Detached	0.24		22043	FRANKLIN CLUSTER
6864 CHELSEA RD	3	3	1		MCLEAN	\$800,000	Detached	0.14		22101	BEVERLY MANOR
6913 BRIGHT AVE	3	3	0		MCLEAN	\$754,000	Detached	0.33		22101	BROYHILL LANGLEY ESTATES
1439 BROOKHAVEN DR	4	2	1		MCLEAN	\$730,000	Detached	0.32		22101	BROOKHAVEN
7103 THRASHER RD	3	2	1		MCLEAN	\$702,500	Detached	0.24		22101	LANGLEY MANOR
6935 HAYCOCK RD	3	2	0	FALLS CHURCH		\$675,000	Detached	0.31		22043	ELLISON HEIGHTS
1154 KENSINGTON RD	4	3	1		MCLEAN	\$675,000	Townhouse	0.04		22101	KINGS MANOR TOWNE HOUSES
6919 CHELSEA RD	3	3	0		MCLEAN	\$670,000	Detached	0.14		22101	BEVERLY MANOR
6823 LEMON RD	4	2	1		MCLEAN	\$669,000	Detached	0.25		22101	DEVON PARK
941 SAIGON RD	5	3	1		MCLEAN	\$650,000	Detached	0.89		22102	SAIGON
1842 LUSBY PL	5	3	1	FALLS CHURCH		\$635,000	Detached	0.23		22043	PIMMIT HILLS
6601 FAIRLAWN DR	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$630,000	Detached	0.24		22101	EL NIDO ESTATES
1433 COLA DR	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$630,000	Detached	0.28		22101	POTOMAC HILLS
6511 IVY HILL DR	3	2	1		MCLEAN	\$624,900	Detached	0.29		22101	CHESTERBROOK GARDENS
2108 PIMMIT DR	4	4	0	FALLS CHURCH		\$620,000	Detached	0.33		22043	PIMMIT HILLS
8220 CRESTWOOD HEIGHTS DR #801	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$595,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			22102	ONE PARK CREST
1910 GREAT FALLS ST	5	2	1		MCLEAN	\$572,000	Detached	0.19		22101	GREAT FALLS MANOR
1900 AUTUMN CHASE CT	3	3	1	FALLS CHURCH		\$565,000	Townhouse	0.07		22043	AUTUMN CHASE

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Local Housing Market: 2011 Mirrors 2010

McLean and Great Falls housing wrap up for 2011.

BY KAREN BRISCOE

The tallies are in for 2011 and in the real estate markets of McLean and Great Falls, 2010 turned out to be "fairer" in terms of the number of transactions compared to 2011, but just by small margins. The numbers practically mirrored each other year over year. Good houses, priced correctly for the current market, sold in both 2010 and 2011.

Looking back, 2010 was a solid year of recovery after the market corrections that occurred in 2008 and 2009. Thus when all is told, 2011 being similar



to 2010 is a good thing. Oftentimes market cycles fall into 7-year interims, from peak to peak. Real estate values in the Northern Virginia market area peaked in 2005-2006. Should this recovery follow a 7-year cycle, then we should return to market peaks in some segments beginning in 2012.

The good news is that the McLean and Great Falls housing market has experienced another year of solid recovery in 2011 in terms of number of sales. It just appears to have taken a small step backward compared to 2010 before proceeding forward. My prediction is that 2012 will prove to be a very solid year for buying and selling real estate in McLean and Great Falls market areas.

Karen Briscoe is a Principal of Huckaby Briscoe Conroy Realty Group in McLean.

McLean & Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales

2011 COMPARED TO 2010 (BASED ON FINAL CLOSED PRICE)

	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$750k-\$1.25 Mil	<\$750k
2011					
22101	5	14	63	157	145
22102	7	11	37	65	171
22066	4	6	55	84	34
Total	16	31	155	306	350
Combined Total		Upper Brackets: 202		Lower Brackets: 656	
ALL SALES 2011: 858					
2010					
22101	8	12	57	156	145
22102	7	17	27	65	186
22066	2	12	69	103	33
Total	17	41	153	324	364
Combined Total		Upper Brackets: 211		Lower Brackets: 688	
ALL SALES 2010: 899					

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Fairfax

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Great Falls

11769 Hollywood Dr.....Call Agent...Sun 1-4.....Glynis Canto.....Keller Williams..703-395-2355
 9123 Maria Ave.....\$1,425,000...Sun 1-4..Dianne Van Volkenburg.....Long and Foster..703-980-4553

Herndon

12124 Eddyspark Dr.....\$499,000.Sun 12-2.....Scott Pearson.RE/MAX Allegiance..703-795-4146

Kingstowne/Alexandria

4717 Poplar Dr.....\$899,000...Sun 1-4.....Rachel Carter.....Coldwell Banker..703-851-4207

Leesburg

18944 Woodburn Road....\$489,900...Sat 1-4.....George Azzouz.Samson Properties..703-728-0843

Reston

11825 Coopers Ct.....\$265,000...Sun 1-4.....Nancy Freeman.....Century 21..703-556-4222

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Left To My Own Devices



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And a lot of good it's doing me. I may be able to do what I want, but I don't really have a clue as to what it is I want to do – or can do. What I am referring to, specifically, are the various electrical “chargers” we now have in our house: for cell phones (smart and stupid), Bluetooth, Kindle, miscellaneous computers (laptop, tablet), etc.; they're almost as much of a nuisance as the stink bugs which every day it seems, still manage to find ways to get into the house. To me, all the cords look alike and, to compound the problem, most of the devices are plugged into the same outlet – for semi-convenience sake. As a result of this convergence, determining – without bending over, which male goes into which female (euphemistically speaking) is becoming increasingly more challenging – and frustrating.

Not that we're splitting the atom here, but more and more, part of our daily routine involves recharging devices and matching up those same devices with their respective male/female counterparts. It's a process that, though not particularly complicated, is nonetheless becoming anything but routine. To further complicate this technological two-step (or three- or four-step – for me), is the fact that the cords are all the same color. In addition to appearing relatively similar, some even fit multiple devices; although not always recharging as we anticipate, leading to a false sense of power security. “Universal” it's not. Moreover, since the cords are generally confined to one electrical outlet (to avoid multiple-outlet clutter), they're often tangled up in black (their color) and not so easily retrieved. To find the matching cord and then to extricate it from its electrical connection on the first attempt without further ado, is much easier said than actually done.

It's almost as if we need a confined, pantry-like area in-home in which to store and stow all the chargers; labeled and slotted on specific shelves. Presently, in my home anyway, when connecting or disconnecting any of these devices/cords, a “tip-toe through the tulips” it's not; it's more like a minefield. If an accidental step or grab is made, there won't be any explosions or loss of life (for perspective), but there still might be some screaming and/or loss of important assets with significant replacement cost to follow. Not to mention data lost – potentially, and lifestyle and/or work complications that together might cause an emotional upheaval the likes of which you've been anticipating and dreading since this 24/7 accessibility/timeline took over and made us all victims of our own electronic devices. Hal from “2001 Space Odyssey” it's not, but we're getting there.

I wish I could suggest an alternative or devise some sort of preemptive pursuit to prevent this inevitable meltdown of man and/or machinery. However, I know so little – as usual, of what I'm theorizing that I'm hardly qualified to offer an opinion. In fact, I probably should be disqualified. However, given the underlying fact that I am an actual victim of these circumstances, perhaps I'm able to think outside the box (from the mouths of babes, so to speak) and arrive at a Seinfeldian-type of solution similar to Jerry's riff on parking garages: colors and numbers are too easily forgettable, he observed on one episode; maybe identifying the areas with more unforgettable phrases/descriptions like “Your mother's a whore or your father was an abusive alcoholic” might help weary shoppers locate their vehicles. My suggestion is less perverse and more sensible, actually. Why not color-code the cords to match a specific device the same way Miss Utility marks respectively, the “underground facilities: buried power, sewer, gas and water” to avoid the inevitable confusion. And of course, “It's The Law. Dig with CARE.” Red, blue, yellow, green, etc. would equate with a specific device and its cord. All color coordinated – for dummies, like me.

As I sift through the cords and devices now, trying to patiently find a match; while considering adding new devices – with their chargers/cords, as technology imposes its inexorable will on me – and society, a solution better be forthcoming. Otherwise, I'll be left powerless – and helpless. Remember, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

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

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JUST LISTED IN SOUGHT-AFTER CHESTERBROOK!

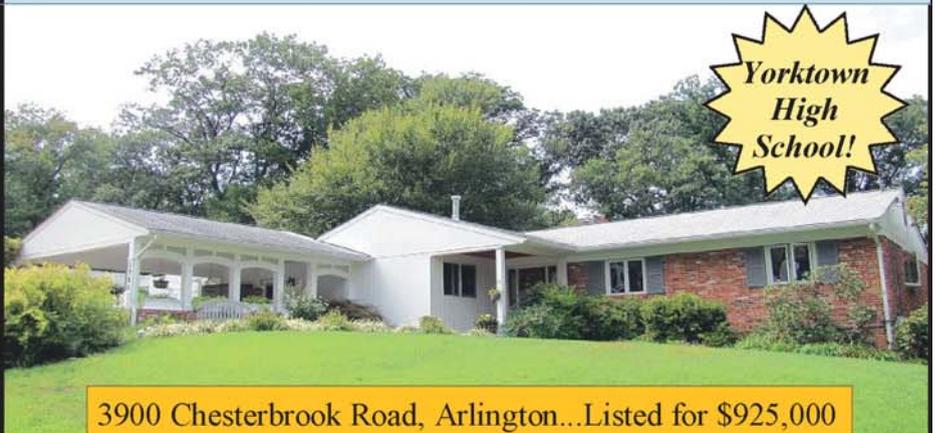


OPEN!
SUN. 1/22
2-4pm

6256 Park Road, McLean...Listed for \$1,299,000

STUNNING 5br/3.5 ba home w/ updates & remodeling throughout! Gorgeous island kitchen w/ granite, tile backsplash, cherry cabinets & hardwood floors; main level great room; luxurious owner's suite; beautiful w-out LL w/ rec rm & office; 1/2 acre lot!

RENOVATED IN GOLF CLUB MANOR!



Yorktown High School!

3900 Chesterbrook Road, Arlington...Listed for \$925,000

BEAUTIFULLY renovated 4br/3 full bath home on 2 levels totally redone from top to bottom! Gourmet chef's kitchen; bright/sunny family room/sunroom addition w/ skylight; luxury owners suite with spa-like MBA; stone hearth gas frpl; dual HVAC; new windows!

BEAUTIFULLY RENOVATED MCLEAN COLONIAL!

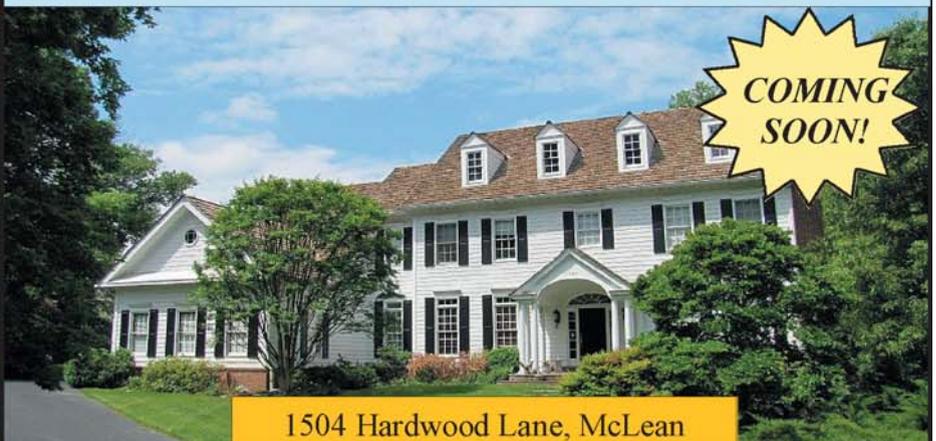


LANGLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT!

6951 Duncraig Court, McLean...Listed for \$1,093,000

All-renovated, 4br/3.5 bath home on 3 finished levels located on nearly 1 full acre inside the beltway! Home feels like you're on a nature preserve overlooking vast, private landscaping! Large, gourmet kitchen; private cul-de-sac location; 2 car garage!

STUNNING COLONIAL IN CHESTERBROOK FARM!



COMING SOON!

1504 Hardwood Lane, McLean

SPECTACULAR 5br/4.5 bath colonial on 3 fully finished levels! Formal entry; large, gourmet island kitchen with eat-in; hardwood floors throughout main; fully fin. walkout LL; spacious owner's suite w/luxury ba & walk-ins; large deck; over 1/2 acre lot; 3-car garage!

JD CALLANDER

TOP 1% OF REALTORS NATIONWIDE
WALL STREET JOURNAL - TOP 100 AGENTS



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OVER 70 HOMES SOLD IN 2011 !

