

McLean Celebrates WinterFest

NEWS, PAGE 3

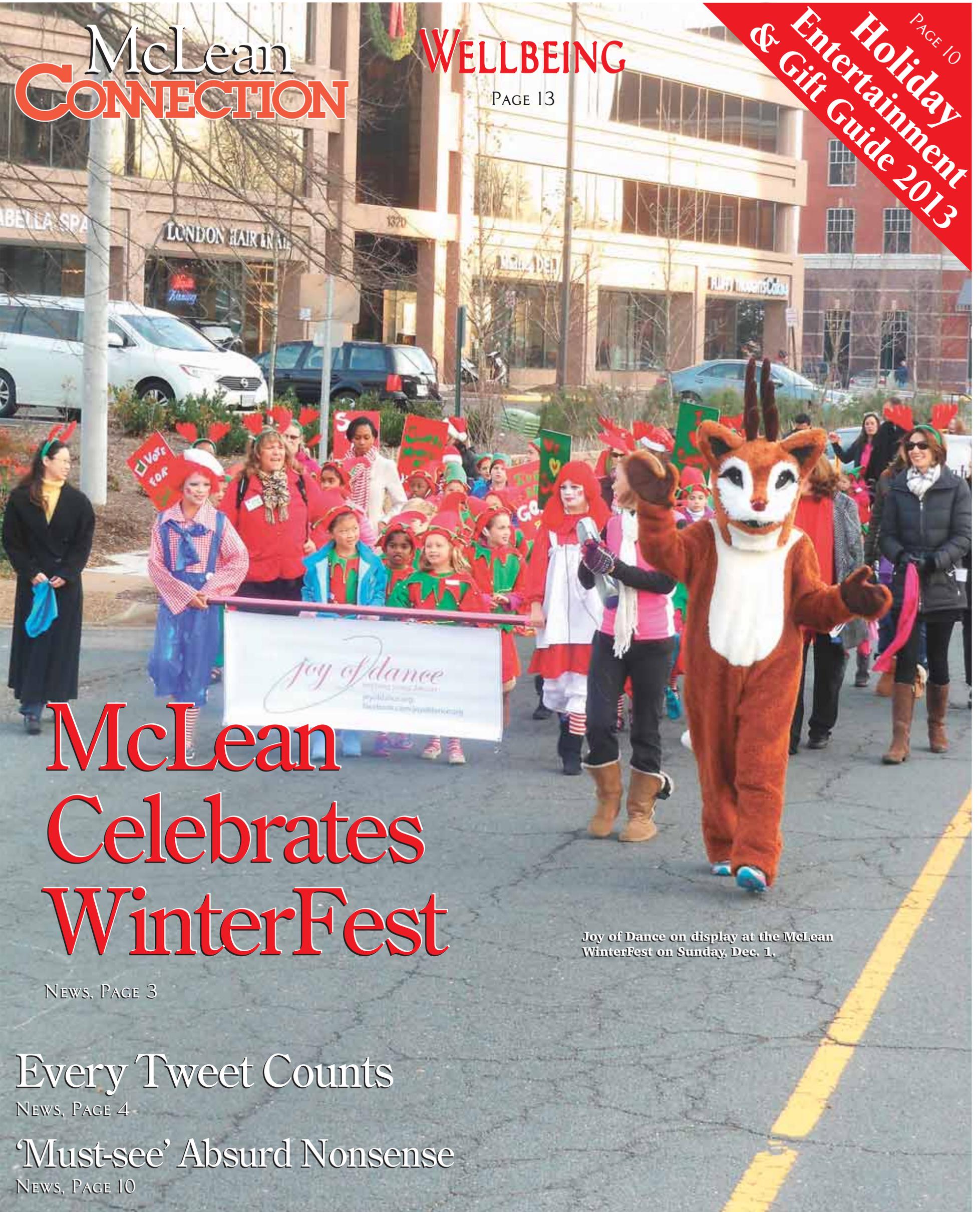
Every Tweet Counts

NEWS, PAGE 4

'Must-see' Absurd Nonsense

NEWS, PAGE 10

Joy of Dance on display at the McLean WinterFest on Sunday, Dec. 1.



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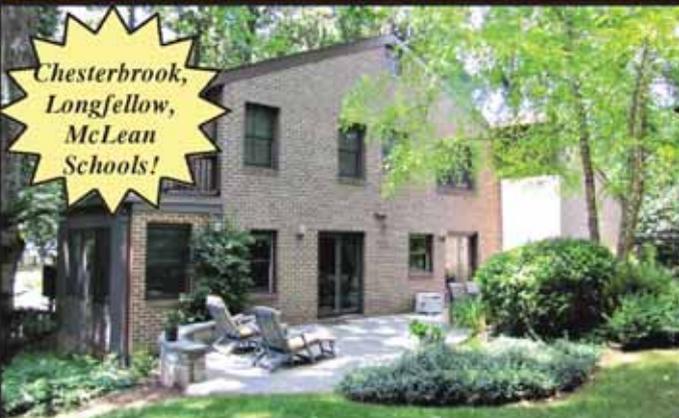
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NEWS

McLEAN CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC
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Leading the 2013 McLean WinterFest parade on Sunday, Dec. 1 is the McLean all-stars softball team that finished the runner-up in the Little League Softball World Series final in Portland, Ore., last summer.



McLean Brownies join the parade.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

McLean Celebrates WinterFest

Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville) and U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) participated in Sunday's parade in McLean.



Bolivian dancers, Tintos de San Simon Fraternidad folclorica y cultural, join McLean parade on Sunday, Dec. 1.



Members of the McLean Old Firehouse Teen Center march in the parade.



Parade participants march in downtown McLean.

Every Tweet Counts

How Republican Brian Schoeneman earned wrath of his party by making sure every vote counted in county.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

On the morning of Nov. 6, the day after the general election, it appeared that Republican Mark Obenshain had eked out a razor-thin victory over Democrat Mark Herring to become Virginia's next Attorney General.

Like most hotly-contested political battles, the close race generated even closer scrutiny.

National political analyst David Wasserman, with the Cook Political Report, thought there were anomalies in the absentee ballot totals for Fairfax County, which had been expected to vote strongly Democratic.

Wasserman took to Twitter with his evidence, pointing out there must be absentee ballots missing in Fairfax County, because the percentage of requested absentee ballots that had been returned and reported on election night was much lower than the percentage of other counties. Wasserman and others noticed that there were abnormally low totals in the 8th Congressional District, which includes Bailey's Crossroads.

"Are we supposed to buy that just 7 percent of voters in Bailey's Crossroads who requested an absentee ballot actually voted? Preposterous," Wasserman concluded in one tweet.

Meanwhile, Brian Schoeneman, the senior GOP appointee to Fairfax County's three-member Electoral Board, was in the midst of a post-election canvass, his first since being appointed to the board last spring. Essentially, a canvass is checking and double-checking Election Day votes, the purpose of which is to catch inevitable human errors.

Schoeneman, a well-known Fairfax attorney, Republican blogger and former Bush staffer, had been posting tweets and Facebook messages on Election Day to make the process as transparent as possible for voters.

He had also been reading the tweets from Wasserman and others. Finding no evidence of a discrepancy after an initial review, he tweeted a reply.

"To respond to rumors going around, there are zero - 0 - ZERO uncounted absentee ballots in Fairfax County. We completed our



Brian Schoeneman, Secretary of the Fairfax County Election Board, at his "day job" as an attorney in Fairfax County.



Brian W. Schoeneman
@BrianSchoeneman



To respond to rumors going around, there are zero - 0 - ZERO uncounted absentee ballots in Fairfax County. We completed our count last night

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Brian Schoeneman, Secretary of the Fairfax County Election Board, took to Twitter throughout Election Day and in the days following the election, to communicate with political observers who questioned the discrepancy between requested absentee ballots and actual vote counts in the statewide elections. Schoeneman's now infamous "zero" tweet, posted on Wednesday, Nov. 6, went viral and sparked a fast and furious twitter sphere debate.

count last night," Schoeneman posted on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 2:33 p.m.

The "zero" tweet instantly went viral.

Over the next 36 hours, the twitter sphere exploded as hundreds of followers jumped into the fray, providing numbers, offering theories, and, at times, hurling partisan insults.

Wasserman and Ben Tribbett, a Fairfax County Democratic operative who writes the political blog "Not Larry Sabato," kept peppering Schoeneman with numbers showing abnormally low totals for

absentee ballots.

Schoeneman, in an effort to be "hyper-transparent," encouraged the crowd sourcing by engaging followers with real-time status reports.

At 7:40 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7, Schoeneman tweeted:

"I'm working on figuring this out as we speak ... Nobody's being rude. Dave is keeping me honest, which is fine."

A half hour later, at 8:14 p.m., Schoeneman sent out a "Houston, we have a problem" tweet:

"I've talked to the GR (general registrar) and we are working on



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Brian Schoeneman in his Fairfax townhome with his cat, Howie. His favorite portrait of Revolutionary hero George Washington hangs above the fireplace.

Brian Schoeneman — At a Glance

Hometown: Born in Baltimore and raised in Pennsylvania, Schoeneman came to the D.C. metropolitan area to attend The George Washington University, where he earned two degrees. He moved to Fairfax County in 2007.

Education: B.A. in political science, George Washington University, 2001. Master's degree in political management, George Washington University, 2004; Law degree, Catholic University School of Law, 2011

Family: Married to KayAnn, the communications director for the Fairfax Chamber. The couple live in Fairfax with their 3 1/2 year-old son Nick and cat, Howie.

Public Office: Schoeneman served in President George W. Bush's administration as special assistant and senior speechwriter to Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao from 2008 to 2009. In that capacity, he served as the Secretary's lead liaison to organized labor and as a member of her senior staff. In the 2011 election, he ran against state Del. David Bulova, a Democrat, but failed to capture the 37th house district seat.

Profession: Schoeneman earned his law degree at Catholic University.

He is the legislative director for the Seafarers International Union of North America, a maritime labor union. Schoeneman is co-owner and an active blogger for the right-leaning political blog Bearing Drift.

Membership & Affiliations: Member of the historic St. John's Episcopal Church on Lafayette Square; Catholic University Law Review, published The Scarlet "L" - Have Recent Developments in Lobbying Regulation Gone Too Far?; vice president of the Wescott Ridge Homeowners Association; an active freemason, he has served as an officer in John Blair Lodge #187; member of the International Propeller Club of the United States, where he serves on the Board of Governors of the D.C. Chapter; founding member of the GW Graduate School of Political Management Alumni Association, and served as its first president; communications director for the Fairfax County Republican Committee in 2010 and former general counsel for FCRC from 2012 to March 2013. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Fairfax Bar Association and the Federalist Society.

this as we speak — I am convinced now too that there is an issue."

"It was my worst nightmare as an election official, the perfect storm of events," Schoeneman said last week. "During the canvass, we spent most of the day catching little errors, and we didn't realize we had a glaring error."

Votes were temporarily underreported when a voting machine in Bailey's Crossroads malfunctioned early on Election Day. Although the machine was later repaired, an election official grabbed the totals generated when the machine broke down, rather than the final tally — a much larger number for Herring.

Schoeneman's transparency and his willingness to explore what went wrong on election night thrust him into the epicenter of partisan politics.

While his actions earned him the respect of many Democrats, both locally and nationally, Schoeneman also earned the wrath of some in his own party,

who weren't happy that Fairfax County's revised count turned the tide in favor of Democrat Mark Herring.

"Anyone who knows Brian knows that he is honest to a fault, and will do everything in his power to make the (election) process as fair and transparent as possible," said Cameron Quinn, Fairfax County's general registrar.

Chris Sanders, a local Twitter follower, said he was impressed by Schoeneman's candid responses during the election. "He is a stand-up guy, even though we don't have the same politics," Sanders said.

On Nov. 25, the Virginia State Board of Elections certified election results with Herring defeating Obenshain by a mere 165 votes out of more than 2 million cast statewide. Obenshain has requested a recount, which is expected to be held in mid-December.

The "found" absentee ballots

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 6

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BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 4

Vienna Photographic Society Meeting. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Irene Sacilotto will speak. Sacilotto has led numerous tours through Osprey Photo Workshops and Tours, and has conducted many photographic workshops for zoos, nature centers, and organizations like the National Wildlife Federation. www.vpsva.org

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

The Great Falls Writer's Group. 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Great Falls Public Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike. Guest speaker, Laura Wickstead, executive director of Fairfax County Public Library's Virginia Room will be present.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

Brain Science, 21st Century Skills and Education. 6:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 127 Center Street S., Vienna. \$10 per ticket. RSVP to office@fioremontessori.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Blanket Collection. 9-5 p.m. 2719 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The Oakton meetinghouse of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will serve as a local collection point for a county effort to donate blankets to refugees of the Syrian Civil War now residing in Turkey. Bring washed and folded blankets (new or gently used). hizmetrelief.org/syrian-refugees.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Worm Composting. 2-3:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Learn about Worm composting, which is a type of vermiculture that is a natural method of recycling food waste. Reservations required by Dec. 5. Fee: \$35/Bin RA members; \$40/Bin Non-members. naturecenter@reston.org

TUESDAY/DEC. 10

Discover Graphics. At ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Exhibiting the work of printmakers for the past 30 years.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 11

Business Education Workshop: Learn to Enjoy Tax Time. 8:30-10 a.m., at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 1763 Fountain Drive, Reston. The cost is \$10. Register at <https://restonvacoc.wliinc25.com/>. More info: call 703-707-9045.

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

Great Falls Writer's Group. 12-1:30 p.m. Great Falls Library. Writers from all levels are encouraged to attend to share their work with others. No registration needed. All are welcome. For more info: 703-757-88560.

ONGOING:

Vienna Toastmasters. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center on the 2nd floor room opposite the elevator, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. A friendly place to get comfortable with public speaking and impromptu speaking for new & experienced speakers. Open to the public.

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NEWS

Election Aftermath: 'Getting it Right in Fairfax'

FROM PAGE 4

and the approved provisional ballots resulted in a 975-vote new swing in favor of Democratic nominee Mark Herring. In fact, the additional votes from Fairfax County were the single biggest factor in Herring edging out Obenshain in the final certified tally.

The headline-making story spawned conspiracy theories by political activists on both sides of the aisle. While Schoeneman said he was just doing his job by making certain that every vote counted, others in his party saw it differently.

Jeanine Martin, on The Bull Elephant blog, asked "Why is Brian Schoeneman, who purports to be a Republican, helping Democrats by extending this deadline?"

Martin was referring to the Election Board's unanimous decision to extend the provisional ballot deadline through Tuesday, Nov. 12, a full week after the Nov. 5

election, while other Virginia counties were adhering to a deadline at 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 8.

That decision earned Schoeneman the scorn of Republican party officials throughout the state.

"What happened in Fairfax over the last week, culminating in tonight's announcement of a reversal in fortunes of the Virginia Attorney General candidates, was a travesty," wrote Steve Albertson, vice chairman of the Stafford County Electoral Board, in his blog. "... In doing so they raised a giant middle finger to the rest of us."

Schoeneman said it stung to have members of his own party question his integrity.

"These folks knew better. They've worked with me for years, and they know I'm honest and willing to address any complaints.

"One of the downsides to politics is that there are some folks — and they exist on both sides of the aisle — who want to turn every-

thing into a 'good vs. evil' battle where everybody with one letter after their name is good and the other side is evil," Schoeneman said.

Schoeneman also said there were some Republicans who questioned his attempts at transparency and responsiveness through social media such as Twitter and Facebook.

"When I made that 'zero' tweet, I was trying to tamp down the rumors that we had missing ballots or missing votes — and by missing I mean physically not present, like a box of ballots lying around somewhere that hadn't been counted. I had confirmed with the staff that this wasn't the case," Schoeneman said.

"And I was right," Schoeneman added, "we didn't have missing ballots. We did have a major tabulation error that inadvertently left 3,000 or so votes off the results sheet, which we caught and cor-

SEE VOTE, PAGE 7

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Making Sure Every Vote Counts

FROM PAGE 6

rected. So both sides were right — there were votes that hadn't been reported, but my tweet was also accurate, because we didn't have any missing ballots that hadn't been counted in the 8th."

Looking back on election night, Schoeneman said he doesn't regret his infamous tweet, or any other tweets that gave the public a chance to "see into the factory where the sausage is being made."

"When folks are that cynical, it's hard to crack through to convince them that their preconceived notions about politics are wrong. I hope I was able to do that for a few people on the left — prove to them that there are Republicans out there who care about the rules, getting it right and being fair ... I want the average voter to know that their vote counts."

Asked if he would do anything differently on election night, Schoeneman replied that he thought the process could be improved with enhanced communication to election chiefs.

"The one thing I know we need to do differently and would have done differently is to get our chiefs and coordinators the spreadsheet we had that included all of the mail-in absentees and absentee-in-person ballots cast by Congressional District. Had our folks in the 8th District Central Absentee Precinct had that information, they could have figured out right away that their numbers were off," he said.

Ironically, it wasn't supposed to be Schoeneman sitting in that hot seat this highly partisan election.

Last February, Schoeneman was representing the Fairfax County Republican Committee in a lawsuit stemming from the 2012 election when the term of election board member Hans von Spakovsky, a Republican former member of the George W. Bush administration, was up.

Von Spakovsky, a political lightning rod for his controversial research on voter fraud, was the local Republican Party's first choice to remain on the board. Although it's almost unheard of for the panel of circuit court judges to refuse a

party's first choice, the panel bypassed von Spakovsky.

Instead, they picked the party's second choice: Brian Schoeneman.

"Did I ever think I'd be sitting here as an election officer? No, absolutely not. But I'm here, and I'm committed to transparency. Call it 'Getting it right in Fairfax.' That's kind of my new slogan," Schoeneman said, smiling.

An avid Orioles fan, Schoeneman compared the events of election night, and the subsequent fallout from the Attorney General's saga to the World Series.

"We had a good night on Tuesday night, and a couple of nights where I thought we were in real trouble, but we patched things together and got it done," Schoeneman said. "Given that we didn't completely wrap up the process until 10 minutes before the deadline on Tuesday the 12th, the whole process felt like coming down to the last pitch of the last inning of Game 7 of the series, and having your guy hit a walk off single to win the game. And it was that stressful the whole time, too."

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OPINION

Who Will Be Hurt?

Innovations, changes and cuts designed to help the budget should be subject to analysis of how they will affect those on the short end of the economic and digital divide.

As Fairfax County faces a tight budget year and Fairfax County Public Schools consider significant cuts, clearly some changes are going to affect services on the ground.

As various proposals emerge, there should be some specific analysis of how changes, innovations and cuts would affect the poorest one-third or so of the county's residents specifically.

The schools, along with certain county agencies, must take special note of their mission, including providing services to families who are on the short side of the economic and digital divide. Elimination of print notices and newsletters, conversion to digital textbooks, use of internet-based surveys are just examples of small innovations that can leave many resi-

dents behind.

In another example, it is disturbing that ongoing concerns about Fairfax County libraries do not include a clear statement of mission to serve families and individuals who lack access to broadband internet at home.

EDITORIAL

In Fairfax County, where nearly 20 percent of the households have annual income of under \$50,000, about 8 percent live below the poverty line and more than 47,000 public school students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals, the public libraries are indispensable. Access to library resources goes beyond books, and includes the very digital access that many people cite as a threat to libraries. Public access to information via computers and Internet for those who do not have other access is a

critical service, and should be clearly defined as a critical mission of the libraries.

According to a 2010 report, Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: 44 percent of people in households living below the federal poverty line (\$22,000 a year for a family of four) used public library computers and Internet access; among young adults 14-24 in households below the poverty line, 61 percent used public library computers and Internet for educational purposes; among seniors 65 and older living in poverty, 54 percent used public library computers for health or wellness needs.

The report also notes: "This access has also proven to be critical in times of disaster, where libraries may be the only access point still operating that can provide a delivery point for government and social services to those displaced."

Budgeting and restructuring must take into consideration the disproportionate effect of cutting services on lower income households especially.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Biscuit was adopted in August by Faisal and Mary Ann Rashid of Oakton, and their two school-age children, Julia and Sam.

The Latest on Biscuit

The little Shih Tzu finds a loving home in Oakton.

adopted and is adjusting well to life in his new home.

After being rescued last April, he spent several months in foster care with Officer Lugo and was adopted in August by Faisal and Rashid of Oakton, and their two school-age children, Julia and Sam.

Biscuit, the little Shih Tzu who survived on his own for more than two years in the Franconia Community and was rescued by Fairfax County Animal Control Officer Enna Lugo, staff and volunteers of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, has been

According to Mary Ann Rashid, Biscuit has become comfortable and even protective of his family over the past several months. "He and I walk the kids to the bus every morning and he waits for them



Biscuit with his rescuer, Fairfax County Animal Control Officer Enna Lugo.

to come home."

She reports that his favorite activity is cuddling with the family during TV time and that he sleeps under the parent's bed, much like he slept underneath a porch dur-

ing his two years roaming free.

Officer Lugo is thrilled with the match. "I can't believe how much he's bonded with his new family! He's found the loving home we always wanted for him."

McLean
CONNECTION

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FAITH

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

Immanuel Presbyterian Church's annual Christmas Cantata, open to the public, will be presented at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 at the church's Savile Lane sanctuary.

The cantata's theme this year is Mary and the role she played in the birth of Jesus. "The Handmaid of the Lord" was composed by Immanuel's Music Director, Brian E. Wilhour, and he will conduct the church's choir and chamber orchestra.

Wilhour, a published composer of liturgical music, has been a guest performer with the Washington Chamber Symphony at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He was an invited solo recitalist on the Great Organ of the Washington National Cathedral.

Typically, Wilhour draws from many sacred and secular sources when he composes. This year's Christmas Cantata, for example, has borrowed thematic material from the ancient Gregorian chant melody of "Ave Maria," texts from a 16th-century lute book, and text from a traditional Irish Christmas carol, "Nowell, Nowell!"

Historic Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, invites the community to come and Go Sing-Along Coffee House. Great musicians will share music. Join us for a selection of delicious coffees and sweets, fun singing, and for an opportunity to see inside our beautiful chapel. Photos will be taken for your family Christmas card. Free. Children can ring the historic church bell. Saturday, Dec. 14, 1 - 3 p.m., 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. All are welcome. For more information go to www.antiochdoc.org

GriefShare, a weekly support group for adults grieving the death of a loved one, meets Sundays 6-7:30 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Part St., Vienna with a video/discussion format through Dec. 8. \$20 for workbook. GriefShare@viennapres.org.

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

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

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

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

Vienna Christian Healing Rooms are open, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

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

Be a Part of CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

During the last week of each year, the McLean Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students. The results are always remarkable, and the editions have won many awards. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through e-mail or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be provided in .jpg format. Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide the submissions by Friday, Dec. 6 for publication the week of Dec. 26.

E-mail submissions to: ChildrensNorth@connectionnewspapers.com

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

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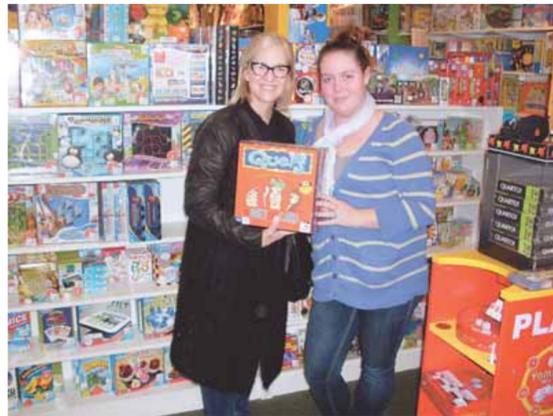
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Customer, Michele Hopkins, and Molly Gilroy, sales associate, at Child's Play Toys.



Marie Myers, owner, Name Droppers, displaying an Alexis Bittar necklace.

PHOTOS BY RUSS UGONE/THE CONNECTION



Customer Winifred Flint, being shown potential stocking stuffers by Rebecca Rippeon, sales associate, along with Cindy Cannon, McLean Hardware buyer and bookkeeper (far right).

McLean Stores Offer a Variety of Holiday Gift Ideas

BY RUSS UGONE
THE CONNECTION

"The staff at Child's Play Toys have a great working knowledge of all the games, books and toys, and know what is appropriate for each age group," said customer Michele Hopkins. Hopkins, a photography business owner, was impressed with the personally tailored gift ideas Molly Gilroy presented to her for a child. Hopkins also said she had been looking for the "Night Before Christmas" and that this was the only local store

that seemed to carry the book. Bregette Poore, manager, said "our focus is tailoring gift items to each individual." She added, "Child's Play Toys has a wide variety of items depending upon age and interests, including strategy games for adults not found elsewhere locally." Child's Play Toys, a locally owned business, is located in the Langley Shopping Center at 1382 Chain Bridge Road. Their hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

ACROSS THE STREET from Langley Shopping Center, at the Salona Village Shopping Center, is Name Droppers, which has been offering unique gifts to the community for the past 20 years. "Today, Nora Fleming serving trays have been the hottest seller," said Myers. Name Droppers also carries a number of unique jewelry items such as the Replica Collection from Italy. The Replica necklace uses magnetic clasps for ease of use along with options to use interchangeable pendants. Myers said, "these items have been a tremendous seller for me." Another unique collection was from New

York's Alexis Bittar, a 2010 Jewelry Designer of the Year. This jewelry is cut from Lucite and reflects surrounding colors. Name Droppers also carries gloves, hats and scarves from Echo that are made from a milk protein. Name Droppers is located at 1349 Chain Bridge Road and is open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

MCLEAN HARDWARE has been serving the community since 1948 and has been in its present location since 2008," said Cindy Cannon. She added that "the store of-

fers much more than hardware and paint, particularly when considering holiday gifts." For example, several hot sellers include an electronic charge stick that was recently featured on the television show "Shark Tank" and touch screen gloves that allow the heat from fingers to go through and operate cell phones." Cannon also said, "we have a Christmas tree with lights that can be switched from clear to multi-color and back again."

Sales associates, such as Rebecca Rippeon, greet you at the door and offer their expertise in finding items as well as product

knowledge. "Service is a hallmark at McLean Hardware," Rippeon said. "The store offers everything for your holiday shopping from Christmas decorations to nuts and bolts." On Wednesday, Dec. 4, McLean Hardware will be hosting its annual Ladies Night, from 6:30- 8:30 p.m., offering wine, appetizers, other giveaways, and help with your gift list. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. McLean Hardware is located at 1445 Chain Bridge Road. McLean Hardware's website is www.mcleanhardware.com.

'Must-see' Absurd Nonsense

1st Stage presents 'Noises Off.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Good news. The cure for doldrums or just a plain-old bad mood is here. It is playing at 1st Stage, where a merry, talented band of actors take the audience on a frenetic, joyful, ride into the farce "Noises Off." The actors literally throw themselves into the production. They are unselfconsciously fearless in their pratfalls, spot-on with their comic timing and bring on a happy, silly bliss.

Not to take anything away from the actor; but the two-story, movable set by Steven Royal and his construction team, along with prop design by Cindy Jacobs and John

Schlafstein's sound are worthy of their own applause.

What is "Noises Off" about? It is a look at what can go wrong when a group of people work together to get something accomplished. It is done as a play-within-a-play about a troupe of less than ready-for-prime-time British actors preparing for the opening of their next production. The concept; a first act takes places during the final dress rehearsal, a second act during the performance seen from backstage, and third act from the audience's perspective when just everything goes amok.

There are plenty of forgotten lines, pratfalls, lost props, missed cues, flubbing scenes and very personal connections making things

more difficult and funny. "Noises Off" was written by Michael Frayn.

Under the assured direction of stage veteran Doug Wilder, the ensemble cast of Kathleen Akerley, Mario Baldesarri, Blair Bowers, Zachary Fernebok, Jason Glass, Kate Karczewski, Dylan Myers and Matthew Pauli are confidently in tune with their comic selves. It takes smart actors with acting chops to "act" badly. They have it. They give in to the ridiculousness of their characters.

Their characters run the gamut of the Seven Dwarves without Snow White around. They are temperamental, forgetful, pompous, cheerful, confidence-challenged, emotional, over-sensitive, envious, overworked, less-than-reliable, nervous and, of course, lingerie clad sexiness.

Where and When

"Noises Off" performed at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Performances thru Dec. 29. Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: General admission: \$27. Seniors \$22. Students and Military \$15. For information and tickets visit www.1ststagetysons.org or call 703-854-1856.

At the performance this reviewer saw, one of the original actors was ill; her role was performed by the director Wilder. Did it reduce the comic potency of the production, not on your life. He was a hoot; throwing himself into the act.

If you adored the absurdity of Monty Python or cut loose to see the humor in word confusions and well-choreographed chaos, with enough running to make you worn out just watching, with lost contact lens, plates of sardines and some dropped pants, then dash off to "Noises Off."



From left: Kathleen Akerley, Zachary Fernebok, Melissa Graves, Dylan Myers in 'Noises Off' at 1st Stage. The show runs through Dec. 29.

PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE



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Brian E. Wilhour

Cantata for Community

In high school I was convinced I didn't want to be a musician at all. That was the last thing I wanted."

That's Immanuel Church Music Director Brian E. Wilhour, reflecting on his 15 years at Immanuel, and having written 15 major choral and orchestral works. When he started winning choral and instrumental competitions and prizes in high school and was selected for Pennsylvania State Chorus, Wilhour made his decision. He'd major in music at Bucknell University (Class of '91). He went on to graduate with honors from a double Master's program at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, N.J. The rest is history, and our community's gain.

Wilhour will conduct his most recent piece, "The Handmaid of the Lord" at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean. This Christmas Cantata is open to the community, as it is every year, and features a full choir and chamber orchestra.

The choir is the full Immanuel choir, augmented by church members and others who want to be part of Immanuel's special Christmas program. Most of the instrumentalists are professional musicians from the D.C. area.

Rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata began two months ago. And this year, the Christmas Cantata was written well in advance of the Dec. 8 presentations. Past years haven't been so smooth, as Wilhour often composes his major orchestral and choral works backwards. That is to say, he writes complicated movements first, because they need more thorough rehearsal, and these tend to be toward the end of the cantata. He composes the simpler movements last, sometimes the week before they are presented. And if the chorus is ever curious about what they'll be singing, they'll likely hear Wilhour say something like, "It's in my head...don't you worry about it...you'll have it soon enough."

Somehow it all comes together, like Christmas sausage, on the morning of the Cantata, every year. And it's officially Christmas again in McLean.

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The Holiday Blues: Cope and Prevent

Mental health experts say being realistic and seeking support can help you avoid holiday stress and depression.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

While the holiday season is filled with parties, shopping, decorating and other festive activities, mental health experts say it often brings unwelcome guests as well: stress and depression.

While they can be difficult to manage when one is in the midst of a bout, with a few strategies one may be able to prevent both before they ruin the holiday season.

Frederic Bemak, Ed.D., a professor in counseling and development at George Mason University in Fairfax, said causes of stress and depression during the holidays can include difficult family dynamics or issues such as illness, death of family members or changes due to marriage or divorce.

“Some people feel a need to spend a lot of money during the holidays or have unrealistic expectations, which can lead to profound disappointment.”

— Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology, Marymount University

“People need to have open and clear dialogues about those issues,” said Bemak. “Anticipatory conversations about those issues in advance is better than arriving and then saying ‘Now what do I do?’”

Bemak advises managing one’s own issues first. Sometimes that means seeking professional help. “Gain an understanding of your issues and behaviors,” he said. “If you have had a difficult relationship with a family member, you have to work on that for yourself and ask

yourself ‘How do I handle those things when these issues come up?’ so you don’t get pulled back into behavior patterns that are unhealthy.”

Bethesda-based psychotherapist Karen Soltes, a licensed clinical social worker who treats military veterans, said while spending time with family can be challenging, a lack of familial connection can also pose obstacles.

“During the holidays, it is hard for people who don’t have family,” said Soltes. “A lot of veterans I work with are disconnected from their families and are lonely because they don’t have family to be with.”

Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, said high expectations can lead to anxiety and sadness as well. “Some people feel this need to spend a lot of money, which can contribute to stress, especially with parents and children,” she said. “They have unrealistic expectations which can lead to profound disappointment.”

In addition to dealing with possible causes, recognizing the warning signs of stress and depression can help prevent serious bouts. “One big sign that your mood is being affected is trouble with sleeping,” said Gulyn. “Senses of hopelessness, guilt, regret or other kinds of negative feelings are signs, as well as overeating and alcohol or substance abuse. You’re also more likely to be more agitated with other people.”

Shorter days and less sunlight are other contributors. “The holidays happen to fall in winter where we’re more likely to have our moods affected by lack of

light,” she said. “That is our brain’s response to reduced sunlight, which we need very much.”

If one feels the warning signs of stress or depression, there are behavior modifications that can help ward off both. “Watch the alcohol consumption,” said Gulyn. “Get as much activity and sunlight as possible and try to modify your expectations.”

However, Gulyn says that at the top of her list is social support. “Have interactions with other people who can keep you active or give comfort, advice, fun or joy,” she said. “Exercise is great, meditation is great, but nothing beats spending quality time with friends.

Soltes said, “I tell people to put themselves at the top of their Christmas list and give as generously [to] and nurture themselves as they do others in their lives. That could mean having a ‘staycation’ like staying at home in your pajamas and watching your favorite movie on Netflix.”



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Bethesda-based psychotherapist Karen Soltes enjoys a conversation with her friend Linda Feldman. Mental health experts say spending quality time with friends can help relieve holiday-induced stress and depression.

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SCHOOLS

Langley High Orchestra Presents Russian Concert

The Langley HS Orchestra will present their winter concert on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Langley HS Auditorium. The concert is a collaboration of two of Langley's largest programs—Russian and Orchestra.

Russian students of Valentin Cukierman will serve as emcees, introducing each piece in Russian and in English. They will also present traditional poetry in both languages. Students and performers will enjoy a Russian banquet preceding the concert.

Langley's four student ensembles will present works by historical composers Glinka, Gliere, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Prokofiev under the baton of guest conductor Glenn Quader from the Fairfax Symphony.

Sophomore ballerina Maria McQuade will dance to the famous overture for the Tchaikovsky ballet, "Swan Lake." Pianists will present literature by Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky, and Tchaikovsky.

The orchestra will capture the holiday spirit with selections from the "Nutcracker," a jazz chart entitled "Five Ukrainians in a Bell Tower," and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's arrangement of "Mad Russian Christmas."

The concert is free and the public is invited. Elementary and middle school students are encouraged to attend so that they can consider learning Russian or joining the orchestra once they get to Langley.

During intermission, the orchestra will hold their fourth annual silent auction in the auditorium lobby. This is an opportunity to shop for the holidays, encourage local businesses in the community, and support the Langley Orches-



PHOTO BY TONY DE LA PAZ

Langley HS Orchestra presents a Russian concert Dec. 12. Violinist Maria McQuade will perform a ballet solo to the famous "Overture to Swan Lake."

tra program. Gift items are available from Gathered Stems, Jeff Lubin Portrait Studio, Stella and Dot, Smith's of Bermuda, Alterna Haircare, Mesmeralda's Gifts, Georganne's Hallmark, the Kellogg Collection, and Obaji. Restaurant gift certificates include LAuberge Chez Francois, Evo Bistro, Pasa Thai, Maggiano's, Listrani's, China Express, and Red Tomato. Georgetown Learning Center is

offering SAT preparation and three hours of tutoring. Auction items include reserved orchestra concert seats and one reserved Langley HS parking space. Other gift certificates include services from Hair Quarters of McLean, McLean Nails and Spa, Salon Kenan, Susson (Hairstylist in Serenity Salon and Spa in McLean), Fairfax Cleaners, McLean Cleaners, and Dr. Edward Nelson, DMD.

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6:00 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols (Childcare available, infant to age 3)

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THE CONNECTION
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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

John Medeski in Concert, Solo Piano. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Jazz pianist showcases original songs and improvised compositions from his debut solo album. Tickets: \$25. <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

31st Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at MCC, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Eighty artisans from across the country convene for this highly-regarded and much-anticipated juried show. This show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings and more. Tickets: Adults \$3; ages 13 and under \$1.

Bill Frisell's Big Sur Quintet. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Eyvind Kang, Hank Roberts, Rudy Royston, and Jenny Scheinman Dynamic mixture of nature-inspired orchestral jams and jazz riffs composed by guitarist Bill Frisell. Tickets: \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

Christmas with FCS: Trumpets Sound! Voices Ring! 8 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, NE, Vienna. Welcome in the holiday season with the Fairfax Choral Society and the Washington Symphonic Brass. Purchase tickets at www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Celebration of Lights. 5:30-8 p.m., at Great Falls Village Centre Hill. Watch Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in an antique fire truck to light the Great Falls Tree. Afterwards, Santa will meet all children who wish to share their holiday wishes. <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org>

31st Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at MCC, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Eighty artisans from across the country convene for this highly-regarded and much-anticipated juried show. This show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings and more. Tickets: Adults \$3; ages 13 and under \$1.

Wolf Trap Holiday Sing-A-Long. 4 p.m. Wolf Trap National Park, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. "The President's Own" United States Marine Band Members of local choirs and vocal groups Kick off the holiday season with family and friends at Wolf Trap's 2013 Holiday Sing-A-Long.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7, 14, 21

Gingerbread House Decorating Class. 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Learn to make your own gingerbread house. \$70 per child, ages 2-12. Reservations required. 703-917-5498.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7, 14, 21

The Nutcracker Tea. 10 a.m. or 1

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

An Evening with John Medeski in Concert. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Jazz pianist John Medeski showcases engaging and meditative compositions in this solo debut concert. Tickets: \$25.

"Annie!" the Musical. 7 p.m. McLean High School Theater, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The popular comic strip heroine takes center stage



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 31st Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show will take place Dec. 6-8. Eighty artisans from across the country convene for this highly-regarded and much-anticipated juried show.

p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Watch the ballet production of "The Nutcracker" while enjoying afternoon tea and treats. \$75 per person. Reservations required. 703-917-5498.

Blvd., McLean. Watch a theatrical production feature Disney princesses while enjoying afternoon tea and treats. \$75 per person. Children under 2 are free. Reservations required. 703-917-5498.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

31st Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at MCC, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Eighty artisans from across the country convene for this highly-regarded and much-anticipated juried show. This show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings and more. Tickets: Adults \$3; ages 13 and under \$1.

Science Wonderland Workshop. 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Cooper Middle School, 977 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Hands-on holiday science production where children ages 5-12 will build a Science Wonderland out of recycled and earth-friendly materials, grow crystal Christmas tree, have a "snowball fight" with dry ice smoke-filled bubbles and make magic instant "snow" fall over their festive landmark. Free admission. Registration required at www.ischoolforthefuture.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8, 15, 22

Gingerbread House Decorating Class. 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Learn to make your own gingerbread house. \$70 per child, ages 2-12. Reservations required. 703-917-5498.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8, 15, 22

The Princess Tea. 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/sep/26/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

in the perfect family-friendly musical. Adults \$15 and Students/Seniors \$10. Reserve seats at www.mcleandrama.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

Bill Frisell's Big Sur Quintet

MONDAY/DEC. 9

JOY Concert. 7 p.m. McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Grammy nominated Christian recording artist and effervescent nationally syndicated radio show host Jaci Velasquez will perform.

TUESDAY/DEC. 10

JOY Concert. 7 p.m. McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Grammy nominated Christian recording artist and effervescent nationally syndicated radio show host Jaci Velasquez will perform.

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

Free Concert & Living Nativity. 6:30-8:30 p.m. 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14-SUNDAY/DEC. 15

Great Falls Studios Holiday Show and Sale. Wolf Trap Center for Education, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. This annual show includes paintings, pottery, traditional and digital photographs, jewelry, drawings, art quilts, and hand pulled lithographic prints, plus artful gifts and cards.

SUNDAY/DEC. 22

A Festival of Lessons & Carols. 9 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Lessons will be read by parishioners, seasonal anthems presented by the choirs, and carols sung by the congregation.



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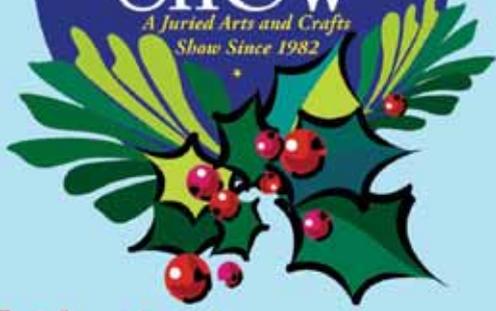
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Friday-Sunday
December 6-8

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Sunday: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Admission: \$3 adults, \$1 age 13 and younger. *Good all three days!*

More than 70 fine artisans from across the country convene for this highly-regarded and much-anticipated juried show. This show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings, drawings and much more! *Food service provided by Sweet Stuff.*

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

SPORTS

Newman Enters First Season as Langley Boys' Basketball Coach

Collier, Callaghan are Saxons' top returning athletes.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Scott Newman spent four years as an assistant with the Langley boys' basketball team, learning under head coach Travis Hess while experiencing four consecutive regular-season Liberty District titles.

This year, Newman will take what he's learned and add his own wrinkles as leader of the program.

Newman enters the 2013-14 season as head coach of the Langley boys' basketball team, earning a promotion after Hess left to take the boys' head-coaching job at South County. The Saxons are young, beginning the season with two sophomores and a freshman in the starting lineup, but Newman said the team had a promising preseason.

Last year, Langley lost to McLean in the district tournament semifinals and Wakefield in the region tournament quarterfinals.

"Some things will be similar and some things will be different," Newman said of the Saxons under his leadership. "I certainly learned a lot from Travis. Having been there that long, a lot of things we did had my fingerprints on them. ... I'm trying not to do things [just] because that was the way we used to do it. I'm trying to take it as a cool opportunity to [evaluate] how we've been doing things and find little things to tweak."

On defense, Newman said he originally planned for the Saxons to play man-to-man, rather than the zone approach of previous seasons. However, the offseason performances of sophomore forwards Nate Shafer (6 feet 4) and Chris Miner (6-2) caused the coach to change his mind and stick with the zone, despite the graduation of 6-foot-6 shot-blocker Brad Dotson. Newman did say the Saxons would like to incorporate some man-to-man press.

"They both have really good length and some shot-blocking ability," Newman said about Shafer and Miner, "so we decided that we are going to play zone again."

Shafer and Miner will begin the season in the starting lineup, along with senior guard Ross Callaghan (5-11), freshman guard Aaron Kim (5-8) and junior guard Christian Gaibler (6-2).

Kim, who was the quarterback of the Langley freshman football team, made four 3-pointers in a recent scrimmage. Newman said Kim has some "ridiculous handles."

Newman said Callaghan is one of the Saxons' top two players. Langley's other standout, senior guard Garrett Collier (6-2), suffered a broken collar bone during football season and is expected back in January, Newman said. Callaghan and Collier are each three-year varsity athletes.

"The two of them together," Newman said, "make up one of the most experienced backcourt duos in the region."



Langley senior Garrett Collier (22), seen during a game last season, is expected to return in January from a broken collar bone.

"The two of them together make up one of the most experienced backcourt duos in the region."

— Langley boys' basketball coach Scott Newman about Garrett Collier and Ross Callaghan

Senior forward Austin Denham (6-3) is also expected to be a key contributor.

Newman, who graduated from Yorktown High School in 2003, said one of the biggest challenges transitioning from assistant to head coach was getting players to view him as the latter. The offseason, Newman said, helped with that transition.

"Being an assistant in the program, moving to head coach has its advantages and its challenges," Newman said. "I think the advantage is you kind of know the kids ... [and] you kind of know how things go. There's certainly a challenge to get the kids to flip the switch and see you as a head coach and not an assistant."

The Saxons will open the regular season on Friday, Dec. 6 against Stuart at 7:30 p.m. during the Stuart Tipoff Tournament. Langley's first home game is Dec. 11 against Potomac School.



The South Lakes girls' basketball team, along with the Seahawks boys' team, will host a tournament Dec. 5, 6 and 7.

NoVa Harriers Shine at Foot Locker Regionals

Marshall senior Mackenzie Haight was one of five Northern Virginia harriers to finish in the top 10 at the Foot Locker Cross County Championship South Regionals on Nov. 30 at McAlpine Greenway Park in Charlotte, N.C., and earn a berth to nationals.

Haight (Vienna) placed fifth in the boys' race with a time of 14:51. The Vienna native placed sixth in the Group 5A boys' race at the VHSL state meet on Nov. 15.

Edison senior Louis Colson, who won the 5A boys' state championship, finished fourth at Foot Locker South with a time of 14:50.

In the girls' race, Virginia 6A state champion Caroline Alcorta, a senior at West Springfield, finished first at Foot Locker South with a time of 16:55.

Lake Braddock teammates Hannah Christen (17:15) and Katy Kunc (17:16) placed fifth and sixth, respectively.

The five Northern Virginia runners, along with the other top-10 finishers, will compete at nationals on Saturday, Dec. 14 at Morley Field, Balboa Park in San Diego.

Football Playoffs

The top-seeded Centreville football team and No. 3 Westfield will meet in the 6A North final on Dec. 7 at Centreville High School. The winner advances to the state championship game to take on the winner of the 6A South final between No. 1 Oscar Smith and No. 3 Colonial Forge.

Centreville beat Westfield 28-0 during the regular season on Oct. 11.

Centreville defeated No. 13 Stonewall Jackson 52-27 on Nov. 30 during the 6A North semifinals at Centreville High School. Westfield defeated No. 2 Lake Braddock 19-16 at Lake Braddock Secondary School, overcoming a 16-3 deficit in the game's final six minutes.

South Lakes Basketball to Host Tournament

The South Lakes boys' and girls' basketball teams will host the RAL Tip Off tournament Dec. 5, 6 and 7.

The boys' team will face Stonewall Jackson at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5 and Wilson (Washington, D.C.) at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7.

The girls' team will host Western (Baltimore) at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6 and Potomac Falls at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Herndon Boys' Basketball to Face Patriot in Home Opener

The Herndon boys' basketball team will host Patriot for its home opener at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6.

The Hornets will host Washington-Lee on Dec. 10 before participating in the Gonzaga Holiday Tournament Dec. 13-15, starting with a game against Mount Saint Joseph on Dec. 13.

Herndon traveled to face Woodson on Dec. 3, after The Connection's deadline.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 15

classical, folk, and country influences. Tickets: \$35.

“Annie!” the Musical. 7 p.m. McLean High School Theater, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The popular comic strip heroine takes center stage in the perfect family-friendly musical. Adults \$15 and Students/Seniors \$10. Reserve seats at www.mcleandrama.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

“Annie!” the Musical. 2 & 7 p.m. McLean High School Theater, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The popular comic strip heroine takes center stage

in the perfect family-friendly musical. Adults \$15 and Students/Seniors \$10. Reserve seats at www.mcleandrama.com

Antigone Rising. 7 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E., Vienna. The all-female country rock band Antigone Rising who has shared stages around the world with acts like The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, The Allman Brothers Band and Rob Thomas.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street

South, Vienna. Adults: \$8; Seniors 65+ \$7; Children under 12 \$6; Children 4 and under are free.

SUNDAY/DEC. 15

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St., N., Vienna. Adults \$8, children \$3. 703-938-1379.

Country Western Dance. 4:30-5 p.m. West Coast Line Dance lesson; 5-5:45 p.m. beginner Country Western Two-Step lesson; 5:45-6:30 p.m. intermediate Country Western Line Dance lesson. 6:30 – 10 p.m. dance with Ed Cottrell as DJ playing a Country Western music mix. Colvin

Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$15 for the entire event. No experience or partner needed. www.colvinrun.org.

ONGOING

Straight Ahead Jazz. 8 p.m., at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. Every Monday drummer Karl Anthony hosts a night of straight ahead jazz featuring guest musicians and open to sit-in musicians. www.maplewoodgrill.com.

Personalized ebook/e-Reader Instruction. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Learn about your e-reader

and downloading eBooks; event continues through March 31st.

League of Reston Featured Artists Exhibit. Every Monday-Friday through Dec. 31, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., the Reston Association office, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. The League of Reston Artists invites art lovers to a series of rotating painting and photography exhibits featuring a new artist each month. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

Sweet Honey In The Rock. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Five women provide perspective in their traditional gospel music.

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To All City of Falls Church and City of Fairfax Water System Customers

Fairfax Water is busy planning to welcome you as a new customer on Fri., Jan. 3, 2014. We want to ensure you are aware of a public hearing on the proposed Schedule of Water Rates, Fees, and Charges. The public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 19, 2013, at Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue in Fairfax.

The proposed rate schedule incorporates the existing commodity rates and service charges of the City of Falls Church and the City of Fairfax water systems. These rates, effective Jan. 3, 2014, include the following:

1. City of Falls Church water system service area:
 - a. A Quarterly Billing Service Charge of \$8.07*
 - b. A base Commodity Charge of \$3.27 per 1,000 gallons of water
 - c. A Peak Use Charge of \$4.99 per 1,000 gallons of water
2. City of Fairfax water system service area:
 - a. A Minimum Charge for residential customers of \$23.92
 - b. A Minimum Charge for commercial customers of \$28.12
 - c. A base Commodity Charge of \$4.57 per 1,000 gallons of water beyond the 5,000 gallon minimum
3. All other rates, fees, and charges will be equalized with Fairfax Water's existing rate schedule.

You can see all of the proposed changes on our Web site at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm. If you would like to speak at the hearing or would like a copy of the proposed changes, please call 703-289-6017, TTY 711. You may also submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water

Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by the close of business on Wed., Dec. 18, 2013, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

* Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8-inch residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges.

"Scanticipation" Not So Much



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As much as last week's column, "Scanticipation" was about my looking forward – in a non-foreboding way, to my scheduled CT Scan on the 27th and the presumptive positive (not negative) results, having to write a column for this week before having received those results makes this writing effort particularly challenging. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and the indeterminate staffing situation on Friday, not to mention possible vacation days taken by my oncologist, I have not heard back from my him as yet about my scan. Not totally unexpected, but the calm with which I wrote last week's column has been replaced with an uneasiness that I had not anticipated. Perhaps reality has set in, finally.

On the one hand, no news is good news – and I can certainly live with that, as you regular readers know. On the other hand, generally speaking, my oncologist would rather not share bad news electronically (although we have discussed this and he knows my preference for knowing vs not knowing). And on yet another hand, the information has simply not been communicated to me because of the holiday and there's nothing more to be read into it than that. Much easier written than actually accepted.

But accept it I must. Which really is no big deal since the exchange of information is basically out of any of my hands anyway. And as an experienced cancer patient familiar with the emotional demands of waiting for the life-and-death-type results a CT Scan can indicate, I should know better – and I do, however...what bothers me most is my attitude in last week's column. I think I anticipated disrespectfully, as if I was some kind of big shot simply because I had been through it all so many times before and moreover, I felt fairly asymptomatic and as such, somehow I knew better (not best, just better) and the sense that I had was that not much problematic with my lungs would be indicated when the results came back. And I may yet be correct, but last week's column smacked of a certain type of hubris (is there more than one kind?) thinking I knew something. Well, I didn't and I don't know anything. Cancer will do what it does and it probably doesn't consider what I think I feel or what I feel I think. Ultimately, as in many things in life, it's results that matter and I'm a little mad at myself for presuming/anticipating facts not in evidence. I should have expressed a healthier dose of respect and concern (and hope, always) and not taken any sides in the debate over whether feeling nothing was in fact as significant as I wrote it out to be.

Presumably, I will the know scan results soon enough, but not before this week's column needed to be submitted. I don't believe I necessarily crossed a line expressing confidence about an as yet unpublished result. But as a cancer patient, I really don't want to tempt fate, just in case anyone is paying attention, if you know what I mean? So I guess this column is an attempt to right a wrong, in arrears, if that's even possible. When you've outlived your original prognosis by as long as I have, introspecting becomes an occupational-type hazard. Still, life goes on, thankfully.

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

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-Arthur Wing Pinero

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK SITE

There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at:

Former Exxon
9901 Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, Virginia 22066

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Fairfax Petroleum Realty, LLC to develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to address cleanup of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in groundwater at the site. If you have questions regarding the cleanup, please contact:

Kleinfelder
1340 Charwood Road, Suite 1
Hanover, Maryland 21076
(443) 925-6048
Attention: Mark Steele

The CAP was submitted to the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ on November 22, 2013. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed CAP with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Alex Wardle (Alexander.Wardle@deq.virginia.gov) at (703) 583-3822 after the date of the CAP submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the proposed CAP until December 27, 2013. Due to public interest, the DEQ will hold a Public Meeting on December 10, 2013, at 8:30 PM at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA. The public meeting will follow the Great Falls Citizens Association Monthly Meeting, which will begin at 7:30 PM and include information about the proposed plan. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC# 2010-3028.

Department of Environmental Quality
Storage Tank Program
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

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-Werner Heisenberg

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Dept of Rail & Public Transportation Presents Super NoVa Transit/TDM Action Plan at public meetings Dec. 11 at Courtyard Marriott Alexandria Pentagon South & Dec.17 at Holiday Inn Manassas Battlefield from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Public input needed to prioritize policies to enhance transportation choices and improve connectivity in region. Meetings are ADA and transit accessible. DRPT strives to provide reasonable accommodations and services for persons who require special assistance to participate. Contact the Title VI Compliance Officer, 804-786-4440 or TDD 711 for information. Comment deadline December 31, 2013.

www.SuperNoVaTransitVision.com

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Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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McLean Holiday Homes Tour Kicks Off Thursday, 9:30 a.m.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5, will kick off the McLean Woman's Club's Holiday Homes Tour, set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The kickoff will take place at the third house on the tour, called Langley Ordinary, 1101 Chain Bridge Road. Attending will be President of the McLean Chamber of Commerce Marcia Twomey, officers of the Woman's Club, and other officials. The house is close to the intersection of Chain Bridge Road and Georgetown Pike. Parking is available between the house and a nearby filling station. Turn right immediately after 1101 Chain Bridge Road and then turn into the gated property next door, where there is a parking lot.

Madeira Students Invited to People of Color Conference

The Madeira School has 15 community members scheduled to attend the annual National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) People of Color Conference (PoCC) and Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) in Washington, D.C. from Dec. 5-7. Madeira has participated in these joint conferences for many years. This year, Head of School Pilar Cabeza de Vaca serves as a co-chair on the organizing committee for the PoCC conference.

In addition to Cabeza de Vaca, eight other faculty members will attend the PoCC, including Nina Candia, Mary Georgis, Wendy Roshan, Jeannie Rumsey, Chandra Smith, Ann Maclean, and Constance Mattox, who is a member of the planning committee. Assistant Head of School André Withers will also represent Madeira at the conference as a presenter on the topic: "20 Questions: what makes a successful diversity initiative?" The six students participating are seniors Taylor Curry and Charlotte McIntosh and juniors Katie Barack, Annie Liu, Dara Summey and Sukrana Uddin. For the students it is an honor and a privilege to attend the conference. They must be in good academic standing and currently involved in campus diversity initiatives. The students use the information learned and experiences gained at the conference as the basis for school assemblies, preparing school-sponsored diversity conferences on campus, and continued diversity work among peers.

The PoCC/SDLC is a coveted opportunity for educators who promote and work with diversity on campus. Faculty advisor for student diversity Jeannie Rumsey said, "Invariably, students who have attended the SDLC consider it a life-changing experience." The conference provides a sense of renewal for faculty as well. Rumsey went on to say about her own experience, "This is my favorite conference of the year—it provides me with resources to do diversity work, reenergizes me to continue doing diversity work on campus, and provides a space where I feel I can be my full self without having to represent any specific group of people."

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