

Deborah Hersman, chair of the National Transportation Safety Board recognizes Capt. Michael Spivey of the Virginia State Police for their efforts in combating distracted driving Wednesday, April 25.

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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Virginia Transportation Secretary Sean Connaughton recognizes Capt. Susan Culin of the Fairfax County Police Department and Capt. Michael Spivey of the Virginia State Police Department for their efforts combating distracted driving Wednesday, April 25.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Enforcing Distracted Driving Rules

'Orange Cones, No Phones' campaign recognizes law enforcement.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Local officials gathered at the Westpark Drive ramp over the Beltway Wednesday, April 25 to recognize police officers for their efforts combating distracted driving and to share some facts collected by their recent survey. The "Orange Cones, No Phones" initiative is a joint effort between Transurban-Fluor (the company building the 495 Express lanes) and AAA Mid-Atlantic.

"It's time to put attention back in the driver's seat," said Deborah Hersman, chair of the National Transportation Safety Board. "Last December we called for all states to ban talking or texting while you're behind the wheel, except in emergency situations. We didn't come to this recommendation lightly, our work on distracted driving started over a decade ago."

Lon Anderson, managing director of Government and Public Affairs for AAA Mid-Atlantic referred to a survey recently conducted of Beltway drivers, and was a little disturbed by the numbers.

"Two-thirds [of Beltway drivers] indicate they have recently seen or heard news about distracted driving. Yet just half of Beltway drivers indicate that they still use cell phones or talk or text while driving," he said. "They hear it, but they don't heed it."

Also part of the campaign was a survey of 402 Northern Virginia law enforcement officials. According to the survey, 32 percent said they thought texting is the most dangerous driving behavior when in a work zone. The officers also estimated that more than 40 percent of drivers in a work zone are using a cellular phone.

BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCES, 78 percent believed accidents in construction zones are increasing.

Capt. Susan Culin, Traffic Division commander for

the Fairfax County Police Department says officers have recently started adapting a previous ordinance to fight distracted driving.

"We have used an existing county ordinance, 'failure to pay full time and attention,' to take enforcement action against drivers who continue to display risky driving behavior," she said. "Using this code has been an innovative approach to enforcement, as we have latched onto laws to deter cell phone use or texting while driving."

Culin said in the past the ordinance was used in accident investigations.

"Now the code is used when an officer observes a vehicle being operated in a manner in which it is obvious that the driver is doing something else than concentrating on driving," she said. "This may cause swerving, inappropriate braking, driving too fast or too slow, sitting still at a green light, but not necessarily a crash. We hope we're stopping those drivers before that happens."

Last year, the "failure to pay full time and attention" charge was made 11,920 times, a number which Culin says is a 257 percent increase over 2007 and a 30 percent increase from 2010.

Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton says he is reminded of the hazards of distracted driving when he passes by the VDOT Workers' Memorial, honoring the lives of those lost on Virginia's roadways while on the job.

"We have families come there, families who have fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters who have been killed, some 10 or 20 years earlier. That's when it really hits you," he said. "People have lost their lives out there in work zones and it's not just people who are killed, it impacts families for generations."

Connaughton said he believed a culture change is needed to enforce the dangers of distracted driving to a new generation, just like his parents' generation needed to adapt to seatbelt use.

"When I was young, my parents refused to buckle up. But then they started reaching out to young people, getting them at the earliest age to understand the importance of buckling up," he said.

MORE INFORMATION on Orange Cones, No Phones can be found at www.orangeconesnophones.com.



Lon Anderson, managing director for Government and Public Affairs for AAA Mid-Atlantic, talks about the results of a survey done by his organization and Transurban-Fluor about distracted driving in the area.

Local Author Readies Next Novel

Shannon Greenland to release 'The Summer My Life Began' May 10.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Growing up, Shannon Greenland of McLean wasn't big into reading or writing. In fact, the Tennessee native dreaded every time the subjects would come up in school. It wasn't until her 20s that she got into reading and writing as a hobby. Within a year, she had written her first novel.

"When I finished my first novel I thought, 'Wow, did I really just write a book?' And then when I sold my first novel, I thought, 'Wow, maybe I could do this for a living'" she said. "And here I am some 12 years later. My dad told me once to find something I enjoy, something that when I wake up I can't wait to start doing it. Writing is that for me."

Greenland, a McLean resident and special education teacher at Longfellow Middle School, has been getting plenty of attention for her writing. From 2004 to 2009 she wrote five books in The Specialists series, as well as three romantic suspense novels.

Her latest book, "The Summer My Life Began" comes out May 10. Like many of her others, its theme is young persons who suddenly find themselves into circumstances that spiral beyond their control.

"I love adventure. I'll try just about anything. I've been in some pretty extraordinary circumstances," she said. "So when I write I love to put my characters in unusual situations, throw things at them, and see how they handle it. It's great fun."

Greenland's latest star is a 17-year-old girl who spends the summer at her aunt's island resort, only to uncover a long-buried secret about her family. While the story and characters are new, one thing the book has in common with her others is its exotic locale.

The setting is a result of Greenland's love of travel and the outdoors. An avid traveler, she also enjoys hiking, rafting, kayaking, climbing, caving, swimming, snorkeling, sailing



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

McLean resident Shannon Greenland will release her latest novel "The Summer My Life Began" May 10.

and almost anything else that can be done outdoors.

"I've traveled a lot over the years and draw on those locals as I plot things out," she said. "It works in reverse, too. If I know I'm plotting a book in, let's say Hawaii, I absolutely have to go there to get the real flavor. It's a perfect excuse to travel."

The review site Memories Overtaking Me called Greenland's latest "a great coming of age book that will bring you in great spirits. Its a great beach read that does have a few serious moments but sends a perfect message to younger readers."

Greenland's books have won awards from National Booksellers, Romantic Times, National Readers Choice, American Library Association and more. She says it's always flattering to be recognized, there are other factors at play.

"Of course awards motivate me, but you know what motivates me more? It's when I receive emails from readers telling me how they read [2007's] 'Model Spy' from cover to cover and ended up not going to bed because they were so glued to the pages," she said. "Or emails from parents who tell me they read [2008's] 'The Winning Element' with their daughter. Those are the type of things that motivate me the most."

More information can be found at www.shannongreenland.com.

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Fateh Nasir, a senior at McLean High School, is awarded the Youth Volunteer award by Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova for volunteering at the Lewinsville Adult Day Care Center.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova awards Julie Clemente of McLean the at large Community Champion award at the 20th annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards Friday, April 27.

Local Volunteers Recognized

Fateh Nasir, Julie Clemente awarded at annual Volunteer Service Awards.

By ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Clemente, president of the board of the Friends of Clemyjontri Park were both spotlighted during the ceremony.

Two McLean residents were recognized for their efforts going above and beyond with their time Friday, April 27 at the 20th annual Volunteer Fairfax Service Awards. Fateh Nasir, a senior at McLean High School and Julie

Nasir was recognized for his volunteer efforts at the Lewinsville Adult Day Care Center, which offers recreational and therapeutic activities for seniors. The

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 5

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NEWS

Volunteers Honored

FROM PAGE 4

center aims to provide a full and well-rounded life for adults suffering from dementia, and Nasir's efforts have been a major part of those efforts.

"Fateh's passion to help others is constantly demonstrated in the lives that he continues to touch here at LADC," said Mariellen Combs, the certified therapeutic recreation specialist at the center. "We feel that wherever his path will lead him, Fateh will have a very bright, rewarding and happy future."

Nasir assists with recreational activities, serving lunch, playing cards as well as talking and listening to the patients. He is known around the center for being an exceptional reader for many of the clients there.

Clemente was awarded the At Large Community Champion, each of which was chosen by a district Supervisor. As president of the Friends of Clemyjontri Park, Clemente's efforts have been vital to the state's first all-accessible playground.

The park was made possible by an 18.5-acre donation from Adele Lebowitz and her family in 2000.

"Public parks and playgrounds aren't all built this way," said Julie Clemente. "We recommend that everyone else in the country do what Fairfax County does so well, which is to ensure we have a place where everyone is recognized for what they can do, not what they can't do."

Julie Clemente's efforts helped raise more than \$100,000 last year to purchase the swing and make other improvements around the park.

"We recommend that everyone else in the country do what Fairfax County does so well, which is to ensure we have a place where everyone is recognized for what they can do, not what they can't do."

— Julie Clemente

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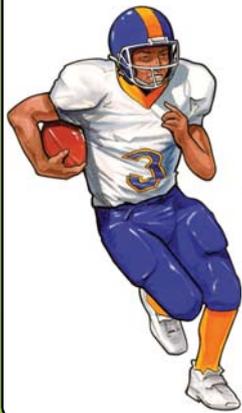
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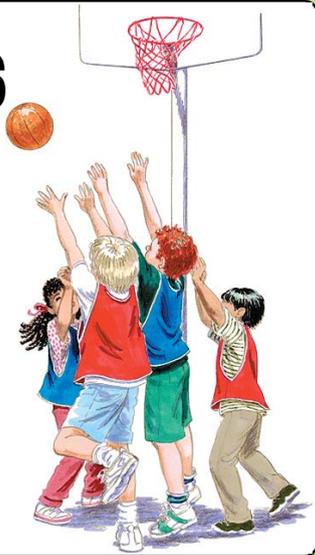
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Steve Gaskins, manager of Weichert, Realtors' McLean/Old Dominion office, announced that his staff and Sales Associates collected nearly 1,000 pounds of food and an additional \$1,100 in cash donations, for the non-profit organization Food For Others, the largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia.

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OPINION

Reminders to Press Ahead for Housing

Spring discussion on hypothermia shelters could help preparations for winter.

In February, 2007, 59-year-old Robert Bruce Miller was found dead outdoors in Chantilly. Miller was homeless, known to businesses and residents in the area. He died of hypothermia, exposure to the cold.

Since that time, houses of worship and non-profit organizations have stepped into the gap, providing shelter from the storm on a “no-turn-away” basis from November to March.

In Fairfax County, about 35 houses of worship provide shelter to approximately 1,000 homeless men and women during the winter months. Each year, various churches, synagogues, mosques and temples take turns providing space to provide food and shelter for the homeless population during the winter months. Last year, there were no hypothermia-related deaths reported. Similar programs operate in Arlington and Alexandria.

An alarm went up over the past month as some churches that have been providing hypothermia shelter heard that they could be barred from providing the service due to fire-

code violations. While some faith leaders said they had heard as many as 18 would be unable to reopen, Sharon Bulova said that just four might have insurmountable fire code violations for serving as emergency shelters. Obviously no one wants to put both church volunteers and those seeking shelter at risk.

“Fairfax County has a unique partnership with our faith communities and non-profits. We are committed to serving the homeless population in a way that is compassionate and ensures their safety,” Bulova said.

It’s important to recognize that providing shelter from life-threatening conditions is in fact a government function. Faith-based organizations and nonprofits are stepping in on this issue and many others to provide leadership, inspiration and services, saving local governments enormous sums of money.

The county should consider if it might be appropriate for firehouses with capacity might be open in rotation as hypothermia shelters,

staffed with church volunteers, if some churches cannot make the changes needed by fire code regulations.

More important is to recognize the need for hypothermia shelters as an indicator that we have not ended homelessness. Providing housing first to people who need a variety of services saves money and makes the most effective use of scarce resources.

Amanda Andere, head of FACETS, Catherine Hudgins, member of the Board of Supervisors, and others reminded the group concerned about the shelters that the real issue is housing.

“Shelter is a temporary solution. We need housing,” Andere said.

It is telling that many services are provided to the homeless men and women who come to the hypothermia shelters.

Housing advocates continue to press for more affordable housing. It’s a goal that is urgent to keep in mind as Fairfax County looks at what is likely to be its last massive growth in development, the increased density and building around the county’s coming Metrorail stations.

— MARY KIMM,

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EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is it Worth it?

To the Editor:

I read with interest your recent report of the news conference held by VDOT officials on the roadway now named the 495 Express Lanes [“Fasten Your Seatbelts,” Connection, April 4-10, 2012]. Your story quotes Tim Steinhilber, Transurban-Fluor’s Express Lanes manager, saying that “drivers on 495 will have faster, more reliable and more predictable trips on the Capital beltway.” That is welcome news since that’s just the opposite of what motorists have experienced over the past several months. To be fair, things have gone better than I expected, but I have been driving frequently from my home in Great Falls to my mother’s house in North Springfield and back again and long ago concluded that efforts to reduce construction impacts to drivers were too often being coordinated by the Keystone Cops. Being able to get somewhere on 495 in a timely fashion is a roll of the dice. Again, I am glad it may soon be over but will it have been worth it? Gone will be traffic lanes reduced to one or less without adequate notice. I know there were scheduled closings posted on the Internet but there were plenty of others that clearly seemed more improvised or spur of the moment. Scheduling a road closing is one thing. Carrying it out in an orderly fashion often seemed too much of a burden on construction crews.

At any rate, thousands of motorists seemed to have not read the memos and paid the price. More than once, I found myself unexpectedly diverted late at night to 66 westbound because 495 simply ran out, blocked by orange cones. A single warning sign had been placed before Braddock Road. One night, when roadwork was underway on 66, 495 and Route 7 simultaneously I came upon a scene out of Dante’s Inferno. With miles of traffic in all directions at a complete standstill I came over a rise to see thousands of cars and 18-wheelers stretching into Maryland, heading West and Southbound bathed in the other-worldly glow of construction spotlights. Another night I discovered I couldn’t get onto 495 from Braddock Road near my mother’s house. I parked and walked over to a truck where the driver was asleep and his colleague was reading emails. I asked what I was expected to do. It was suggested that I figure out how to get to Arlington Blvd. After all, there was a detour sign several hundred yards away. I had long before concluded that there was very little concern about the impact Hot Lane construction had on motorists and that they were essentially on their own so this was not a surprise.

With express lane construction winding down, presumably there now won’t be quite as many bonus traffic accidents as motorists won’t have to guess about ever-changing road patterns. Law en-

forcement reports a distinct increase in accidents and the hassle that provides, especially around Tysons Corner. There won’t be power outages or water main breaks due to construction crews not knowing exactly where to dig. (I remember a power outage in the Tyson’s area and the chief VDOT spokesman explaining that’s what we should expect from a major construction project). That’s not what I expected. And hopefully there won’t be any more traffic delays adding up to tens of thousands of man-hours lost. These will all be gained back with the opening of the express lanes.

John Lynch, VDOT regional program director, said at the news conference that with the express lanes, “the transportation picture in Northern Virginia gets another dimension that was not available before.” Rather than a new dimension, how about producing some actual benefits? Is there a study that shows that traffic jams will actually be reduced? 395 is generally a parking lot during rush hour despite the HOV lanes. 95 is the same. Traffic exiting the new express lanes will have to merge with motorists on 495 heading into Maryland just before Georgetown Pike. Traffic exiting in the other direction will likely have the same problem or worse. How is that going to work out? Who owns the express lanes? Why are State Troopers and emergency crews tasked with patrolling the

Express Lanes when Transurban-Fluor gets to keep the tolls for 70-years? I guess the revenue from fines will help pay for the Troopers’ time but it seems like a waste of officer’s time and taxpayer’s money having them sort out how many passengers are in a car. I guess the electronic gizmo that was reportedly going to be used to determine the number of passengers in cars entering the express lanes won’t be perfected in time. The same appears to go for the super duper way of paying fees. Now motorists with three or more passengers will have to “switch off” their EZ Pass transponder to avoid tolls. More than likely they will just put it under their seat. Questions remain because, as one official put it early on, the public should not have expected to be privy to the details of negotiations between the state and Transurban-Fluor.

Some time ago, The Great Falls Connection suggested that the state could have floated the bonds and negotiated the federal loans to build the express lanes, owned the highway outright and kept the tolls. That logic seems to have been lost on the public officials at the time this scheme was cooked up who, like the pharaohs, wanted to leave a monument behind. A monument to what is still to be determined. Hot lanes on I-95 anyone?

Arthur Kingdom III
Great Falls

McLean
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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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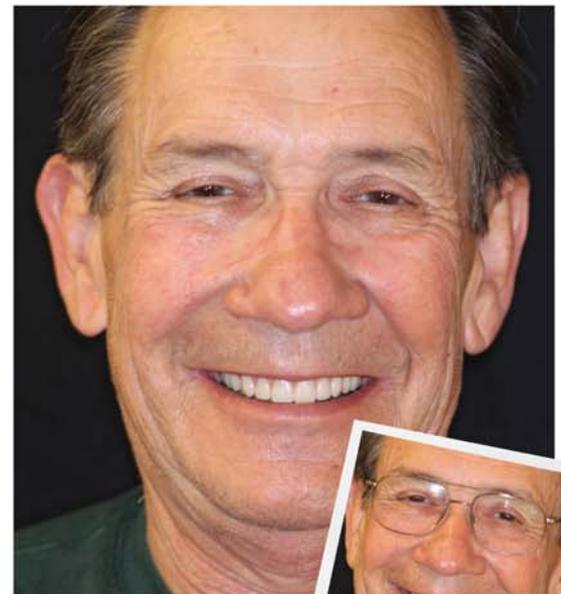
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ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers are locally owned and operated by licensed local dentists, and are part of a professional affiliation of implant practices operated by oral surgeons, prosthodontists and restorative dentists across the U.S. *Qualified patients can have their procedure in one day after initial workup without additional bone graft surgery. Results may vary in individual cases. Limited services available at satellite offices. [†]Independent Dental Implant Survey March 2011. America's #1 Choice determined by an Independent Patient Survey 2011. © 2012 ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers

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Northern Virginia Residents Honored for Volunteer Efforts

Four locals receive Community Champions Awards for Health Care and Social Services to the Community.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Four Northern Virginia volunteers were honored for their charitable efforts recently. Edward Shahin of McLean, Marie Markey of Alexandria and Mattie Palmore and Kari Warren of Mt. Vernon received the Molina Healthcare Community Champions Award during a ceremony at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax.

"We are pleased to celebrate Marie, Ed, Mattie and Kari — individuals who have made such a positive impact in the lives of others through their selfless work," said Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director of the Fairfax County Community Health Care Network (CHCN) for Molina Healthcare. "Each of their stories is so inspiring, and the work

that they do to better the health and well-being of their communities is so important. It is our pleasure to not only recognize these four winners, but also to be able to support their worthy causes."

Palmore and Warren were honored for their work to support victims of domestic violence through their organization, the Women's Group of Mt. Vernon.

"This award means that the work that we do is not done in vain," said Palmore. "We don't do the work that we do for recognition. We do it to help the victims."

Markey, a volunteer at Annandale Christian Community for Action, is the coordinator and chair for the group's Family Emergency Assistance program. As a retired physical therapist, she also provides free physical therapy for clients at local free clinics.

"I believe that helping people is what one

should do if one has the time and the opportunity," she said. "The 'haves' should help the 'have-nots.'"

Shahin is a senior citizen from McLean who advocates on behalf of other Fairfax County seniors through his volunteer work at Lewinsville Senior Center and as one of the elected members of the McLean Community Center Governing Board.

"We don't do the work that we do for recognition. We do it to help the victims."

— Mattie Palmore, Mount Vernon

"I retired three times," said Shahin. "I was afraid to retire until I could fill my life with worthwhile pursuits. I have taken up causes on behalf of seniors and it is the most worthwhile thing that I have done. I am more proud of this award than any award that I have received for anything in the past because it is giving of myself to help others."



Four Northern Virginia volunteers receive Community Champions Awards for their service to the community. Pictured are: Dr. Jean Glossa of Fairfax County Community Health Care Network; Mattie Palmore and Kari Warren of Mount Vernon; Marie Markey of Alexandria; Ed Shahin of McLean; and Gloria Calderon of Molina Medical Group.

The winners were nominated by community-based organizations and received \$1,000 grants to donate to nonprofit orga-

nizations of their choice. Markey donated her grant to Annandale Christian Community for Action. Shahin gave his to the

McLean Rotary Club Foundation. Palmore and Warren gifted their grant to the Women's Group of Mt. Vernon.

Local Safety Net Clinics Seek a Few Good Doctors

Specialty care physicians and other medical professionals needed to serve low income, uninsured patients.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Marie Markey of Alexandria retired from U.S. Air Force as a physical therapist, she rolled up her sleeves and went to work helping those in need. Markey works as a volunteer twice each week at the Arlington Free Clinic, offering physical therapy to the clinic's low income and uninsured patients.

"The clinic fills a huge gap," said Markey. "We have people who walk in who don't have access to medical care for basic illnesses like high blood pressure and diabetes."

Markey is motivated by a sense of responsibility to give back to the community. "If everyone did their part, the world would be better place," she said. "I had a patient once who was a construction worker. He'd had back surgery and needed physical therapy to recover fully. He didn't have insurance and couldn't afford to pay for therapy. If he hadn't received free therapeutic services to help him re-

cover, he would have lost his job."

NOVA SPECIALTY ACCESS, a project of the Northern Virginia Health Services Coalition is looking for more volunteers like Markey to provide medical services to low-income, uninsured patients from local "safety-net" clinics. The project matches patients with local medical specialists who volunteer their services.

The coalition has reserved several days in May and June for medical professionals, such as specialty care doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners, to volunteer at Head to Toe Specialty Clinics. The clinics will give patients enrolled at area safety-net clinics an opportunity to receive specialty health care services, including diabetic eye screening, foot care, diabetic nutrition counseling and audiology testing.

"The event is ... an important initiative where community members have the opportunity to get the health screenings they need," said Sterling resident Karen Rudat, nurse manager for Fairfax Community Health Care Network.

Project officials say their most urgent

Volunteers Needed

"Head to Toe" Specialty Clinic for low income, uninsured patients.
♦ Saturday, May 19th: Loudoun Free Clinic, 224-B Cornwall St, Leesburg, Va.

♦ Saturday, June 2nd-2: Community Health Care Network, Bailey's Crossroads - 6196 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, Va.

♦ Saturday, June 30th: Prince William Area Free Clinic, St. Margaret's Clinic, (also for patients of the Family Health Connection) 13900 Church Hill Drive, Woodbridge, Va.

Two volunteer shifts: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Volunteers needed to fill the following slots:

- ♦ Registration Volunteers
 - ♦ Translators
 - ♦ Audiologists
 - ♦ Nursing Volunteers
 - ♦ Podiatrists
 - ♦ Ophthalmologist/Optometrists
- ♦ Volunteers must be 16 years or older. For medical professional roles, volunteers will need a valid Virginia license. On-site orientation provided. To volunteer, email

TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT:
manager@novaspecialtyaccess.org or call (571-) 235-3577

shortage is of physicians: "Our greatest volunteer needs are for audiologists, podiatrists and ophthalmologists," said

Ulrich. "If there are other specialists that come forward, we would add other services as well. The program is ongoing and we're hoping to generate interest even if it is not on these specific dates."

Health care professionals must hold a Virginia license and volunteer in an area that is consistent with their licensure.

VOLUNTEERS ARE CRITICAL to the mission of the clinics.

"We work with a fantastic group of volunteer physicians, mostly specialists. We are so grateful for their generosity as they give their time and talent to increase the quality and access to care," said Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director, Community Health Care Network of Fairfax County and Molina Healthcare. "Without them, I don't know how some of our most vulnerable patients would be able to get the specialty care they need when they need it the most."

Services and availability vary from clinic to clinic. To be eligible for service at the safety-net clinics, patients must be adults who have a household income of 200 percent or less than the federal poverty level and no health insurance. Ulrich suggested that those interested in the services visit <http://novaspecialtyaccess.org> to find a clinic that is right for them.



Alexandria resident, Marie Markey, volunteers her time to low-income uninsured patients at the Arlington Free Clinic. Local safety-net clinics are looking for volunteers particularly specialty care doctors and nurses.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/MAY 2

Vienna Photographic Society. 7:30 p.m. Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Photography lecture with Victoria Restrepo. www.vps-va.org or 703-451-7298.

THURSDAY/MAY 3

"How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying." 7:30 p.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. \$10-\$12. www.madisondrama.com.

Lupe Fiasco. 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$35-\$45, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 1-800-745-3000. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities by calling 703-993-3035.

Company of Thieves and Chris Merritt And The Dirty Girls. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 4

Artists' Reception. 4-9 p.m. Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road N.E., Vienna. Lisa Neher, Barbara Wagner, Sarah Swart, Jackie Elwell, Elaine Florimonte, and Debbie Glakas in "Six Artists, Once Again." teresa@tlcillustration.com.

Super bob and Almost Kings. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

ValeArts Spring Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. "Full Spectrum," featuring nine local artists. Reception, 7-9 p.m. Free admission. www.valearts.com.

"Deathtrap." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Comedy-thriller about a play within a play. \$14-\$16, group rates available. 866-811-4111 or www.mcleanplayers.org.

"The Fantasticks." 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Musical comedy. \$14, \$12 students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

"How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying." 7:30 p.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. \$10-\$12. www.madisondrama.com.

An Art Affair. 7 p.m. Madeira School, Georgetown Roan, McLean. Art auction and exhibit. Proceeds benefit Freedom in Creation, providing art therapy to children in Uganda. www.freedomincreation.org.

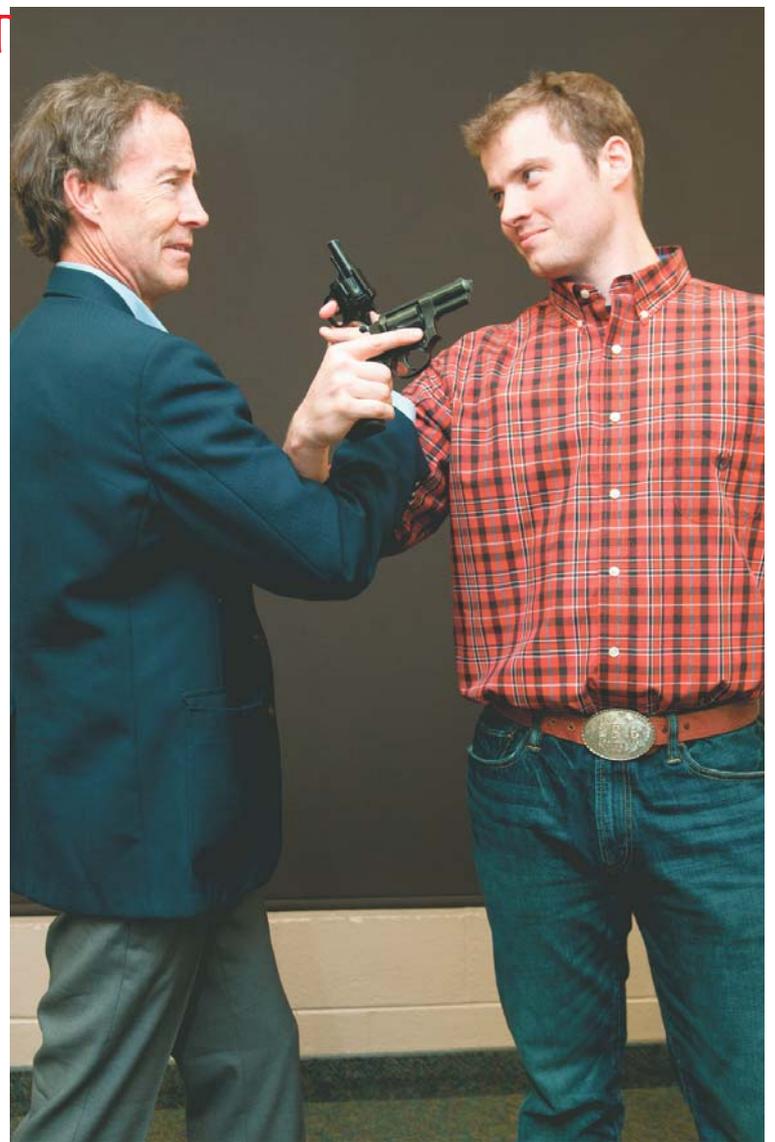
Artist's Reception. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Great Falls Artists' Atelier, 1144 Walker Road, Great Falls. Paintings and works on paper by Roberta Pruett Beasley. Free admission. 703-994-3165.

SATURDAY/MAY 5

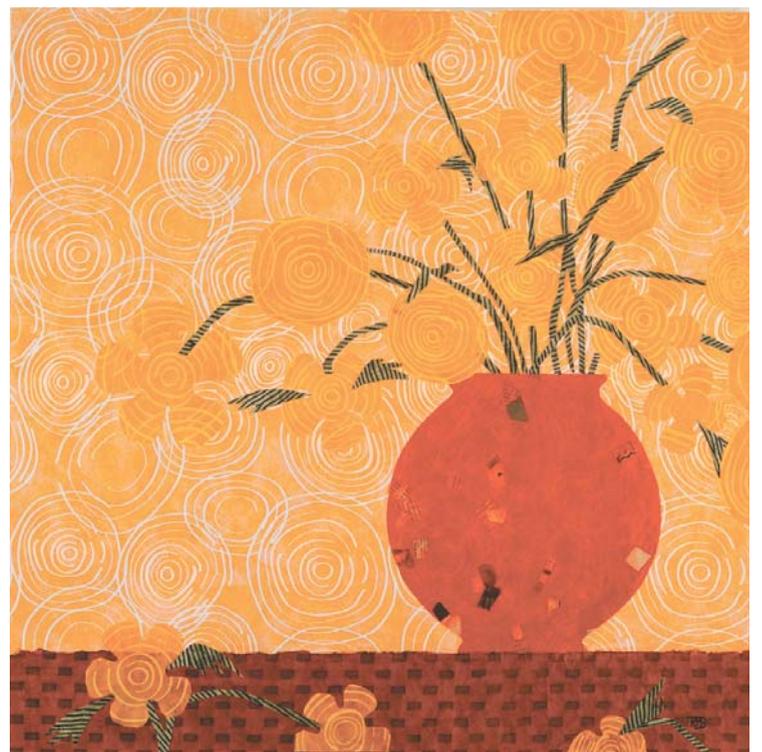
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"The Fantasticks." 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Musical comedy. \$14, \$12 students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

"Deathtrap." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Comedy-thriller about a play within a play. \$14-\$16, group rates available.



Dan Eddy and Will Spilman in the McLean Community Players' production of "Deathtrap" at Alden Theatre. [See listings for Friday and Saturday, May 4-5]



There will be an Artist's Reception on Friday, May 4 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Artists' Atelier, 1144 Walker Road, Great Falls, with paintings and works on paper by Roberta Pruett Beasley. Free admission. 703-994-3165.

866-811-4111 or www.mcleanplayers.org.
GVFD Celebrates 70 Years of Service. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, 9916 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Family food and fun plus tours of the new eco-friendly fire station.

vsingh8651@aol.com.
New Dominion Chorale. 4 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Mendelssohn's Elijah, featuring

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 12

soprano Esther Heideman, alto Laura Zuiderveen, baritone Timothy LeFebvre, tenor Issachah Savage and the New Dominion Chorale. Tickets \$5-\$30, available at cfa.gmu.edu/tickets, 703-993-2787, www.tickets.com or 888-945-2468.

Fairfax Civil War Day. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Historic Blenheim Estate, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Commemorating the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. \$5 adult, \$3 age 12 and younger. Proceeds benefit the restoration of the Historic Blenheim Estate. www.fairfaxva.gov or 703-591-0560.

- ♦ Demonstrations on blacksmithing with an 1862 traveling forge, railroads, naval artifacts, medicine, jewelry, toys, slave life and soldier research.
- ♦ Re-enactors will portray General Robert E. Lee, General Ulysses S. Grant, General George B. McClellan, Colonel John S. Mosby, photographer Matthew Brady and a "Yankee Schoolmarm."
- ♦ Talks on generals Lee, Grant and McClellan; Germans; and soldiers' ID tags.
- ♦ Demonstrations of a Howitzer cannon artillery gun, "boot camps" for children, author/vendor tents and more.
- ♦ Wagon rides through soldier camps, period music by Southern Horizon and period dancing.
- ♦ Guided tours of the first floor of the Blenheim house, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. \$10-\$12. www.madisondrama.com.

Social Justice Yard Sale. 7 a.m.-1

p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Proceeds benefit four charities. Cash only, no checks. www.uucf.org or lkozloff@verizon.net.

Ayr Hill Garden Club Plant Sale. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna Town Green next to the Freeman Store, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Featuring plants proven to grow well in Vienna because they come from local gardens. Species for sun and/or shade, deer resistant plants and drought tolerant plants. Proceeds help the AHGC to maintain five gardens in Vienna. 703-759-3899.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Line dance lesson 7:30 p.m., couples lesson 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. \$5-\$12. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

Ancient Technology Expo. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Discover ancient Native American technology as seen by Captain John Smith in 1608 with hands-on and Make & Take activities. Make an ancient style pot, grind corn, try spear-throwing (atlatl), create shell/bone jewelry and more. Enjoy archaeological artifact exhibits and photo galleries. \$3, under age 5 free. 571-258-3700.

Riverbend Bird Stroll: Warblers. 9-11 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Bring binoculars. \$7. Register at 703-759-9018.

Squirreling Around on a Spring Day. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Children age 6 and up. Find squirrels throughout the

historic house. \$5. 703-437-1794.

Living Wreath. 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Create a wreath using annuals on a moss frame. \$30. Reservations required at 703-255-3631.

SUNDAY/MAY 6

Spring Fling. 4 p.m. Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. The Main Street Community Band celebrates the arrival of spring as part of Fairfax's "Spotlight on the Arts Festival." Adults \$10, seniors \$5, students free. www.fairfaxband.org.

ValeArts Spring Show. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. "Full Spectrum," featuring nine local artists. Free admission. www.valearts.com.

"The Fantasticks." 2 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Musical comedy. \$14, \$12 students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

City of Fairfax Band: Spring Fling. 4 p.m. Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. Part of Fairfax's "Spotlight on the Arts Festival." \$10, seniors \$5, students free. christinarbianchi@gmail.com.

Percussion Ensemble Spring Concert. 3 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. American Youth Percussion Ensemble, Doug Wallace, Director. \$7 adult, \$5 senior s, \$5 student. www.aypo.org, events@aypo.org or 703-642-8051.

Grain Grinding and Blacksmith Demonstrations. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, McLean. \$7 adult, \$6 students, \$5 child or senior. Free admission.

703-759-2771.

TUESDAY/MAY 8

Dance Every Tuesday. 7:15 p.m. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Introductory dance lesson 7:15 p.m., dancing 8-10:30 p.m. Swing, Latin, waltz, country and more. \$10 per person, includes lesson and snacks. No partner necessary. colvinrun.org or Ed.Cottrell@macp.org.

Battle of Ox Hill Lecture. 7 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. David Welker on the Sept. 1, 1862 Civil War battle near present-day Fair Oaks. \$5. Register at 703-437-1794.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 9

Jammin' Juniors. 12:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Concert for age 2-5 with Vanessa Trien and the Jumping Monkeys. Free. sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Candyrat Guitar Night with Trevor Gordon Hall, Sergio Altamura, Owen Van Larkins and Pino Forastiere. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 11

An Evening with The Avett Brothers. 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. \$39, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 1-800-745-3000. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities

at 703-993-3035.

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

"The Happy Movie." 7 p.m. Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. 703-300-1857.

SATURDAY/MAY 12

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

With pianist Adam Golka. Britten's Sinfonia da Requiem, Debussy's La Mer, Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand, and Elgar's Enigma Variations. Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

Northern Virginia Chapter, International Plastic Modelers Society Model Classic 2012. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Museum quality scale models, a modeling contest consisting of over 80 categories, model kit, book and supplies vendors. Raffle prizes, Make & Take event for children, doll houses, Lego, HO and N scale model railroads, radio control models and more. Food concession on site. \$8 adults, \$10 entire family. www.novaimps.org.

Celebrate Communication 2012. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The area's premier expo for the deaf and hard of hearing communities, with 50+ exhibitors on all topics relating to deafness and hearing loss, including the latest in hearing assistive technologies and wireless technologies. Free. boleary@nvr.org.

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Clouds Over Tysons

The hopes of glorious vision face reality of a post recession Northern Virginia.

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

Back when Clark Tyler was running meetings of the citizens group planning the redevelopment of Tysons Corner, the transformation of this traffic strangled cross roads seemed a glorious vision.

The ambitious plan grew during one of the hottest housing booms of Fairfax's history. Housing prices soared and equities grew. The boom in turn was fed by millions of dollars of federal and defense expenditures in Northern Virginia. Typical family real estate taxes grew as well from \$2,400 a year to \$4,800.

But now in 2012, the hopes of that glorious vision have run into the reality of a post recession Northern Virginia and the tightening of federal expenditures that could spell limitations in the future.

THE PLAN called for the crowded traffic corridors of the present Tysons to be replaced by Metrorail bringing thousands of workers to its offices each day. The streets would be pedestrian friendly, neighborhoods joined by perhaps a trolley or a local bus system. There would be restaurants and urban parks, playgrounds and bike trails and a 21st Century ambiance without the exhausts of thousands of autos each day.

The plan would grow Tysons over the next 40 years from a village of 17,000 permanent residents and 105,000 day workers to an employment Mecca of 200,000

and a residential population of 100,000.

The Metrorail has arrived and is slated to be completed some time in 2013; four stations in Tysons and one at Wiehle Avenue in Reston. The \$2.9 billion project was on budget until this spring when the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority acknowledged that it was \$150,000 million over budget.

Whether the second nearly \$3 billion phase from Reston to Dulles will go forward is in serious doubt unless Loudoun County votes to pay its share (answer in July) and millions of additional dollars come from Virginia and the federal government. Fairfax County has already voted to pay its share of Phase 2. Up to now this entire project is backed primarily by taxpayers and the drivers along the Dulles Toll Road.

As Thomas L. Cranmer, a director of the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance wryly puts it, "the taxpayers have generously provided subway stops for developers." He is one of a growing clique who thinks that Phase 2 of Dulles Rail will be an economic disaster, based on faulty estimations of cost.

But the unexpected costs of Dulles Rail are not the only clouds hovering over the "glorious vision" of a new Tysons Corner:

- ❖ Housing values have fallen due to recession, but the high taxes of the mid-2000s have remained high.

- ❖ Federal government spending is growing tighter and the Department of Defense anticipates sharp cuts.

- ❖ The office market, the very

center of the notion of historic expansion for Tysons Corner, is down 17 percent and the federal workforce is contracting. An analysis by Jones Lang LaSalle, an international real estate broker doesn't see federal employment expanding sharply in the near term.

- ❖ Large projects in nearby jurisdictions mean competitors for Tysons Corner. In Alexandria construction is under way on a 20-year, 300 acre project which will include high rise office buildings, perhaps an additional Metro stop and could attract a work force of 60,000. In Arlington, the county is working hard to repopulate the Crystal City development which until recently had a work force of some 60,000.

- ❖ When the military's Base Realignment and Closure program (BRAC) moved 20,000 employees from Arlington to Alexandria, South Fairfax and Prince William County in 2010, it created an office building boom around Ft. Belvoir and increased development in Prince William County.

IN 2009, the Fairfax Planning Commission estimated that to make Tysons Corner into the city of the planning vision would cost \$15 billion for roads and transit not including the Dulles Rail costs. Who is going to pay this enormous cost is the argument now reverberating around Fairfax.

One proposal was a 50-50 split with owners and developers of Tysons paying 50 percent of the cost and the taxpayers the rest. But Rob Jackson of the McLean Citizens Association argues that it



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Trevor Clarkson (Marshall High School), with his parents, chooses a book that will be housed in his school library with a label honoring him as a VTRCC Chamber Star.

Chamber Stars

Thirty-three students were honored from schools in the Tysons Corner and Vienna area who came to the ViennaTysons Regional Chamber of Commerce program flanked by family and friends. Ted Sergio, from Navy Federal Credit Union, coordinated this program for the Youth and Education Committee. He asked the students what

they see at night when they look up into the sky? They responded, "Stars." He asked, "What do you think of when you see a star?" and he got answers light "They are bright," "they lead the way in darkness," and "they make me smile," at which time Ted said "Exactly, and you as Chamber Stars are those things too, you are bright, you are leaders, and you make us very proud."



Some of the students from area schools who were recognized as Chamber Stars.

should follow the pattern of the Route 128 project with the developers paying 75 percent. Others believe that the developers, who will be the principal beneficiaries of the redevelopment, should pay 100 percent.

The debate has certainly made

agreement on the Planning Commissions Tysons Committee difficult to come by. It postponed every meeting since Feb. 15. The committee next meets on May 2 and if the schedule holds details of the disagreements may become known.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/MAY 5

Vienna Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna Caboose, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Voter registration by the League of Women Voters available. Producers only, Saturdays through Oct. 27. viennafarmersmarket.com.

"The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens" Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. For age 12-19. Provide teens with tools to deal successfully with real life issues, gain greater control over their lives and make smarter decisions and get the competitive edge with college and job

applications. \$175-\$200 plus the book for \$15. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

Climate Change in Virginia: Local Impacts, Local Action. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Northern Virginia Climate Action Network and Virginia Climate Commissioner Delegate David Bulova discuss specific risks Virginia is facing from the impacts of climate change. Free. 703-506-4310.

SUNDAY/MAY 6

The Use and Abuse of Sacred Narrative. 12:45 p.m. Fairfax Unitarian Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Sacred texts such as the Bible or the Koran provide a narrative of God's role in the world, and man's place in it. Unfortunately sacred texts can also be used to justify a skewed and toxic view of

life.

Dog and Cat Adoptions. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 8204 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Every Sunday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 8

Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce TIPS Luncheon. 12:15 p.m. Shula's Steakhouse, 8028 Leesburg Pike, in the Tysons Corner Marriott. Every Tuesday. 703-862-4895.

Tysons Corner Kiwanis Club Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at George C. Marshall High School, Room 124, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Meeting is public and Individuals looking to volunteer in their community welcome. Meetings the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

www.tysonscornerkiwanis.org.
NARFE Chapter 1116 Vienna-Oakton. 1:30 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. Ice cream social. With Buckley Fricker, author of "Elder Care: The Road to Growing Old is Not Paved," a reference manual on elder care topics. Free. 703-698-1838.

Great Falls Citizens Association Meeting. 7:30 p.m. The Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. How residents can take advantage of summer programs in Riverbend, Turner, Colvin Run and Great Falls National Parks. With presentations by park staff. bcanis@yahoo.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 9

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meeting. 1:30 p.m. at Kaplan Center for Integrative

Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group. 7 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE, Vienna, VA. A group for anyone with multiple sclerosis, their family and friends. Sponsored by the National Capital Chapter of the MS Society. The group meets the second Wednesday of every month. Free. 703-768-4841.

Faith Communities in Action. 2 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Center Rooms 2 & 3, Fairfax. A panel of community food providers and county human service staff will discuss how food is distributed in Fairfax County, who is providing it and how it is accessed. The panel will talk about the various ways faith communities are involved. NCSInterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov.



PHOTO GALLERY!

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

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15072 Stillfield Pl.....\$699,900.....Sun 1-4.....Larry Swanson.....Long & Foster..703-850-9813
15237 Surrey House Way..\$569,900.....Sun 1-4.....Donny Samson.....Samson Props..703-864-4894

Clifton

12662 Braddock Farms Ct..\$949,900.....Sun 1-4.....Jamil Mourtaza.....Weichert..703-472-3819
13602 Union Village Cir.....\$559,900.....Sun 1-4.....Damon Nicholas..Coldwell Banker..703-502-8787

Fairfax

11124 Popes Head Rd.....\$820,000.....Sun 1-4.....Monica Adams.....RE/MAX..703-434-9400

Fairfax Station

11808 Winterway Ln.....\$799,900.....Sun 1-4.....Cristina Dougherty.....Long & Foster..703-969-0471
8303 Pinyon Pine Ct.....\$767,900.....Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986

Herndon

642 Madison St.....\$689,000.....Sun 1-4.....Alison Sherman.....Keller Williams..703-636-7306

Leesburg

40994 Waxwing Dr.....\$664,900.....Sun 1-4.....Donny Samson.....Samson Props..703-864-4894

Oak Hill

12721 Ox Meadow Dr.....\$1,269,000.....Sat 2-4.....Jerry Thatcher.....Weichert..703-934-0400

Reston

1501 North Point Dr, #202..\$322,900.....Sun 1-4.....Kelly Stock Bacon.....ERA..703-723-9869

Springfield

7700 White Willow Ct.....\$719,000.....Sun 1-4.....Karen McGavin.....Keller Williams..703-740-8787
8230 Running Creek Ct.....\$644,990.....Sun 1-4.....Ryan Rice.....Keller Williams..571-212-8339

Sterling

16 N. Lowery Ct.....\$475,000.....Sat 1-4.....Scarlet Lovell.....RE/MAX..703-858-9108
20615 Cutwater Pl.....\$645,000.....Sun 1-4.....Bana Qashu.....Keller Williams..703-535-3610
20736 Arbor Ct.....\$649,000.....Sat 1-3:30.....Joseph Holbrook.....Keller Williams..703-651-9169
47560 Anchorage Cir.....\$559,000.....Sun 1-4.....Michael Foley.....Foley..703-433-9534

Vienna

314 Center St. N.....\$975,000.....Sun 1-4.....Casey Samson.....Samson Props..703-508-2535
371 Church St, NE.....\$1,385,000.....Sun 1-4.....Pamela Dargue.....Keller Williams..703-564-4000
402 Glyndon St. SE.....\$729,900.....Sat 1-3.....Jue Wang.....Premiere..571-439-9000
8181 Carnegie Ct # 108.....\$339,900.....Sat 2-4.....Michael Huang.....Kirin..703-636-4388
9931 Longford Ct.....\$499,000.....Sun 12-3.....Ramona Verrico..Coldwell Banker..703-451-2500

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McLean Softball on Course for Strong Finish

Highlanders are 8-2 in the strong Liberty District.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Over the course of the high school girls' softball season, the McLean Highlanders have shown upward progress and gotten better and better. There have been a few lopsided losses to some exceptional opponents, but the Liberty District team has consistently responded with strong bounce-back games and improved play.

All things considered, this spring's Highlanders have displayed both fortitude and talent, with an 11-4 overall record.

"We are having an up and down season so far," said McLean head coach Maurice Tawil. "But, we have progressed since the beginning of the season."

One of the team's worst losses came two weekends ago at home on the afternoon of April 21 when McLean lost by a 12-0 score to perennial metropolitan private school power Bishop O'Connell of Arlington. The Highlanders had struggled in a similarly lopsided loss earlier in the season, a 15-3 Liberty District home setback to Stone Bridge on March 26.

Following the defeat to Stone Bridge, McLean responded with an impressive six-game win streak. Thus far, in similar fashion, Coach Tawil's squad has won its two games since losing to the Knights of O'Connell - a 5-3 victory at Stone Bridge, the same team which beat the Highlanders



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean High softball is beginning to gear up for the upcoming postseason. A year ago, the Highlanders captured the Liberty District tournament title and reached the region finals before losing to Westfield (pictured).

by 12 runs in late March, and a 12-2 district home win over Marshall last Friday night, April 27. The win over the Statesmen improved McLean's district record to an outstanding 8-2.

At the plate against Marshall, McLean received multi-hit games from junior pitcher/first baseman Lauryn Hahne, senior outfielder Mary Spulak, and junior catcher Maddie Moore, along with a home run from senior first baseman/outfielder Allison Wilhelm. And in the prior game win over Stone Bridge, Hahne's strong pitching helped lead the way for the Highlanders.

McLean's district losses have come to Stone Bridge (in the first meeting with the

Bulldogs) and Madison. The setback to the Warhawks, by a 5-3 score, came at home on April 13 and snapped the Highlanders' six-game win streak. Madison, last Friday night, saw its own win streak of eight games snapped with a loss to Stone Bridge.

McLean is scheduled to play the Warhawks in a second meeting on May 8 at Madison. That game could go a long way in determining which of the two rivals will finish first in the regular season district standings and hold top seeding for the upcoming district playoffs.

This week, McLean was scheduled to play three district games - at South Lakes on Monday, April 30, home against Fairfax on

Wednesday, May 2, and at Jefferson High this Friday night, May 4 at 6:30.

THE REGULAR SEASON is rapidly coming towards an end with just five games remaining, including the three this week. The Liberty District tournament is scheduled to begin with first round games on Wednesday, May 16.

"We still believe that we will be playing our best ball by season's end," said Tawil, who led McLean to its' first-ever Virginia State AAA title just two years ago. "So we still expect to contend for the district and [Northern] Regional titles."

The team's top players have been Wilhelm, a team captain, and catcher Moore.

"Both players possess power, hit for average and hit third or fourth in our line-up," said Tawil.

The Highlanders have received a solid season from sophomore right fielder and leadoff hitter Christi Geisler, whom the coach said has exceeded expectations with her fine all-around play.

"She has a combination of speed and power and adds a dimension by being a [slap hitter]," said Tawil.

In the field, McLean has made teams earn their runs. Having exceptionally good seasons with the gloves are senior second baseman Tina Anwyll and outfielder Spulak, whom, like Wilhelm, serves as a team captain.

Handling the pitching duties have been Hahne, sophomore Rachel Wiener, and freshman Maddy Witchey.

Other members of the Highlanders roster are junior shortstop Grace Henry, freshmen Sami Youaw and Erin Calpin, and sophomores Nikki Slade (outfield) and Catherine Overberg (infield).

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

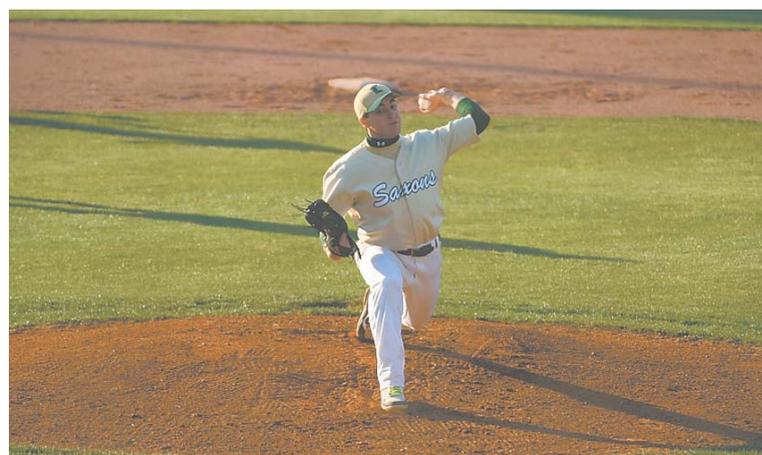
The McLean High boys' tennis team, following a Liberty District win over Jefferson last Thursday, April 26, held a perfect 11-0 record.

McLean had a pair of tough district matches during the week - the Thursday competition versus Jefferson and, three days earlier, an outing versus cross-town rival Langley. All three Liberty District teams - McLean, Langley, and Jefferson - are among the top teams in the Northern Region.

"The McLean Highlanders boys' tennis team is blessed with excellent depth," said the team's head coach, Aavo Tomkov.

That was certainly proven in the match versus the visiting Jefferson Colonials, in which three of McLean's top three players were unable to compete due to illness. But the Highlanders still performed well in a 7-2 team victory over Jefferson (7-3 record), the defending Northern Region champions.

In singles action, McLean won



PHOTO/COURTESY LANGLEY BASEBALL

Langley High baseball pitcher Jonathan O'Connor, a senior, earned the decision for the Saxons in their 5-3 home victory over the South Lakes Seahawks last Friday. The Saxons improved to 9-7 on the season.

five of the six matches. At No. 1 singles, Nik Padmanabhan defeated Stephen Hu, 10-6; and at No. 2, Mike Padmanabhan was a 10-7 winner over Ben Rosenblum. McLean's other singles winners were: Kristian KC over Govind Mattay, 10-4, at No. 4; Mark

Martinkov over Brad Rosenblum, 10-6, at No. 5; and Joon Yee, a 10-8 victor over Jason Huang at No. 6.

In doubles, McLean's No. 1 team of Padmanabhan and Ahmed Skaljc bested Stephen Hu and Kevin Wan by a 10-8 score. Mike Padmanabhan and Mark

Martinkov won their No. 2 match, 10-4, over Govind Mattay and Matt Swanhorst.

IN THE APRIL 24 match earlier in the week, McLean won a hard-fought meeting at Langley, 6-3. It marked the second time this spring in which the Highlanders have defeated the talented Saxons.

In singles, McLean's Nik Padmanabhan won his No. 1 match over Jeff Small, 10-4. At No. 2, the Saxons' Jimmy Fang was a 10-6 winner over Kyle Chisu Edwards. In the No. 3 singles match, McLean's Mike Padmanabhan earned his way past JT Von Seggern, 10-5.

The Highlanders took the No. 4 through six singles matches: Ahmed Skaljc getting past Joe LaFuria, 10-8, at No. 4; Bing Waid defeating Brian Niu, 10-4, at No. 5; and Kristian KC winning over Anudeep Bodd, 10-5.

McLean's Padmanabhan and Kyle Chisu Edwards won their No.

1 doubles match over Jeff Small and Jimmy Fang, 8-4. At No. 2, Langley teammates JT Von Seggern and Joe LaFuria were 8-6 winners over Ahmed Skaljc and Bing Waid. And at No. 3 doubles, the Saxon duo of Elliott Greene and Calvin Li bested Kristian KC and Joon Yee, 8-6.

Great Falls Soccer invites parents from the local area to learn more about the GFSC Travel program. What is travel soccer all about? What is the time commitment? What is the tryout process like? Is it a good fit for my child/family? Answers to these questions, along with many others, will be answered on Wednesday evening, May 2 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Forestville Elementary in Great Falls - a meeting especially designed for the parents of rising U9 players (mainly rising 3rd grade students, contact us for birth date requirements). For more information contact administrator@greatfallsoccer.com

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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NEWS

News That's Fit To Print



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As our Publisher and fellow cancer survivor, Mary Kimm, e-mailed back to me last week: "Who knew 'stable' could be so exciting?"

Yes, 'stable,' as in the results of my most recent diagnostic scan after four heavy-duty chemotherapy infusions; even though I have been diagnosed with stage IV (meaning metastatic, meaning: moved already) lung cancer, nothing much is happening. For the moment, and that moment has now lasted three-plus years, I continue to be, fortunately for me, an anomaly: alive and reasonably well. Can I hear an "Amen?!"

Though I've tried, repeatedly, since June '09 when I first went public, column-wise, and confirmed my diagnosis/prognosis in print, it still remains nearly impossible to articulate exactly what bounces around in the head (figuratively speaking) of an otherwise healthy, then 54-year-old male (now 57), non-smoker, with no immediate-family history of cancer – or of even having ever smoked cigarettes, to be diagnosed with advanced-stage (IV; there is no V) "terminal" lung cancer. However, I continue to try, as you regular readers know. And thanks to the varied feedback I receive: cards, letters, e-mails, books, inclusions on prayer lists, and the expressions of encouragement and support typically contained, I am relatively healthy, in no small measure I believe, to the words and prayers – of hope and faith, directed to me.

Though I didn't start writing these "cancer columns," as I call them, for any greater good – it was simply what interested me, given my circumstances – they have evolved into a kind of cathartic exercise that perhaps has enabled me to still write them, if you know what I mean? If I didn't have this outlet (space) to indulge myself (thank you again, Mary Kimm), and subject you readers to the rigors – both physically and emotionally, of the ongoing struggles of a cancer patient living day by day, and writing about it week by week, I don't suppose I would be so proud of what I've accomplished/what I've endured.

That is not to imply that I have suffered any more than any other cancer patient and/or any other diagnosed-as-terminal patient; in fact, comparatively speaking, I think I've had it pretty easy (other than the reality of it all). Nevertheless, being diagnosed with cancer is all it's cracked up to be, despite one's relative good fortune in managing to outlive their prognosis ("13 months to two years"). I still can't get the characterization "incurable disease" as initially used by my oncologist, out of my head. As such, as good a result as what I recently received, it's still a temporary result, albeit it an amazing/great/miraculous one, but one subject to change, from what I understand. And as much as I want to receive and hear a permanent you're-cured-type of assessment from my doctor, apparently the chances are fairly unlikely. Still, I have to remain satisfied with the "stable" because the "stable" is all it's cracked up to be. And for a terminal patient, when you're no longer stable, generally speaking, you're no longer an anomaly.

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

Fashion, Fun and Philanthropy

D.C. Chapter of Childhelp Wings holds fashion-show fundraiser.

By MARY GRACE OAKES
THE CONNECTION

On Sunday, April 15, the Washington D.C. Chapter of Childhelp Wings held its seventh annual Fashion Show at the Tysons Corner Bloomingdale's. Co-chaired by Great Falls residents and Childhelp Wings members Debbie Copito and Anjanette Murphy, the event attracted families from all over the D.C. metro area, and benefited the children served by Childhelp, a non-profit organization "dedicated to helping victims of child abuse and neglect through prevention, intervention, and treatment." Childhelp, which was founded in 1959 by actresses Sarah O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson, has serviced nearly 7 million children since its inception, through the operation of 24/7 National Child Abuse Hotline and the running of nationwide residential treatment "villages."

The "afternoon of fashion, fun, and philanthropy" began with a brunch reception and raffle, after which opening remarks were made by Bloomingdale's General Manager, Julia Palmer, and actress and philanthropist Jen Liley. Liley, who stars as Maxie Jones on General Hospital, spoke of her admiration for the organization and its efforts, saying "child abuse is such a big problem, and it demands a big answer...and I fully believe, with all my heart, that Childhelp is that answer."

Attendees then enjoyed a fashion show hosted by journalist, strategic communicator, and activist, Cynthia Steele Vance, which showcased Bloomingdale's "must-have selection" for the spring season. Working the runway was a mix of professional models and young volunteers from the D.C. branch of Childhelp Wings, "a program designed to inspire, empower, engage and equip youth to join Childhelp in the prevention and treatment of child abuse."

Following the show, Childhelp's co-founders, Yvonne Fedderson and Sarah O'Meara, took to the catwalk in order to "celebrate" Sandra Crippen of Great Falls for her more than two decades of service to the organization. Crippen, who in 1988 became a founding member of the Washington, D.C. chapter of Childhelp, was presented with the "Heart of an Angel" Award for her commitment to the organization's cause. "Every step of the way, through every hill and valley, Sandy and her dear husband Jack were right by our side... They never wavered from their belief in the miracles that are possible when generous hearts come together for the love of a child," Fedderson said.



Dylan Murphy, 14, of Great Falls, works the runway as the audience looks on. Dylan was one of several local children who participated in the fashion show.



Event Co-chairs Debbie Copito and Anjanette Murphy pose for a quick picture with Sandy Crippen (middle), all from Great Falls. Crippen is a recipient of Childhelp's "Heart of an Angel Award."

PHOTOS BY MARY GRACE OAKES/THE CONNECTION



Walking the runway in Bloomingdale's "must-have selection" for the spring season was a mix of professional models and young volunteers from the D.C. branch of Childhelp Wings.

Before the day's festivities concluded with a shopping event, guests also heard from Lisa Evans, the director of National Mem-

bership and the Wings Program, and Carol Hebets, "the founding mother of Childhelp Wings."

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