

McLean Rotary Club Presents Youth Awards

NEWS, PAGE 3

From left, high school seniors Keenan Lidral-Porter of The Potomac School, Zhina Kamali of McLean High School and Sheerin Tehrani of Langley High School are awarded the McLean Rotary Club's annual Youth Service Award Tuesday, March 6.

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Charitable Work

NEWS, PAGE 6

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PAGE 8

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NEWS, PAGE 13

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From left, McLean Rotary Club Secretary Dale Lazar, Potomac School senior Keenan Lidral-Porter, McLean High School senior Zhina Kamali, Langley High School senior Sheerin Tehrani and club President Cherry Baumbusch. Lidral-Porter, Tehrani and Kamali were awarded the club's Youth Service Awards this year.



PHOTO BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

McLean Rotary Club Presents Youth Awards

Three local seniors recognized for 'service above self.'

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Rotary Club handed out its annual Youth Service Awards Tuesday, March 6 to three local seniors who have gone above and beyond in their community service efforts.

Zhina Kamali of McLean High School, Sheerin Tehrani of Langley High School and Keenan Lidral-Porter of The Potomac School were this year's honorees. Each student was awarded \$250 in scholarship money as part of their prize.

"These are people who have already made an impact in our community, and already make a difference," said Dale Lazar, secretary of the McLean Rotary Club. "That's what they're being honored for today."

Kamali currently serves as president of the school's Interact club, which is sponsored by the McLean Rotary Club. Over the past two years, she has helped raise more than \$11,000 for various local charity events. She also serves as president of the school's National Honor Society.

Barrett Kashdan, Kamali's counselor called her a "true natural leader" for her ability to gain her fellow students trust when it comes to leadership roles.

"She has done much to raise money for people around the world, such as for Stop Hunger Now, Empty Bowls and Shelter Box to name a few," he said. "She has been an integral part of Project Enlightenment, which is a historical reenactment program, and last year she spent 60 hours working as a stagehand at the Alden Theatre, which is her passion."

Kamali, who is also active in the school's theater program, says that is how she likes to spend her non-school, non-volunteer time.

"I like being a techie and doing stage work," she said. "I'm still waiting to hear from schools in the fall, and I'm hoping to study business and marketing."

Tehrani, who is fluent in English, French and Farsi, has supported international charity efforts for most

of her life. When she was nine, she organized a charity effort for victims of Hurricane Katrina. In 2010, she organized a benefit concert to support the victims of the 2009 earthquake in Haiti, finding five local bands to perform, promoting to four different high schools and raising more than \$2,000 in relief funds.

She is also involved in the "Light of the Life" program, which provides schooling and education for girls in villages in small rural communities of Iran.

"She's a wonderful member of our student body, she commits to her school community," said Julie McGreevy, guidance counselor at Langley. "Not only is she a great asset to our community, she's a great asset to the community at large."

Tehrani said she hopes to study linguistics in college, and says she's proudest that she's been "able to manage my schoolwork with my charity activities."

Lidral-Porter has served throughout Northern Virginia, tutoring elementary students at the Herndon Resource Center as an underclassman and cooking and serving meals to the homeless at the Embury Rucker Community Shelter in Reston as well as the residents of the Alternative House Teen Shelter in Tysons Corner.

He was also named one of the co-leaders of The Potomac School's Community Service Club this year.

"Innately caring and thoughtful, Keenan does not do community service, he lives his life thinking of others, their individual situations and what he can do to make things better," said Alex Thomas, dean of students at The Potomac School. "He instinctively searches for real solutions to assist those in need, and he is the first to contribute his time and effort, even when it seems he doesn't have another second free... He is guided by a personal compass that allows him to identify and address what is important in his work, and avoid getting lost in what isn't. He's simply never flustered."

Lidral-Porter says he is still waiting to hear back from colleges about next fall, and that while he is undecided about his area of study, he's considering following in the footsteps of his two older brothers by studying math.

McLean Hosts Annual Boar's Head Feast

Choir Department welcomes community to Medieval-themed dinner.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Choral Department presented its annual Boar's Head Feast Saturday, March 10, featuring a three-course Medieval-style dinner and performances by a variety of choral groups.

The Madrigals spent the evening at center stage, with their 16 members donning Renaissance garb and weaving songs from different centuries into a lively program, all told in rhyming verse.

Along with the Men's and Women's Choir, the Madrigals performed carols from Finland and Spain, songs in Latin and Celtic, along with popular tunes from artists such as Queen, Billy Joel and Solomon Linda.

"Performing 'Bohemian Rhapsody,' in all its parts and harmonies, was one of the toughest songs, but the most rewarding," said senior Chris Chen, who played the king. "But it came out well, and that was the product of a lot of hard work."

Junior Wolfe Glick agreed, saying "it was fun to work it out and get comfortable singing it together."

Between songs, the Madrigals told a story of a royal meal cursed by a witch, which causes the king, his queen, their son and his wife to argue with a visiting duchess and her family, as well as the witch and her family.

The event, which raises funds



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, McLean High School senior Taisha Estrada, junior Ben Barton and senior Adrienne Harlow perform in the school's annual Boar's Head Feast Saturday, March 10.

for the choral department's annual scholarships, almost never came to be. Originally scheduled for Jan. 21, the event was postponed when inclement weather closed schools and cancelled activities for the day.

"Up until a month after the original date, we weren't sure that it would even be rescheduled," said senior Nick Stone. "But we're glad we could put the show on, it's a cool tradition."

This was the 59th annual edition of the Boar's Head Feast, which is one of the McLean Choral Department's signature events. The chorus is ranked ninth nationally.



Members of the McLean High School Madrigals perform in the choral department's annual Boar's Head Feast at the school Saturday, March 10.

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SCHOOLS

Oakcrest Announces Recipients of 2012 Veritas Award

Oakcrest School in McLean has announced Juliana Dauchess of Reston and Ruth Talbott of Alexandria as the recipients of the 2012-2013, Class of 2016 Veritas Award. Dauchess, a current eighth grader at Oakcrest, and Talbott, an eighth grader at St. Rita's, were chosen from a competitive applicant pool of 28 eighth-grade students.

"Veritas Award applicants must demonstrate high academic achievement, leadership and character through a rigorous application process," said Ellen Cavanagh, Head of School. "These are the best qualities of successful Oakcrest students." In addition to completing applications for admission to Oakcrest School and consideration for the Veritas Award, an original student project, a letter of recommendation from a non-family member, and a parent statement must be submitted. The award is a \$7,500 tuition remission scholarship to Oakcrest School, which is renewed annually through graduation, as long as the recipient continues to meet award expectations. Veritas recipients also organize a school-wide service project during their junior year.

Oakcrest alumnae are involved in the Veritas application process as candidate interviewers and speakers during the Veritas Reception. This year's keynote speaker, Julie Mitchell, Esq., class of 1990, spoke to the candidates and their parents about the growth of Oakcrest since her time as a student, and the enduring mission of the school to educate women of faith and integrity. "At Oakcrest, we were always reminded to look at what we called the 'BP' — the Big Picture," Mitchell said.

Oakcrest School is an independent school for girls in grades 6-12, guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church. Located at 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Emily Wallach, a seventh-grader at The Langley School in McLean, was chosen to participate in the Virginia Band & Orchestra Director's Association All-District Junior High Band. She earned first chair trumpet.

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NEWS

Sisters Honored for Charitable Work

Rachel and Kelsi Okun are presented with Jefferson Award for Public Service.

BY LORI BAKER
THE CONNECTION

McLean sisters Rachel, 16, and Kelsi Okun, 13, love treasure hunts. They became enamored with them during a family vacation in 2005, and have loved them ever since. And it was their love of treasure hunts and history that led to the creation of ThanksUSA, a charitable organization that raises money for need-based educational scholarships for children and spouses of military members.

Last week, Rachel and Kelsi were honored at a national awards ceremony in New York, where they received the Jefferson Award, often referred to as the Nobel Prize for public service. The girls took the day off of school, caught a shuttle to New York with family members, and accepted the award for founding and helping to run the organization which in six years has raised \$7.5 million and awarded 2,500 need-based schol-



Sisters Rachel and Kelsi Okun were recently honored with the Jefferson Award. The Jefferson Award is considered the Nobel Prize for public service.

arships to military family members. They received an Outstanding Service Award for a Globechanger under the age of 25.

THE GIRLS were excited about

winning the award, and they both were thrilled about what it might mean for the charity. "To be selected is such an honor," said Rachel, a sophomore at National Cathedral School. "And I think it really just pays appropriate tribute to all the people who have worked so hard in this organization."

"It's not really reality yet," added Kelsi, an eighth grader at Longfellow Middle School. "I don't think that it ever will be. It's such a huge step for the charity, not even for us. For the charity to be recognized, hopefully that will help it go even further and gain new awareness and help it flourish even more."

The girls recounted the period after that 2005 vacation, when they sat at the dinner table with their parents and considered how they might raise money through treasure hunts. They wanted to donate any money they raised to a worthy cause. They didn't have to look far to settle on one.

Their friend and neighbor, Lanier Ward (then a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army), had returned from Iraq seriously injured. "I think that was life-changing for us," said Kelsi. She told of painfully watching Ward struggle to pick up his young daughter. "All our lives we've been told that education is the greatest gift you can be given," added Rachel. "I think it was looking at Lanier's family and realizing that horrible paradox. When you're in the military, the income that you're receiving was not going to be enough to give

SEE OKUN, PAGE 7

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NEWS

Okun Sisters Honored

FROM PAGE 6

his daughter the education that she deserved. So we thought if there's one way for us to make sure that she gets to have anything she wants when she grows up, it would be to give her the gift of education in the form of a college scholarship."

Thus, ThanksUSA was born, and with the help of parents, pro-bono legal and public relations assistance, and many others, the idea took off. "It was awesome because when we came back from vacation, when we were sort of thinking about this idea, we ran across that field to tell my third grade teacher about it," said Rachel, pointing to the field adjacent to Franklin Sherman Elementary. Rachel's teacher was Carolyn Ferek, still a teacher at Franklin Sherman, and in fact, one of the many volunteers who help the girls with the venture. Today Ferek is on the board of ThanksUSA.

ThanksUSA invites visitors to play a ten to fifteen chapter treasure hunt game on its website. The hunt often includes games such as crosswords, hidden messages, or word games. Visitors draw on their knowledge of history and network with friends and family to complete each chapter. Those who complete the chapters are entered into a drawing for a prize. And those who complete the entire treasure hunt are entered into a drawing for a grand prize. Former prize winners are often involved in helping to create new treasure hunts. Though the treasure hunt is advertised as being appropriate for ages nine to ninety-eight, the games are plenty challenging.

THE GAME is free, but the hope is that visitors to the website will contribute to the organization, become involved in a fundraiser, or just be made aware of the mission. The website address is www.thanksusa.org.

Rachel and Kelsi's mother, Deanna Okun, said that this venture has changed their family's lives. "Kids have a lot of great ideas, and many of them you cannot pursue, or they are not practical," she said. But "when this came up, it happened to be at a time when we said we should do more, and this might be a time to try this. And I think it's important instilling or setting up a lifetime of thinking about giving."

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY FOR APPROVAL TO RECOVER HEXANE COSTS CASE NO. PUE-2012-00014

On February 3, 2012, Washington Gas Light Company ("WGL" or "Company") filed an application with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") requesting approval to recover \$1,252,580 of costs relating to the non-Btu component of hexane injections for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010, and \$12,908 of costs related to the actual under-collection of non-Btu related hexane costs incurred during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009 ("Application"). In its Application, WGL explains that it has been injecting hexane into its system since February 2006 to replace heavy hydrocarbons in liquefied natural gas that enters the Company's distribution system. WGL's Application advises that pursuant to a Stipulation accepted by the Commission in Case No. PUE-2006-00059, the Company's performance-based rate regulation ("PBR") plan docket, the Company may request approval to recover the non-Btu portion of hexane costs in excess of \$400,000 if the Company's return on equity is less than 10% in any PBR annual period. Under the terms of the Stipulation accepted in Case No. PUE-2006-00059, the cost recovery of the non-Btu component of hexane will be limited to that amount in excess of \$400,000 required for the Company to achieve an earned return on equity of 10.0% for that PBR period under WGL's PBR Plan. The Company's Application advises that for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010, the Company earned less than a 10% return on equity. WGL therefore proposes to collect its actual Virginia-jurisdictional non-Btu hexane costs in excess of \$400,000, or \$1,252,580, as well as an additional \$12,908 of non-Btu hexane costs under-collected for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009.

WGL proposes to collect the non-Btu hexane costs from its customers receiving service under Rate Schedule Nos. 1-Residential Service, 1A-Residential Delivery Service, 2-Commercial and Industrial Service, 2A-Commercial and Industrial Delivery Service, 3-Group Metered Apartment Service, 3A-Group Metered Apartment Delivery Service, 4-Interruptible Service, and 7-Interruptible Delivery Service, 8-Developmental Natural Gas Vehicle Service, and 10-Large Volume Delivery Service. The Company's Application further notes that it proposed new Rate Schedule Nos. 5-Large Commercial and Industrial Service, 5A-Large Commercial and Industrial Delivery Service, 6-Large Group Metered Apartment Service, and 6A-Large Group Metered Apartment Delivery Service in its currently pending general rate case, Case No. PUE-2010-00139. If the Commission approves the Company's proposed rate schedules in its general rate case, the Company will also recover the non-Btu hexane costs from customers receiving service pursuant to these new rate schedules.

WGL proposes to collect its non-Btu hexane costs through an adjustment to the distribution charge for these rate schedules. WGL's Application advises that the hexane charge will be computed on a cents-per-therm basis comprising a current and a reconciling factor. According to the Company's Application, the current factor, if applicable, will be calculated annually by dividing the non-Btu portion of hexane costs approved by the Commission by the total weather normalized throughput for the year. The reconciling factor proposed by WGL will be the difference between the actual amount to be charged and the actual amount collected during the twelve-month period. WGL proposes to implement the current factor as an adjustment to the distribution charge in the first billing cycle month following the Commission's approval of the Company's Application to recover the non-Btu portion of the costs of its hexane injections. The Company's Application also includes testimony and exhibits showing the computation of a proposed charge of \$0.0020 per therm, which will allow the Company to collect the proposed \$1,252,580 of non-Btu hexane costs expensed in fiscal year 2010 and the \$12,908 of non-Btu hexane costs under-recovered in fiscal year 2009.

The details of WGL's proposals are set out in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Application and other materials filed with the Application for the details of these proposals. Interested persons should also be advised that after considering the record in this case, the Commission may change the tariff revisions proposed by the Company or take other actions with respect to the recovery of the non-Btu component of hexane costs that differ from the proposals set out in the Company's Application.

The Commission has entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, docketed the Application as Case No. PUE-2012-00014 and established a procedural schedule for the filing of comments, requests for hearing, and the filing of testimony or a Report by the Commission Staff. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for details on how to participate in this proceeding.

Interested persons may also review a copy of the Application, the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, as well as other documents now or hereinafter filed in this matter, in the Commission's Document Control Center located on the First Floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. A copy of the Application may also be obtained at no cost to interested persons by making a written request to the Company's counsel at the following address: Meera Ahamed, Esquire, Washington Gas Light Company, 101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20080. If acceptable to the requesting party, the Company may provide the Application, with or without attachments, by electronic means. In addition, the Company's Application, the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, other orders entered in this docket, the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, and other information concerning the Commission and the statutes it administers, may be viewed on the Commission's website at: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

Pursuant to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, interested persons may file written comments or requests for hearing with the Clerk of the Commission on the proposals set out in the Company's Application on or before April 27, 2012. An original and fifteen (15) copies of all written comments and requests for hearing must be filed with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. Any request for hearing must state with specificity why the issues raised in the request for hearing cannot be adequately addressed in written comments. If no sufficient request for hearing is received, the Commission may consider the Application based on the papers filed without convening a hearing at which oral testimony is received.

Persons filing a request for hearing and expecting to participate as a respondent in any hearing that may be scheduled in this case shall also file, on or before April 27, 2012, an original and fifteen (15) copies of a notice of participation as required by 5 VAC 5-20-80 B of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 et seq., with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Interested persons should refer to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for more information on how to participate as a respondent.

Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so on or before April 27, 2012, by following the instructions available at the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case> and referring to Case No. PUE-2012-00014. Interested persons shall refer in their comments, requests for hearing, and notices of participation to Case No. PUE-2012-00014, and shall serve a copy of any such document filed with the Commission upon counsel for the Company at the address set forth above.

WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

OPINION

So Hard to Imagine?

Poor families face challenges that officials and many of the rest of us have trouble envisioning.

The Commonwealth of Virginia and even Northern Virginia includes many poor families and individuals. But officials seem to have trouble wrapping their brains around some of the difficulties this can cause.

In Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria, some analysis of the effect of budget cuts and service cuts on families in the bottom 20 percent of income would be appropriate and revealing.

EDITORIALS Cutting library hours and service again? Consider that for many, the public libraries are their only source of computer and internet access. This has a significant impact on school performance, the ability to hunt for a job, the ability to access services and more.

It's hard for many of us to imagine, check-

ing email at stop lights on our smart phones, that there are families who need to go the library to check theirs. If anything, in the current environment, the libraries should be open more hours, not fewer.

When Fairfax County Public Schools eliminated the year-round school calendar, followed by some of the county's poorest schools, and summer school, poor students were most affected, losing access to meals in the summer as well as a needed boost in instruction.

Similarly, some schools systems eliminated the telephone hotline to find out if schools are closed in inclement weather. Everyone checks that online, right? Or gets their daily email update?

Requirements to present a variety of identification to do a variety of things also present

bigger challenges to poorer residents.

Veto Voter ID Bill

Gov. Bob McDonnell should read the handwriting on the wall from the U.S. Justice Department about making it harder to vote.

More than 600,000 registered voters in Texas do not have the identification that the voter identification law would require, according to Tom Perez of the Justice Department, including a disproportionate number of minority voters, and more than 10 percent of Latino registered voters.

The analysis will reveal similar disparities in Virginia. The Governor can save Virginia money, time and trouble by vetoing the bill now.

MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Correction: Last week's editorial failed to correctly identify Del. Charniele Herring (D-46). The full editorial has been corrected online.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clocks Not Turned Back

To the Editor:
"Reenacting A Dark History?" your March 8 editorial, claims that Virginia Republicans want to turn back the hands of time to a more racist and misogynist period in our history. First, the claim that requiring voter identification would suppress minority turnout is simply false. African-American turnout for the 2006 midterm election in Georgia was 42.9 percent. After the photo i.d. law was passed in Georgia, black turnout rose to 50.4 percent in their 2010 midterms. The African-American turnout also rose in Mississippi and Indiana after those states required similar photo i.d.'s for voting. Also, to say that there is no evidence of voter fraud and there is no need to safeguard our elections is simply to ignore the facts. Why just a few days ago, the former West Virginia sheriff plead guilty to stuffing ballot boxes with illegal absentee ballots in an attempt to steal that state's 2010 Democrat primary. This year alone, there have been indictments, prosecutions, and convictions of voter fraud in states ranging from Maryland, North Carolina, California, Texas, Wisconsin and more. Most people don't find it that arduous to produce an i.d. to vote, particularly since they have to produce one to buy alcohol, open a checking account, or pick up concert tickets. In requiring voters to produce an i.d. to cast a valid ballot, Virginia would be safeguarding the integrity of its

elections and joining many other states that have already passed similar legislation. The next charge in the editorial relates to women's rights. First of all, no one is trying to take away a woman's right to vote, as the editorial suggests. And second, regarding the legislation requiring a woman to obtain an ultrasound before getting an abortion, it might interest the readers to know that the Virginia League for Planned Parenthood itself often already requires the hotly debated transvaginal ultrasound before performing abortions. This invasive ultrasound is necessary to establish gestational age, particularly in early pregnancy, and often determines what type of abortion procedure is safe for a woman to have. In some case, a physical exam is necessary which is even more invasive. The dirty little secret is that these ultrasounds and other invasive measures are already being performed by Planned Parenthood and other medical facilities, and are often necessary to ensure that a woman undergoes a safe abortion. So let's not get start blowing things out of proportion. The clocks are indeed not being turned back. Any valid Virginian voter can still vote and safe abortions are still available in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Gina Ryan
Great Falls

Ensuring Integrity Of the Process

To the Editor:
One needs a birth certificate to

play youth soccer and an i.d. presented for many trivial circumstances. Voting for public representation is far too important to treat with less gravitas than youth soccer [Editorial, "Reenacting a Dark History?", The Connection, March 7-13, 2012]. There is a responsibility to ensure the integrity of the process as there is a responsibility to exercise one's voting privilege, among others.

Why is the Connection such a liberal rag?

Brent Emory
Vienna

Upholding Campaign Promises

To the Editor:

Last November's elections are not so distant that we have all forgotten the issues raised by the many candidates for local office. We heard a lot about transportation and education. The candidates competed to portray themselves as the most representative of this area, with voters' concerns closest to their hearts. We sent the elected officials off to carry our concerns to Richmond, the Board of Supervisors, and the School Board, there to be our strong advocates. Have they been doing as they promised? It appears that some are and some definitely are not. Unfortunately, Del. Barbara Comstock falls into the latter category.

To show what's happening at the local level, the most recent Con-

nection carried a report from Sharon Bulova, recently re-elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, discussing the Board's priorities. As promised during the election cycle, the Board is focusing its attention on transportation, fiscal management, and education. But contrast this good news to what is coming out of Richmond. Rather than focusing on voters' concerns, our state legislators have produced bills on personhood, defunding abortions, requiring invasive and unnecessary exams for women seeking abortions, loosening restrictions on gun ownership, and advocating for prayer in public schools. Transportation bills have focused on taking away local control or restricting the types of contracts municipalities can use in seeking bids. Del. Comstock voted for all these measures. With her help, Virginia is becoming the tag line of a national joke. Is this what you voted for? Is this the direction we want to go? Is this what we sent Barbara Comstock to Richmond for? I think I am not alone in responding with a resounding "No!" Election time is not the only time to hold our representatives accountable for their actions. Del. Comstock is heading in the wrong direction. Please join me in urging her to respect the promises she made to her constituents during the campaign.

Cheryl Lindstrom
McLean

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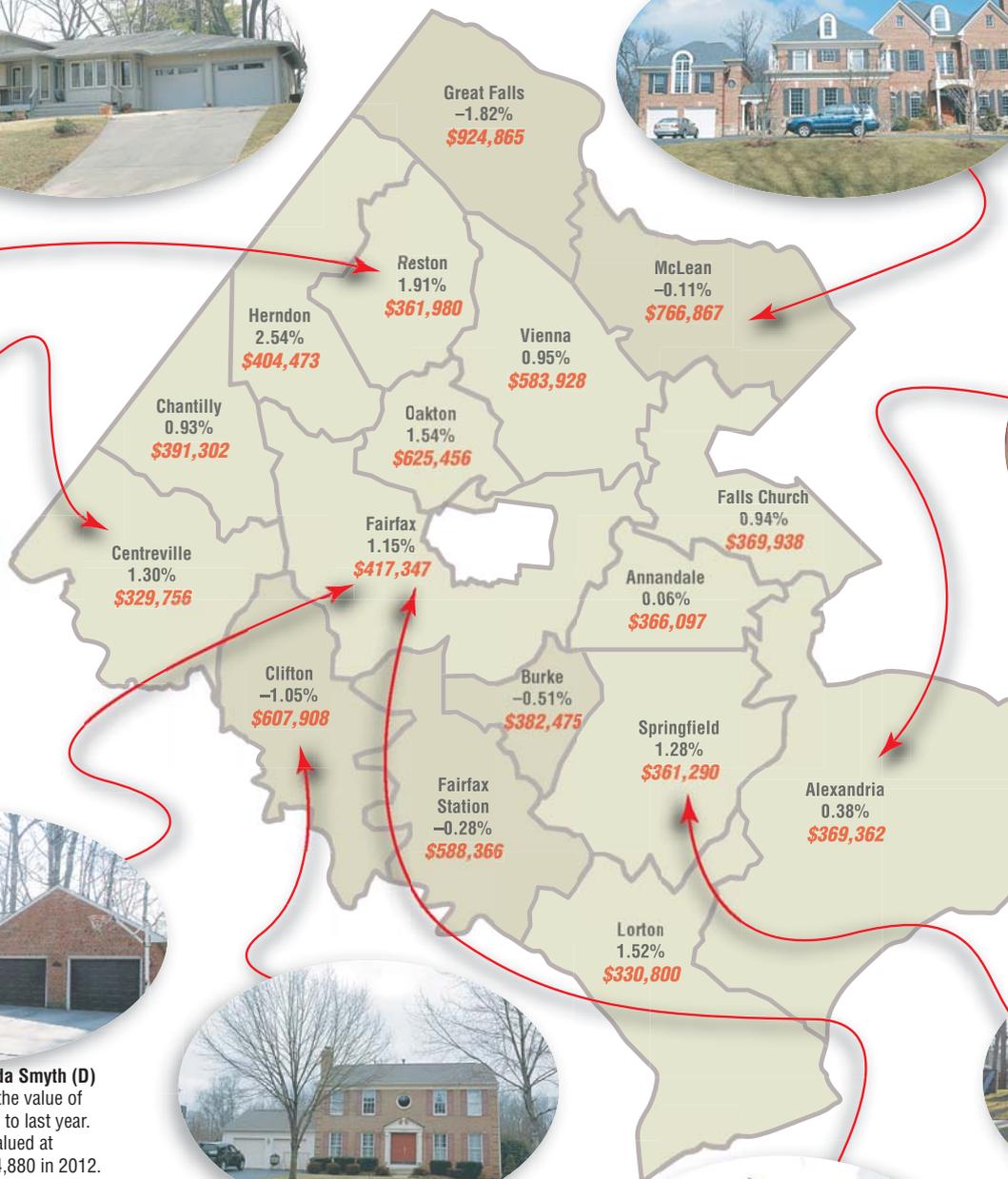
Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

2012 Assessments by Zip Code Areas

Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)** saw her assessment went up 4.60% from \$545,440 in 2011 to \$570,520 in 2012.



Dranesville District Supervisor **John Foust (D)** saw a 5.69% gain in his property value when compared to 2011. The county valued Foust's house at \$2,884,060 last year and \$3,048,110 this year.



Sully Supervisor **Michael Frey (R)** saw a 2.88% increase in the value of his home over the last year. Frey's home was assessed at \$208,480 in 2011 and \$214,490 in 2012.



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)** saw an increase of 9.06% in his home assessment in 2012. Last year, his home was worth \$645,030 and this year it is valued at \$703,450.

Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)** saw a 2.66% increase in the value of her house when compared to last year. Smyth's home was valued at \$482,080 in 2011 and \$494,880 in 2012.



Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herry (R)** was the only member of the Fairfax County board to see his assessment drop this year. Herry lost 1.07% of his home value, taking him from \$525,750 to \$520,120.



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)** has a new home in Springfield assessed at \$556,920 in 2012.

2011 County Average (Percent Change)
 Single Family Detached **\$545,279 (0.70%)**
 Townhouse **\$327,499 (1.20%)**
 Condos **\$212,764 (-0.06%)**



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)** saw her home value remain flat this year. Bulova owns a house in Fairfax assessed at \$591,990 in both 2011 and 2012.

ZIP CODE AREA	2011 MEAN	2012 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria	367,948	369,362	0.38
Annandale	365,880	366,097	0.06
Burke	384,443	382,475	-0.51
Centreville	325,536	329,756	1.30
Chantilly	387,704	391,302	0.93
Clifton	614,353	607,908	-1.05
Fairfax	412,608	417,347	1.15
Fairfax Station	590,022	588,366	-0.28
Falls Church	366,509	369,938	0.94
Great Falls	941,968	924,865	-1.82
Herndon	394,461	404,473	2.54
Lorton	325,838	330,800	1.52
McLean	767,738	766,867	-0.11
Oakton	615,968	625,456	1.54
Reston	355,205	361,980	1.91
Springfield	356,740	361,290	1.28
Vienna	578,417	583,928	0.95

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY



Matthew Moore, of John Matthew Moore Fine Art, in McLean was selected to design the foyer and staircase the D.C. Design House.



Great Falls-based designer Susan Nelson, of Susan Interiors (pictured with design student Jacob Oxford), will design a girl's bedroom.



Annette Hannon, of Annette Hannon Interior Design in Burke, was selected to design the parlor.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT RADIFERA

Local Designers Selected to Makeover the 2012 D.C. Design House

Annual event raises money for Children's National Medical Center.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Some of the Washington area's top interior designers are unleashing their creative talent all in the name of charity. Organizers of the 2012 Washington, D.C. Design House announced the designers

who will makeover the 2012 D.C. Design Home. "The selection [was] open to all area designers who wanted to apply," said Susan Hayes Long, chairperson of D.C. Design House. "They started by coming to a design walk-through to get a feel for the space, and then [submitted] up to three proposals for rooms, with

at least one presentation board. The board [included] their floor plan, color selections, and finishes they would use. Our design team selected the final 23 designers. We had more than 80 proposals this year, and so many fantastic presentation boards. The competition was really tough." The D.C. Design House serves as

a bellwether of local design trends. "Being selected to design for the show house is a bit like being crowned homecoming queen then having to run a marathon in your ball gown while collecting items for a scavenger hunt," said Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey of SCW Interiors in Alexandria, who was one of the designers selected. "It is the most

prestigious invitation... For a committee of veteran designers and industry leaders to select a designer is truly one of the highlights of one's career." With no paying clients to please, the designers unleash their creative talent. "I love participating in show houses for the freedom it allows me," said Annette Hannon of Annette Hannon Interior Design in Burke, who was also one of the designers selected. "For each house

I've had the opportunity to engage in, I've gotten to conjure up an imaginary 'perfect' client and design according to their needs and desires. It's a bit like celebrating one's birthday and getting to create your perfect party." The Washington, D.C. Design House, a nonprofit entity, began in 2008 as a design event in which some of the region's most sought-after designers decorate a luxury home to raise funds for a local

charity. After completion, the home is opened to the public for tours. Now in its fifth year, the D.C. Design House has attracted more than 30,000 visitors and raised nearly \$600,000 for Children's National Medical Center (CNMC). Proceeds will go to CNMC again this year. Built in 1956, the 2012 D.C. Design House is located in Washington, D.C.'s Spring Valley neighborhood. It is currently on the market for \$3.9 million.

Local Designers

Some of the local designers who were selected to makeover the home offer a preview of their plans.

Potomac-based designer Sharon Kleinman of Transitions will decorate the master bedroom. "The room is architecturally challenging with many doors and minimum wall space," she said. "The focal point in the room becomes the sliding glass doors that look out into the garden. I use the garden view as my inspiration. Choosing fabrics in lush greens and warm browns, I brought the colors of the garden indoors. I believe master bedrooms should be serene so I used lots of different textures and very little pattern."



Sharon Munn, of Ambi Design Studio in McLean, was one of 23 designers selected to makeover the 2012 D.C. Design House. She will decorate the master deck.



Elizabeth Krial, of Elizabeth Krial Design in Reston, was one of 23 designers selected to makeover the 2012 D.C. Design House. Krial will design a modern nursery.

Great Falls-based designer Susan Nelson of Susan Nelson Interiors designed a teenage girl's bedroom. "I combined a variety of block and geometric prints in greens, yellows,

pinks, brown and cream to create a cozy haven. By using a mix of new and repurposed furniture, the room has the quality of changing along with the girl," she said. "For instance, the coverlet fabric is a sophisticated fabric with a water color quality to the flowers on it, but the club chair is slip covered in a fun confetti print in pinks and purples that she might have had as a child."

Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey of SCW Interiors in Alexandria is charged with transforming the dining room. "I anticipate wonderful parties and celebrations in the dining room I will be creating this year and my use of color

SEE LOCAL DESIGNERS. PAGE 12

Read a testimonial from Vienna, Virginia, online at WWW.MASTERCRAFTERSOFPA.COM.

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21771 Bancroft Ct.....	\$229,500... Sun 1-4.....	David King.....Long & Foster.....	703-509-5139
Burke			
10041 Marshall Pond Rd.....	\$524,900... Sun 1-4.....	Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster.....	703-503-1812
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All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.

Home Life Style

Local Designers

FROM PAGE 11

and pattern is a play on this celebratory mode. I am thrilled to help people who see the space take away some element in the design that might fit their home or their lifestyle," she said.

Victoria Sanchez of Victoria Sanchez Interiors in Alexandria is creating a teenager's retreat. "I have chosen a very lively, colorful design scheme from Missoni and will be using Mid-Century modern furniture," said Sanchez. "This room is designed to be a perfect hangout for teenagers and will reflect the energy teenagers create."

Nancy Twomey of Finnian's Moon Interiors in Alexandria will design a boy's bedroom. "I love good design, but I also know children. Children's rooms are messy places, so it is best if there is an inherent order in the design elements, starting with the palette," said Twomey. "My 2012 D.C. Design House room has a serene quietude in its bones, but it isn't sleepy. It has timeless, classic ingredients such as menswear fabrics, juxtaposed with modern, playful ones."

Elizabeth Krial of Elizabeth Krial Design in Reston will create a modern nursery. "The most afforded luxury in my space is the natural sunlight that washes the room," she said. "As a designer, I have added luxurious layers of softness and comfort through textiles. The modern nursery has a lightness that will remind you of the hope and joy that a new baby brings."

Matthew Moore of John Matthew Moore Fine Art in McLean will decorate the foyer and staircase. "My design philosophy is clean, classic spaces. My favorite period in design is the late fifties and sixties," he said. "I feel that that is the time when American design came into its own. I've chosen this style for the entrance and reception hall [because] the home was built in that period. It's a sophisticated design that would be as much at home in the fifties as it is now in the present."

Shanon Munn of Ambi Design Studio in McLean will decorate the master deck. "My concept for the space is to have an outdoor retreat,"



The Chateau in Oak Hollow is one of four residential properties for sale for more than \$10 million, was designed by architect, Ron Hubbard, who blends green technologies with the use of space and proportion.

The Chateau in Oak Hollow

One of just four properties in Fairfax County listed at HomesDatabase.com for sale for more than \$10 million, this home sits on five acres in Clifton, and is for sale for \$12.5 million. The other three properties are in McLean.

The Chateau was designed by architect, Ron Hubbard, who uses innovative green technologies such as three geothermal fields and 14 radiant zones using more than 10,000 feet of buried line to heat and cool the home.

This home has more than

27,000 square feet of living space inside (13,500 finished), plus more than 3,000 square feet of exterior living space comprised of balconies and patios. Many of the outdoor living areas are constructed with stamped concrete and provide ample space for large parties, and some for more intimate gatherings.

The property also includes a 3-bedroom guest suite in one wing of the home, and an indoor pool and fitness center in the other. The Chateau has an eight-car garage.

The house is listed by Meghan Wasinger of Jobin Realty.



The parlor is located next to the formal dining room. There are five fireplaces throughout the Chateau (with a potential for 13), set on five-acre estate in Clifton.

said Munn. "I chose pieces that are scaled similarly to indoor pieces and provide a great lounging spot. We chose patterns that are interesting and bold. We plan to take the existing railing, currently an eyesore, and make it a highlight of the deck with a long row of custom benches and pedestals strategically placed to create focal points and to hide the dated metalwork."

Annette Hannon of Annette Hannon Interior Design in Burke designed the parlor. "The [parlor] is the first living area a visitor will enter," said Hannon. "My goal was to create a comfortable, luxurious space someone would want to linger in long after the party's over. I felt it was essential to add layers of interest in the room."

Langley Gears Up For Case Day

20th annual Case Day will debate Miller v. Alabama, Jackson v. Hobbs.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Langley High School seniors are currently putting the finishing touches on their 20th annual Case Day, which will take place Monday, March 19. This year's cases will be Miller v. Alabama and Jackson v. Hobbs.

The cases deal with a fourteen-year-old who committed capital murder, and whether or not it is considered cruel and unusual to sentence him to life in prison. They will be heard March 20, by the Supreme Court, and several Langley students will attend.

"We wanted to get a lot of people involved in this process, especially since it's so relevant to us, which is rare in a Supreme Court case," said Alicia Underhill, one of the event's chairs.

Shams Haidari is part of the counsel, and she said it was difficult to separate from such a gruesome crime.

"The first thing I had to do was reconcile my emotional reaction with what the law says, and every time you take a look at the case, more questions and layers come out," she said. "But it's been a lot of fun to prepare with my fellow counsel, and even ones on the other side. While we know one of us will win and one will lose, we're all just hoping that each other can present the best case possible, it's not too competitive."

MEMBERS of the school's Psychology Club, History Honors Society and Science Honor Society will give presentations relating to the cases. While the History Honor Society will give information about the current Supreme Court Justices, the Psychology Club will examine the development of young minds.

"We want to examine the developmental, the social aspects of things like family life and peer influence on young people," said Nick Rifken, chair of the co-curricular committee and president of the Psychology Club. "We took the position that young people shouldn't be given life in prison, because so much about their life,



Langley High School seniors prepare for the upcoming 20th annual Case Day, which will take place March 19.

like their family, they didn't have a choice in."

Other groups who have submitted amicus briefs for the case will send representatives to Case Day to give their thoughts on the cases.

"We invited all the groups who submitted briefs, groups like Amnesty International and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund to come present to us," said Kimiya Haghighi.

"They'll give a panel discussion about what is in their briefs, and they'll try to influence the justices here, just like in the real trial."

Other committees performed more local outreach. Miriam Ahmed of the education committee went to Spring Hill, Forestville, Great Falls and Churchill Elementary Schools to engage students about aspects of the cases.

"We just planned a short lesson about the three branches of government, but the students were so interested, and kept asking such engaged questions, that we ended up talking for most of our hour there," she said. "They were asking about the judicial system, commenting on things they thought were fair or unfair and some even had questions about things like the Miranda rights process. Their questions got hard, but it was really nice to see that interest."

THE EVENT CHAIRS Chaffee Duckers, Sun Park and Underhill have been hard at work on Case Day since December. Since that time, they've had to plan out almost every minute of the day, decided who to include and exclude, as well as coordinate with all the committees.

"What makes this so different is that it's almost entirely student run," Park said. "You get so used to having a checklist of steps, but this is really this big nebulous task involving hundreds of people, so it really takes some time to figure

out."

Duckers said it was less stressful than anticipated, thanks in large part to the efforts of the teachers who volunteered to assist them.

"No matter what, teachers have been there to help, and they really helped a lot, they're just the best," she said. "At first we were worried about having enough to fill the day, but soon it became clear we had to start trimming and



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Langley High School seniors rehearse their presentations for the 20th annual Langley Case Day.

cutting."

Langley Case Day will take place throughout the entire school day

Monday, March 19. More information is available at www.langleycaseday.com.

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
Celebration Center for Spiritual Living...703-560-2030

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

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

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

Synagogues - Orthodox
Fort Myer Minyan...703-863-4520
Chabad Lavavitch 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

Langley, McLean Enjoy Successful Ice Hockey Seasons

Local high school rivals face off in postseason quarterfinals.

Kevin Diner scored twice and Evan Sterling had a goal and three assists as Langley High School posted a 6-1 upset win over McLean in the recent quarterfinal round game of the Northern Virginia Scholastic Hockey League (NVSHL) playoffs at SkateQuest Reston.

With the victory, Langley advanced to the semifinals where they lost a close game to Stone Bridge High at the Ashburn Ice House.

The annals of cross-town rivals Langley and McLean ice hockey have produced several unusual scenarios over the years, and the quarterfinals round playoff game added yet another chapter to that legacy.

Down 1-0 on an early goal by Diner, McLean captain Nick Baker had to step into his team's goalie position after the McLean starting goalie left the game on a penalty. Baker was valiant and blocked several Langley scoring bids, including a rocket slap shot with his glove, during the final five minutes of the opening period. Paul Forest eventually took over the goalie duties for McLean to start the second period with Langley ahead, 3-0.

McLean played with heart, determination



Over the years, the McLean and Langley squads have squared off in Northern Virginia Scholastic Hockey League action. Two weeks ago, the two teams met in a postseason game with Langley prevailing.

FILE PHOTO

and passion but it wasn't enough. Forest, who played goalie in youth hockey 10 years prior, made several spectacular saves. But

Langley players Atte Happonen and Drew Schneider finally broke through in the last three minutes of the period to essentially put the game out of reach. Grady Payne scored a late goal for McLean but Sterling answered 45 seconds later and the Saxons were on their way to the semifinals.

"It was an unusual game, what with the goalie getting that penalty, but once the second period started, both teams settled down and it was a good, two-way game," said Langley coach Rob Faktorow.

Indeed, both teams had ample scoring opportunities with Langley goalie Ryan Framinan looming large on several McLean shots, particularly in the second period when a Highlander comeback was still a possibility.

Stone Bridge Barely Edges Langley, 5-4, in OT.

Two nights following the win over McLean, the Langley hockey squad, in a fast-paced Wednesday thriller in Ashburn, wowed its fans by nearly defeating the defending champion Stone Bridge Bulldogs.

The Saxons were outshooting Stone Bridge throughout the first period of the NVSHL semifinal game and jumped out in front on a goal by Evan Sterling. The second period saw three goals by each team in back and forth fashion, with Langley's Kevin Diner netting two scores. The period ended with Langley in front 4-3 and the teams dead even at 21 shots each.

In the third period, Stone Bridge put furious pressure on Langley keeper David Altman, finally edging ahead of Langley in shots on goal. An amazing performance by Altman and a tight Langley defense held

Stone Bridge off until Stone Bridge pulled its goalie. Using the extra man advantage, the Bulldogs were able to tie the game with just 51 seconds left.

In overtime, with a first-ever trip to the finals on the line, Langley continued to deliver its best game of the season. Nevertheless, with only three minutes left, Stone Bridge was able to overpower the tiring Saxon squad, claiming the 5-4 win and advancing to the NVSHL championship game.

EARLIER IN THE POSTSEASON, Langley had been victorious over Bishop O'Connell High (Arlington) in a first round contest, earning the Saxons a berth in the quarterfinals against McLean.

In a Friday night affair, Langley routed O'Connell, 9-2, behind a team-record five goals from Drew Schneider. Also for Langley, Logan Pontell added two goals while Ture Linden and Colin Framinan added one each.

The win enabled the Saxons to move on to play McLean. During the regular season, Langley had lost to McLean - the first time in 10 years that the Saxons had fallen to their local rivals. So, going into the quarterfinals round playoff meeting, Langley was determined to avenge the regular season loss.

"Our players were determined to start a new winning streak," said Faktorow, the Langley coach.

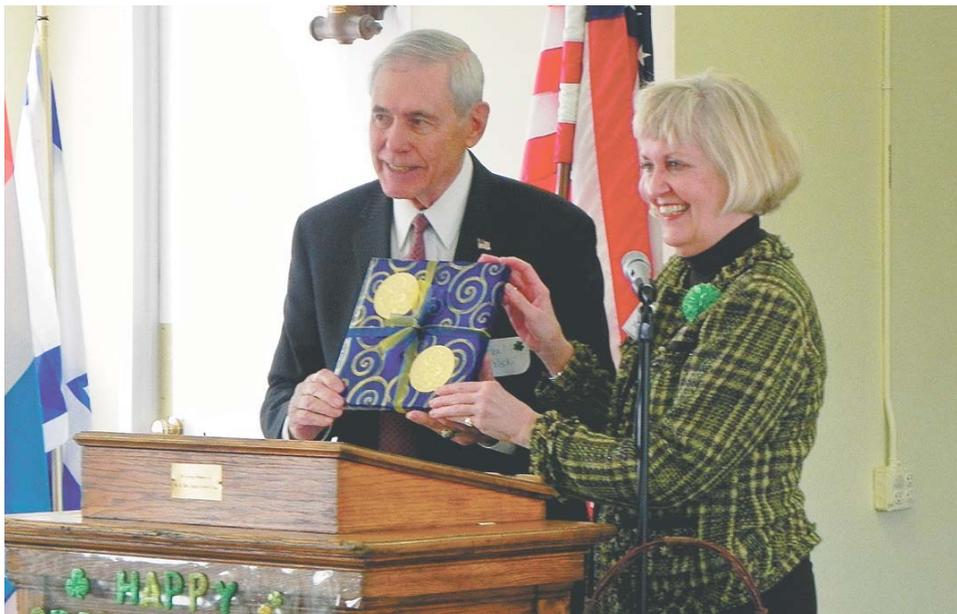
Langley went on to the decisive playoff win over McLean, placing them into the semifinals round where they saw their successful season end with the loss to the powerful Stone Bridge program.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. JOHN CYO TEAM

St. John 5th Grade Boys Win Hoops Title

The St. John fifth grade boys CYO basketball team of McLean had an excellent winter season, winning their division and then going on to win the postseason tournament. They compiled a 9-1 record during the regular season and added three more playoff wins to finish 12-1 overall. In both the regular season division championship game as well as the postseason tournament championship game, St. John rallied from late deficits to win. The team wishes to thank Father Paul Scalia for his support and special prayer at the championship game. Team members pictured are: Jeremiah Sola, Declan Mathis, Paul Kinsella, Joe McGinn, Chance Shuman, Jason Shepard, Oscar Tatis, Colman Rowan, Micah Hoernig, Flanagan Anderson, Coach Tom Tribone, and Father Paul Scalia.



TSA security executive Polski receives gift (inscribed silver tray) from Woman's Club president Virginia Sandahl after his presentation.

Former Air Security Executive Addresses Woman's Club of McLean

Retired transportation security executive Paul A. Polski, of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, spoke to the Woman's Club of McLean on March 6 about the use of technology and other measures to combat terrorism in the air. Polski, who until late last year was the director of Strategic Planning in the Office of Security Technology, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), reviewed the major terrorism events of the last 3 decades and the technologies such as advanced imaging techniques and automatic target recognition used to address them. Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the TSA's Office of Security Technology has researched, obtained and implemented \$1 billion worth of technology each year.

Polski stressed his office's "multilayered approach," which includes a wide range of airport security measures, the use of air

marshals and certain requirements imposed on the traveling public, such as the "311 rule" for carrying fluids onboard aircraft (which, he said, the TSA "is trying to get away from"). Polski said that the office is also focusing on "what's going to be the next thing" (that is, the next threat).

Polski had been with the TSA since 2002, and before that had spent 12 years heading an 80-person task force at the Federal Aviation Administration's counterterrorism lab in New Jersey. There, as a managing engineer, he directed the research and development of counterterrorism technologies in response to the 9/11 attacks. In recognition of this effort, in 2003 he received a Service to America Medal, or "SAMMY," an annual award given by the nonprofit, non-partisan Partnership for Public Service. Polski lives in McLean.

—LAURA SHERIDAN



PHOTO BY LAURA SHERIDAN/WOMAN'S CLUB OF MCLEAN

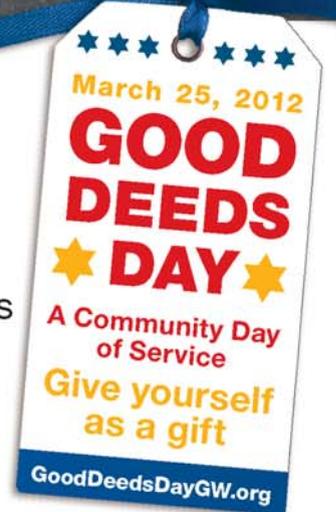
Woman's Club Presents Pillowcases to Alternative House

Phyllis Ainsworth (at right), Crafts Committee chairman of the Woman's Club of McLean, presents a package of 57 pillowcases handmade by the group to Gina Cocomello, Development Director for Alternative House. Alternative House is a shelter in Dun Loring for abused and homeless children of Fairfax County.



Calling all volunteers –

On Sunday, March 25, our community will join thousands of volunteers nationally and around the world for a day of service.



PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Make blankets for the homeless
 - Tree planting & park clean up
 - Activities at nursing homes
 - Preparing food for area shelters
- And much more...

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Honorary Chairs: Judy & Mark Lerner

MD Chair: Stefanie Sanders Levy

VA Chair: Marissa Schlaifer

DC Chair: Sophie Schlosser

ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 15

Darrell Scott and Grace Pettis.

7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration.

7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Richard Williams of the USA Vietnam War Commemoration Commission will discuss the nation's program to honor all who served in the Vietnam War at the meeting of Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. The general public and all veterans are invited. Free admission. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

Tom Paxton. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. American folk music. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

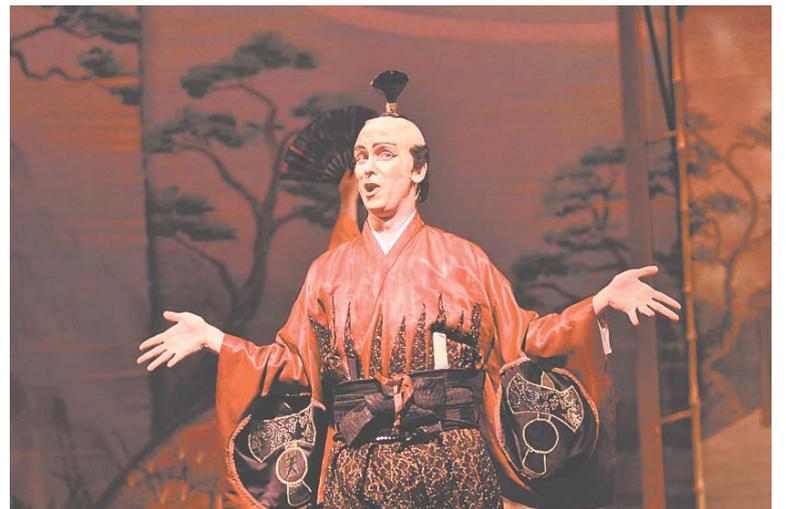
The Dirty Pints. 6 p.m. The Auld Shebeen Restaurant and Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Live Irish music. www.theauldshebeenva.com.

National Trumpet Competition.

1:30 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring The U.S. Army Band & Herald Trumpets with guest soloists. Free and open to the public. www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org.

Art History Lecture Series.

10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. First in a series of four Introductory Art History Lectures, featuring the art and architecture of Ancient Greece and



Bass Kevin Burdette as Ko-Ko in Virginia Opera's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado". The Virginia Opera will present "The Mikado" on Friday, March 23 at 8 p.m. and again on Sunday, March 25 at 2 p.m. in George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets are \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu.

Rome. 801-361-5464.

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

FRIDAY/MARCH 16

Family Skate Night. 6:30-8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. Admission \$1. Bring your own roller skates or inline skates (no scooters) and safety

equipment. Parents required to stay with their children. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.com.

Rosie Thomas and Bhi Bhiman at 7 p.m.; **Bluefiveone and Blue County and Lowercaseletters** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

GrooveLily. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. "Sleeping Beauty Wakes: In Concert," a contemporary take on a classic fairytale. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

John Eaton: A Juke Joint Jam Session. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Great American Song Book. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

National Trumpet Competition. 2 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring Doc Severinsen and The Army Blues. Free and open to the public. www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org.

Celtic Music Concert. 8 p.m. Cherry Hill Farmhouse, 312 Park Ave., Falls Church. With the band Isle of Treora. \$15. 703-248-5171.

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

SATURDAY/MARCH 17

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax.

With pianist Rick Rowley. Stravinsky's Firebird Suite (1919 version), Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Sibelius' Symphony No. 7, and Sibelius' Finlandia. Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

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 Southern) during the period of transition from steam to diesel. Free, donations accepted. www.nvmr.org or 703-938-5157.

The Rhodes Tavern Troubadours, Scott Ramminger & the Crawstickers and Carter Louthian & Curtis Barnes at 12

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 17

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Looking for activities for your child during **Spring Break?** MCC offers Spring Break Camps for ages 4 to 9.

Children enjoy supervised games, arts and crafts, activities, music and special events throughout the week. Children must bring a lunch and a drink each day and dress in comfortable clothes and tennis shoes. A morning snack is provided.

Half-day and full-day options available.

Camp will be held at Franklin Sherman Elementary School.

McLean Spring Break Camp

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

Spring Break Trips

April 2-6
for 5th-9th graders

Join the OFTC on these fun and exciting trips:

Spring Break: Monday, April 2 – Friday April 6, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sign-up for one trip, or all five!	Earth Treks Monday, April 2 Adventure Park USA Tuesday, April 3 Washington Redskins/Fedex Field Stadium Tour Wednesday, April 4 White Oak Duckpin Lanes Thursday, April 5 Rebounderz Sterling Friday, April 6
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The Old Firehouse Teen Center
1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean VA 22101
703-448-8336 (TEEN); TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2014 Programs

Wednesday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2014, which runs July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014.

The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: ellen.barial@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16

p.m.; **Better Said Than Done - The Luck of the Irish** at 7 p.m.; **Danny Rouhier's CD Recording & St. Patrick's Day Drinking Experience** at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

MOPS Scrapbooking Event. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Door prizes, refreshments, vendors and more. For age 12 and up. Registration \$20-\$40. vpcmopsrop@gmail.com.

Supports and Grounds: Workshop for Painters. 2:30 p.m. Great Falls School of Art, 1144 Walker Road, Suite D, Great Falls. Designed to help the serious painter create and prepare their working surface. \$50. Register at www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org.

National Trumpet Competition. 2 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free and open to the public. www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org.

Antiques Appraisal. 12-4 p.m. Freeman Store, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Limit two items per person, appointments necessary. \$8.50 per item for members of Historic Vienna, Inc. and \$12 per item non-members. Schedule appointments at 703-938-5187.

Road to Renewal: A One-Day Retreat of Health Renewal for Cancer Survivors. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 8601 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. The Northern Virginia chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society is offering this free one day event for cancer survivors who have completed treatment. Space is limited. Register at 703-558-6213 or special.projects@nvnos@gmail.com.

Music: An Insider's Guide Lecture. 4 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Adolphe Sax, Inventor: Instruments as Technology. Presented by A. Scott Wood, conductor of the Amadeus Orchestra. Adults. 703-356-0770.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Rd., Falls Church. St. Patrick's dance. Line dance lesson 7:30 p.m., Beginning East Coast Swing 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Two Step, waltz, line, swing, cha cha and more. Couples and singles welcome. \$5-\$12. Refreshments available. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

Farm Spring Clean-Up. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Help the living history museum and working farm prepare for the 2012 season by raking leaves, clearing and mulching paths, hauling brush and firewood, moving rail fences, waterproofing outbuildings, whitewashing the farmhouse, splitting firewood, filling garden pots and more. Families and groups welcome. Picnic hot dog lunch and complimentary passes to one of the Farm's 2012 Market Fairs provided. Bring work gloves. Reserve at volunteers@1771.org or www.1771.org.

"The Revenge of the Space Pandas or Binky Rudich and the Two-Speed Clock." 3 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For ages 6 and up. A comedy by David Mamet. \$8-\$10. sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Loralyn Coles, Marcy Cochran and Scott Malyszka. 8 p.m. The Surge, 1988 Kirby Road, McLean. Multi-instrumental songwriters with music from Celtic, Old Timey, and Blues traditions. Free. www.saw.org.

Tea Tasting Seminar. 1 p.m. Historic Forestville Schoolhouse, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Taste

teas used in Irish Breakfast Blends and green teas. \$25. Reserve at 703-759-2771.

SUNDAY/MARCH 18

Accidents, Derek Evry, Madrone and Today's Tomorrow at 1 p.m.; **Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer** Rockin' the Uke CD Release Concert at 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Photography Contest and Exhibit. 12-3:30 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Photos will be judged by local professional photographers and ribbons awarded eight categories, with a separate contest section for middle and high school students. \$10 entry fee. Maximum four photos per person and two in any one category. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

Northern Virginia Simcha Expo. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Vendors include DJs, photographers, florists, entertainment, venues, invitations and decorations, caterers, make-up, Judaica and more. www.shalomnova.org/simchaexpo or www.jccnv.org.

Shakespeare's "King Lear." 4 p.m. Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Performed by the Traveling Players Ensemble. \$10, students and teachers with ID free. www.travelingplayers.org or 703-987-1712.

Farm Spring Clean-Up. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Help the living history museum and working farm prepare for the 2012 season by raking leaves, clearing and mulching paths, hauling brush and firewood, moving rail fences, waterproofing outbuildings, whitewashing the farmhouse, splitting firewood, filling garden pots and more. Families and groups welcome. Picnic hot dog lunch and complimentary passes to one of the Farm's 2012 Market Fairs provided. Bring work gloves. Reserve at volunteers@1771.org or www.1771.org.

"The Revenge of the Space Pandas or Binky Rudich and the Two-Speed Clock." 3 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For ages 6 and up. A comedy by David Mamet. \$8-\$10. sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov.

MONDAY/MARCH 19

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.

The McEuen Brothers. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 20

"Better This World" Film Screening & Discussion. 6 p.m. George Mason University Johnson Center Cinema, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Katie Galloway and Kelly Duane de la Vega's documentary follows David McKay and Bradley Crowder as they are transformed from political neophytes to accused domestic terrorists, arrested at the 2008 Republican National Convention. Free. http://fams.gmu.edu.

Celtic Crossroads. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Bluegrass, gypsy-folk and jazz. \$27. www.wolftrap.org.

Five Hills Garden Club. 9:45 a.m. Lower level of Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Josh Dean, whose landscaped designs have been featured on the cover of Gardener Magazine, HGTV's Curb Appeal and DIY Inside and Out, on

contrast, repetition, and focal points when landscaping. Free. Mariansanders@cox.net.

Literacy Council of Northern

Virginia. 1 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Tutoring. 703-356-0770.

"Measure of the Earth." 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Dr. Larrie Ferreiro, author and editor of books on the history of science and technology. 703-757-8560

A Mighty Raucous Evening with John Mark McMillan & Friends, The RoyalRoyal and Jude Moses. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 21

"Orphans of the Storm." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. D.W. Griffith's 1921 silent film, starring sisters Lillian and Dorothy Gish in the story of two young women in peril during the French Revolution. \$6-\$8. www.mcleancenter.org.

Digitour with Dave Days, DeStorm, Ricky Ficarelli, Alex Goot, Asher Monroe, Nice Peter, The Key of Awesome and WhatADayDerek. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Celtic Crossroads. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Bluegrass, gypsy-folk and jazz. \$27. www.wolftrap.org.

Judging of Vienna Photographic Society Photojournalism Entries. 7:30 p.m. Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Mary Ann Setton, past president and past competition chair of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society will judge. 703-451-7298.

Rabbit Romp. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Stories and activities to celebrate the spring. Age 2-3 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.

"A View from the Bridge." 7 p.m. McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Tragedy by Arthur Miller. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 22

David Choi and Jeff LeBlanc. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Youth Art Show Reception. 5:30-7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Featuring artwork by McLean area middle and high school students. 703-790-1953.

Art History Lecture Series. 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Second of four Introductory Art History Lectures. 801-361-5464.

The Second City: Laugh Out Loud. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Comedy. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

"A View from the Bridge." 7 p.m. McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Tragedy by Arthur Miller. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 23

Virginia Opera: The Mikado. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Gilbert and Sullivan's masterpiece, set in the fictional Japanese town of Tipitutu. Sung in English with English supertitles. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu.



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Here's What's Happening at MCC

An Alden Theatre Production
"Revenge of the Space Pandas"

Sat. & Sun., March 17, 18, 24 & 25, 3 p.m.
\$10/\$8 MCC district residents

In this comedy for young people by David Mamet, Binky Rudich's latest invention, the two-speed clock, sends him, his friend Viv and their sheep Bob hurling into space. Featuring young McLean actors.

Classics of the Silent Screen Film Series

Lillian Gish in Orphans of the Storm

Directed by D.W. Griffith
Wednesday, March 21, 8 p.m.
\$10/\$6 MCC district residents

Directed by D.W. Griffith and starring sisters Lillian and Dorothy Gish, "Orphans of the Storm" tells the story of two young women in peril during the French Revolution. The movie's commentary on class warfare is as relevant today as it was in 1921.

5th & 6th Grader Party
Island Sensations

Friday, March 23, 7-9 p.m.
\$30/\$20 MCC district residents

Parties include music, dancing, games, snacks, and more! 5th and 6th grader parties sell out early. Advance registration is required. Walk-ins will not be admitted



The Alden, Professional Series
Christopher K. Morgan & Artists/CityDance present
"Limited Visibility"

Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31, 8 p.m.
\$25/\$18 MCC district residents

Morgan's new work "Limited Visibility" exposes what one usually hides from public view. Inviting the dancers to reveal things they might only do in private, the piece will be a suite of dances connected in theme and design.

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101
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www.mcleancenter.org



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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as 1642 Besley Road, Vienna, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Sunil Chacko and, dated August 30, 1996, and recorded September 3, 1996, in Deed Book 9797 at page 1951 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Wednesday, MARCH 28, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 16, Section 2, SPRING LAKE, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 1734 at page 22, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 1642 Besley Road, Vienna, Virginia 22182.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 5.125 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.
DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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Apply by submitting a resume and a cover letter of qualifications to Sam Roberts, by e-mail (sam.roberts@fairfaxcounty.gov), fax (703-556-0547) or mail, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean, VA 22101.

For more information, contact the McLean Community Center, 703-790-0123. Open until filled.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN

VIRGIN GRAND VILLAS - ST. JOHN) CONDOMINIUM OWNERS) ST - 11 - CV - 544 ASSOCIATION,) (Plaintiff,) vs.)

ACTION FOR DEBT FORECLOSURE OF

LIEN AND BREACH OF CONTRACT

SUMMONS

CRYSTAL DENUNZIO,) Defendant.)

To:

TO: CRYSTAL A. DENUNZIO
6820 McLean Street
McLean, Virginia 22101

Within the time limited by law (see note below) you are hereby required to appear before this Court and answer to a complaint filed against you in this action and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as demanded in the Complaint, for DEBT, FORECLOSURE OF LIEN AND BREACH OF CONTRACT. Witness my hand And the Seal of this Court this 16th day of February, 2012. HON. MICHAEL C. DUNSTON, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS. Richard H. Dollison, Esq. Attorney for Plaintiff, Virgin Grand Villas - St. John Condominium Owners Association. Duensing, Casner, Dollison & Fitzsimmons, Electra House, 5060 Forts Straede P.O. Box 6785 St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00804. NOTE: This defendant, if served personally, is required to file his answer or other defenses with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after service of this summons, excluding the date of service. The defendant, if served by publication or by personal service outside of the jurisdiction, is required to file his answer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the attorney for the plaintiff within thirty (30) days after the completion of the period of publication or personal service outside of the jurisdiction.

"Early Results Show Stable Disease"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

There's five words e-mailed from my oncologist that I can live with (Duh!). Certainly better than the previous nine words e-mailed eight weeks ago regarding my then current CT Scan: "Scan results show progression. We'll talk more on Friday." Not that early results (I think 'early results' means after the first two infusions) guarantee any future results, but half good is better than all bad. Continued 'progression' (growth and/or movement; meaning the chemotherapy was having zero effect) would have been disappointing (you think?), so reading 'stable' in my doctor's message was welcome news indeed; any port in a storm, as they say. And make no mistake about it, when you're diagnosed as a terminal patient, who's now outlived your original prognosis - by years - every day is a storm, and any place of refuge, leaky or otherwise, is a welcome sight. Just as pilots say: "Any landing you walk away from is a good one," I'm going to create a corollary for cancer patients: any scan that doesn't cause your oncologist to advise you to get your things in order ("Five Wishes") is a good one. And so Tuesday, February 18th was real good - for "Kenny-with-cancer." Alive and reasonably well.

However, just as life goes on, so too do the diagnostic scans and all the associated anxiety - and hopes and prayers as well. It's a balancing act to be sure, to be always living on the edge (make that precipice), but obviously I'm grateful to be doing so - despite the emotional upheaval. Though I've been there - and still doing it, it doesn't make any of it easier going forward. Being familiar with the chemotherapy (the "second line" I'm now enduring) - and its side effects from three years ago when I was originally diagnosed and treated, doesn't really lessen the anxiety of it, it more reinforces the fear of it. Regardless of the success I've had fending off cancer's ravages, it's difficult to rid yourself of the inevitability of its power.

At least now there are e-mails (and Web sites to access) between doctor and patient to maintain the lines of communication and facilitate the prompt exchange of information, and to shortcut the previously interminable waits patients had waiting for scan/lab results. The results are not immediate, let's be realistic; but they are sort of predictable, time-wise, and in that predictability evolves a certain calm. And however 'calm' can be introduced into the doctor/cancer patient equation, it exponentially improves the patient's quality of life.

Now when you have your follow-up appointments - and certain information has already been communicated, these appointments can be more productive, less emotional and more strategic moving forward rather than spent reacting to medical facts only recently in evidence. After all, the oncologist is trying to keep you alive, and any methodology that enhances that relationship and improves the quality of the time between doctor and patient is better for all concerned. The e-mails blunt some of that unproductive but predictable emotion, which then enables the doctor and patient to more intelligently and dispassionately consider the options/treatments available. At some point, however, reality has to be addressed (I wouldn't say embraced, though). Way back when, my oncologist advised us that none of this was going to be easy, and he was right. But his honesty - and treatment has made it a bit more bearable for me. I wouldn't characterize or dare say that there's a recipe for success in anything he or I have done together or that I've done independently of him; so far, so good though. I am alive three years post-diagnosis after originally receiving a less than encouraging prognosis: "13 months to two years."

Within the next month, I will have had two more chemotherapy infusions followed up by yet another CT Scan, and this fun will begin all over again. I can't really say that I'm looking forward to it, but being terminal is all it's cracked up to be, and looking forward is still better than not being able to look at all.

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

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