

# It's A Celtic Invasion!

NEWS, PAGE 19

**Grand Dérangement will perform a mix of new Acadian music at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22 at The Alden stage in McLean.**

## How Red Is the 10th District?

NEWS, PAGE 4

## Winter Storm Hits Northern Virginia

NEWS, PAGE 3

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1320 Old Chain Bridge Rd.  
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Customers lined up at McLean Hardware Wednesday night to purchase emergency supplies, shovels and sleds for the storm.



PHOTO BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION

## Winter Storm Hits Northern Virginia

Fairfax County residents took shelter as over a foot of snow shutdown power, school, and roads.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD  
THE CONNECTION

Northern Virginia residents took shelter from a snow storm that began the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 12 and lasted until the Thursday night. Fairfax County felt the lasting effects well into the weekend, with schools unable to clear parking lots and county offices closed through the weekend.

Governor Terry McAuliffe declared a state of emergency Tuesday, Feb. 11, giving state authorities and utility companies time to prepare for the storm.

"Just as state government is preparing for this storm, I urge every Virginian to take proper preparations. Prepare to limit unnecessary travel during the storm, have emergency supplies on hand and be ready in the event that power in your area goes out," said McAuliffe in a statement.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) equipped around 4,000 plows to clean up the roads starting around midnight after the storm began. Dominion Power, which serves Virginia and North Carolina, called in 3,450 additional utility personnel from as far as Oklahoma and Louisiana to help restore power to areas affected by the snow. Many of them were sent to areas further south such as South Carolina and Georgia by Thursday afternoon.

"We feel blessed that we have escaped the wrath of this storm," said Chuck Penn, a spokesperson for Dominion Power Resources.

The only major outage reported by Dominion occurred from a Wednesday evening accident at the intersection of Tyndale Street and Great Falls Road that knocked out power to 2,000 customers. Dominion workers restored power after about two hours later that evening.

Area leaders did their best to keep citizens informed of unsafe driving conditions, weather updates

and safety tips. In Herndon, Mayor Lisa Merkel provided updates through social media throughout the day on Thursday responding to readers' comments about which neighborhoods and roads remained unplowed. Dranesville Supervisor John Foust also sent out emails with a link to an interactive map tracking plows in neighborhoods, as well as winter weather tips issued by Fairfax County for staying warm and snow removal.

On Wednesday evening before the storm, area residents stocked up on emergency supplies, such as ice melt, batteries, Duraflame logs, shovels, and propane. Cyndee Cannon, an employee at McLean Hardware, said that three trucks of winter weather merchandise had been unloaded and sold to customers on Wednesday.

"In case the power goes out, people are buying a lot of flashlights and batteries to get prepared, as well as water jugs in case they can't get out or get water," said Mike Cannon, store manager of McLean Hardware and Cyndee's husband. Cannon noted that an East Coast-wide ice melt shortage has left many businesses in short supply.

Shoppers on Wednesday also stocked up on sleds for their kids, foreseeing that schools would likely be closed for the rest of the week. "When I'm not working on snow days we do a lot of sledding and fort building," said McLean resident Jack Sava. "During snow days they spend four to six times as much time outdoors as they normally do during the day, which is excellent."

Around Reston, families took to the hills along Wiehle Avenue, such as the field in front of the Children's House Montessori School, to enjoy a sunny day of sledding. With some schools in Fairfax County unable to clear parking lots until Friday morning, students enjoyed two more snow days before having to make up school on President's Day the following Monday.

Fairfax County is still determining which days students will make up in school to account for lost time from snow days, having used six of them already. Virginia law requires that public schools hold instructional time for at least 180 days, or 990 hours. However, exceptions for certain makeup days have been before when the governor declared a state of emergency, as in 2010 following "Snowmageddon."



PHOTOS BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION

From left: Rip Sullivan, Katherine Barnett, Winnie Pizzano, Jo Ann Berkson, Demetra Matthews, Renate Eschmann, John Sullivan, Kathleen Murphy and Ameer Burgoyne.

## Supporting McLean Community Foundation

Color Wheel donates \$3,362.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD  
THE CONNECTION

Color Wheel in McLean presented a check for \$3,362 to the McLean Community Foundation on Wednesday, Feb. 12. The paint store raised the money as part of a fundraiser sponsored by its supplier, Benjamin Moore & Co., called Main Street Matters, which the company began last year to re-energize small businesses and towns around the country. For the fundraiser, Benjamin Moore donated \$1 for every premium can of paint the Color Wheel store sold from Aug. 15 through Sept. 30, 2013. "Because all of our stores are independently owned, the importance of Main Street Matters is giving back to each individual store's neighborhood in their towns," said John Sullinger, regional representative for Benjamin Moore. Color Wheel owner Renate Eschmann presented the check to Demetra Matthews, President of the McLean Community Foundation. The money will go toward the general fund for the organization, which funds edu-



McLean Community Foundation President Demetra Matthews (left) accepts a check for \$3,362 from John Sullivan of Benjamin Moore & Co. and Color Wheel owner Renate Eschmann.

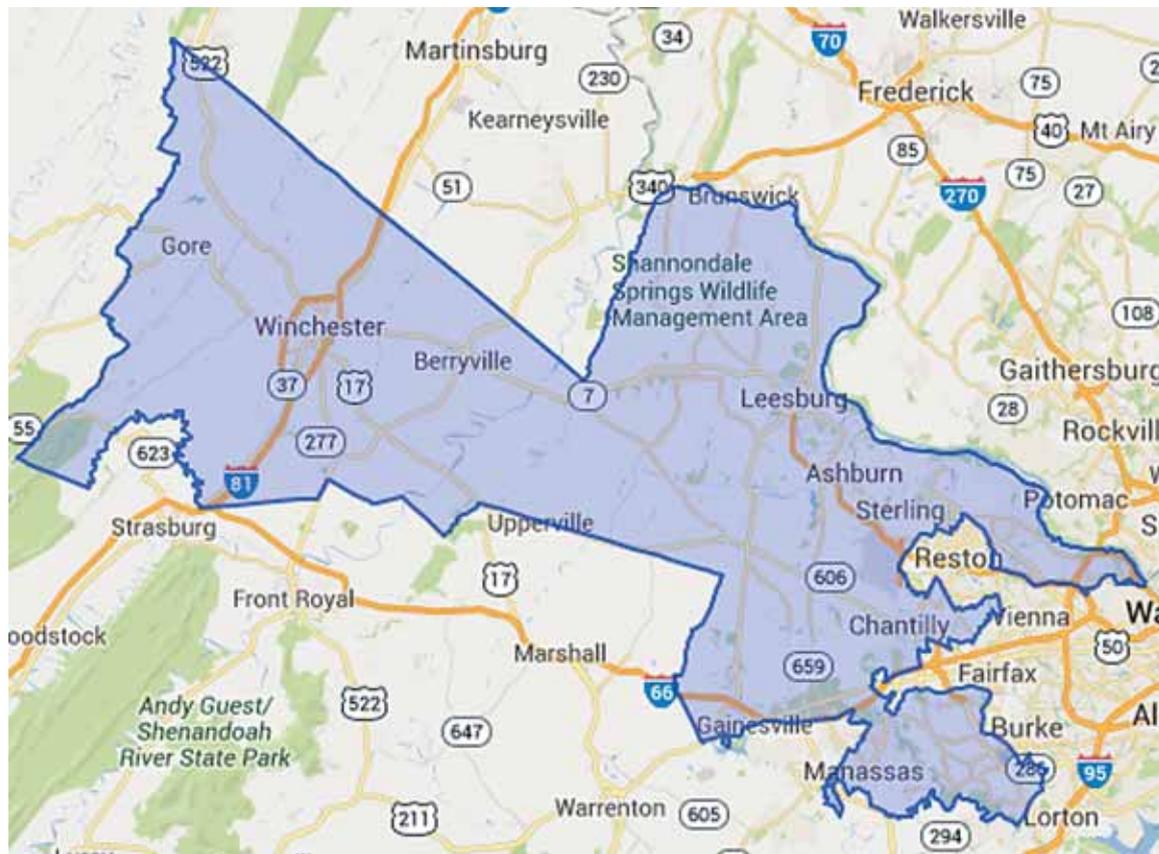
cational, civic, arts, and environmental projects around McLean.

"Every citizen in McLean, from children to adults, as well as the financially disabled and handicapped, benefits from the money given to the foundation. This donation will go toward our general fund, but it goes toward projects all over," said Matthews.

The Color Wheel is located at 1374 Chain Bridge Road in McLean and has served Northern Virginia since 1965.

**"Every citizen in McLean, from children to adults, as well as the financially disabled and handicapped, benefits from the money given to the foundation."**

— Demetra Matthews,  
President, McLean Community Foundation



MAP COURTESY OF VPAP.ORG

The 10<sup>th</sup> district includes all of Clarke, Frederick, Loudoun, and Warren counties and the independent cities of Manassas, Park, Winchester, along with portions of Fairfax, Fauquier, Prince William counties.

## How Red Is the 10th District?

**Wolf's retirement sparks crowded political stage as both parties vie for coveted Congressional seat.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Frank R. Wolf's announcement in December that he would not seek reelection to an 18th term in Congress came as a surprise to both Republicans and Democrats.

Wolf's retirement notice instantly set off a feeding frenzy among politicians maneuvering to gain the Northern Virginia Congressional seat.

The 74-year-old Republican held the seat for more than three decades. But Democrats now see a prize pickup opportunity for this year's midterm elections, and potential candidates have rapidly dropped in and out of the race as political pundits question how red the district will remain.

Democrat John Foust, a Fairfax County Supervisor from McLean, announced he would challenge the incumbent a week before Wolf's retirement news.

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34), a McLean attorney and Wolf's former senior aide, emerged as the one to watch when she announced her candidacy in January. Like Foust, Comstock is a formidable fundraiser and she quickly received the endorsement of many party officials, including presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, for whom she worked in the 2012 campaign.

**DEMOCRATIC STRATEGISTS** considered Foust to be one of Wolf's most challenging opponents in years, and Foust quickly racked up a slew of endorsements from more than 50 former and current elected offi-

cial, including Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam and U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8). Moran later announced he would not seek reelection. Foust's momentum had a rain-making impact on donors. In late January, Foust reported raising more than \$217,000, with nearly that amount — \$210,000 — reported as cash on hand.

"This is another clear sign that our message of bringing problem solving, bipartisan leadership back to Congress is resonating with Northern Virginia residents," Foust said in a statement about his successful fundraising.

"We had fewer than 20 days to do three months of work, but residents sent a clear message that they're tired of the gridlock and finger-pointing in Washington and are ready for our brand of commonsense leadership."

"My money is on John Foust," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in an interview Sunday. "His constituent service is second to none and he has really delivered for his Dranesville constituents. Republicans and Democrats alike love him."

In less than a month, three other Democrats currently join Foust in vying for the seat: Fairfax lawyer Richard Bolger, Leesburg architect Sam Kubba and Iraq War veteran David Wroblewski. Several others might still consider a run.

**ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE**, speculation about who would enter the race ran the gamut from the obvious to the absurd. Tareq Salah, a write-in candidate for last year's governor's race, remains in the race. A vintner and television personality, Salah gained national attention when he and his ex-wife crashed a White House state dinner in 2009.

When announcing her candidacy, Comstock said: "I have a demonstrated record of winning important legislative victories for Northern Virginians as well as winning hard fought, principled elections."

SEE BATTLE, PAGE 9



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) are considered frontrunners for the 10<sup>th</sup> District Congressional seat.**

## 10<sup>th</sup> District: Still Solid Red or Swing Seat?

In 2011, after the last round of redistricting, the risk of competitive congressional races diminished for Virginia's three Democratic members of Congress and eight Republicans members of Congress. On paper, the 10th district was considered safe Republican territory.

But that was 2011. "The demographics are shifting as we're talking," state Sen. David Marsden (D-37) said in an interview Sunday. "Foust is the one to beat." Republican Supervisor John Cook (Braddock) said the seat will remain in Republican hands.

"It is a Republican seat and I think we will have a strong candidate, in which case we will win," Cook said in an interview Sunday night.

In December, Rothenberg Political Report and Roll Call rated the 10th district contest a "Lean Republican" race, based on Bloomberg's number-crunching in the most recent state and national elections.

In last year's presidential race, for example, Mitt Romney won the 10<sup>th</sup> district, 50-49 percent.

In this year's gubernatorial race, Republican Ken Cuccinelli carried the district over Democrat Terry McAulliffe 48-47 percent. Republican Mark Obenshain and Democrat Mark Herring fought to a standoff in the race for attorney general, with Obenshain winning the 10th district by 72 votes before the recount. The 10th gave Democrat Ralph Northam a more solid victory, with a 52-48 percent win over Republican E.W. Jackson.

The district includes all of Clarke, Frederick, Loudoun, and Warren counties and the independent cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, Winchester, along with portions of Fairfax, Fauquier, Prince William counties. Wolf won the 2012 race with 58 percent of the vote against Democrat Kristin Cabral (39 percent) and Independent J. Kevin Chisholm (3 percent).

## Who is Running?

### REPUBLICAN DECLARED CANDIDATES

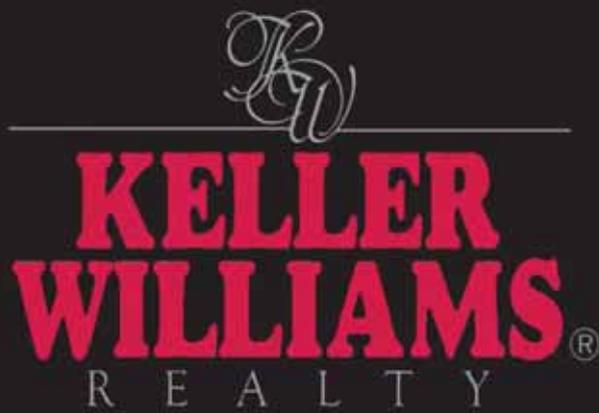
- ❖ Barbara Comstock, State Delegate, 34th District
- ❖ Luellen Hoffman, Director of Exhibits at the National Defense Industrial Association
- ❖ Stephen Hollingshead, former U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development adviser
- ❖ Bob Marshall, State Delegate
- ❖ Tareq Salah, television personality and write-in candidate for Governor in 2013
- ❖ Marc Savitt, President of the National Association of Independent Housing Professionals
- ❖ Richard Shickle, Chairman of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors
- ❖ Rob Wasinger, former Chief of Staff to U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio
- ❖ Democratic Declared Candidates
- ❖ Richard Bolger, Fairfax attorney
- ❖ John Foust, Fairfax County Supervisor, Dranesville district
- ❖ Sam Kubba, Leesburg architect
- ❖ David Wroblewski, Iraq War veteran

## How Will Parties Select Nominees?

❖ The Republican nominee will be selected in a "firehouse primary," also called a party canvas, to be held April 26.

❖ On Feb. 8, the 10th Congressional District Democratic Committee voted unanimously to hold a convention on April 26 to select the 2014 Democratic nominee.

Source: Ballotpedia



Bob Nelson



Kelly Putz



Tim Heil



Michelle Cornejo



Bridget Schmitz  
Commercial Agent

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huge walk-out rec room, sumptuous MBA



FX8065134 - \$865,000 - Great Falls  
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FX8235947 - \$400,000 - Alexandria  
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FX8051316 - \$1,285,000  
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Great Falls, 6BR, 4.5BA,  
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hardwoods, dual  
staircase, gourmet  
kitchen.



FX8046045 - \$850,000  
10611 Allenwood Lane, 5BR,  
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acres and large pond!



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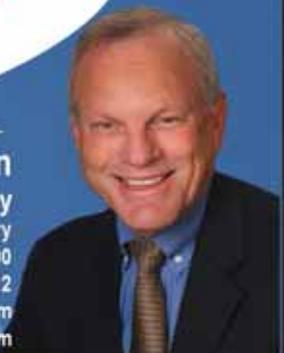
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## Fundamental Freedom To Choose To Marry

Virginia is historically slow in extending rights.

In 1967, Virginia was one of 16 states that banned interracial marriage and had criminal penalties for violators.

Mildred Jeter, an African-American woman, and Richard Loving a white man, married in 1958, were convicted and banished from living in Virginia for 25 years to avoid serving a one-year prison sentence. On June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Loving v. Virginia*, overturned the convictions of Mildred and Richard Loving, declaring the ban on interracial marriage unconstitutional.

Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote the opinion:

"Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival. ... To deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as the racial classifications embodied in these statutes, classifications so directly subversive of the principle of equality at the heart of the Fourteenth Amendment, is surely to deprive all the State's citizens of liberty without due process of law. The Fourteenth Amendment requires that the freedom of choice to marry not be restricted by invidious racial discriminations. Under our Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with

the individual, and cannot be infringed by the State."

Less than 50 years ago, it was still illegal in Virginia, punishable by prison time, for a white person to marry someone of another race.

Judge Arenda Wright Allen last week on Valentine's Day, ruled that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. In the opening of her order, Allen quotes Mildred Loving in a statement she made in 2007 on the 40th anniversary of *Loving v. Virginia*:

EDITORIAL

"We made a commitment to each other in our love and lives, and now had the legal commitment, called marriage, to match. Isn't that what marriage is? ... Today's young people realize that if someone loves someone they have a right to marry. Surrounded as I am now by wonderful children and grandchildren, not a day goes by that I don't think of Richard and our love, our right to marry, and how much it meant to me to have that freedom to marry the person precious to me, even if others thought he was the 'wrong kind of person' for me to marry. I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry. Government has no business imposing some people's religious beliefs over others. ... I support the freedom to marry for all. That's what Loving, and loving, are all about."

Judge Allen's written decision is compelling

and well worth reading. You can find a copy of it on the Connection website.

It begins:

"A spirited and controversial debate is underway regarding who may enjoy the right to marry in the United States of America. America has pursued a journey to make and keep our citizens free. This journey has never been easy, and at times has been painful and poignant. The ultimate exercise of our freedom is choice. Our Declaration of Independence recognizes that 'all men' are created equal. Surely this means all of us. While ever-vigilant for the wisdom that can come from the voices of our voting public, our courts have never long tolerated the perpetuation of laws rooted in unlawful prejudice. One of the judiciary's noblest endeavors is to scrutinize laws that emerge from such roots.

"Plaintiffs assert that the restriction on their freedom to choose to marry the person they love infringes on the rights to due process and equal protection guaranteed to them under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. These challenges are well-taken....

"The Court is compelled to conclude that Virginia's Marriage Laws unconstitutionally deny Virginia's gay and lesbian citizens the fundamental freedom to choose to marry."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Supporting Mental Health

To the Editor:

The editorial by Mary Kimm ["On Mental Health," Connection, Feb. 12-18, 2014], referencing reporting by Michael Pope, makes an incorrect assertion that our services to people with mental illness in Fairfax County have been "dramatically cut back."

In fact, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) served more individuals in FY2013 than in previous fiscal years, thanks to the generous and consistent support of Fairfax County government and the taxpayers of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. The bulk of our budget comes from local, rather than state, dollars. This enables our CSB to provide services that many other Virginia jurisdictions are not able to have, including a mobile crisis unit, crisis stabilization, and many other services. To suggest that our local government has dramatically cut back mental health services is simply not true and needs to be corrected for the record.

Here are the numbers (total number of individuals served by the CSB, which includes those

with mental illness and/or substance use disorders, intellectual disability, and infants and toddlers with developmental delays):

FY 2013:	20,988
FY 2012:	20,446
FY 2011:	20,058

What appeared to the reporter as a dramatic drop in the number of individuals served was the result of a change in the way we define the categories of individuals served. The county's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) he referenced does not include an entire category (that we are now required by the state to count separately) of individuals who receive "Services Outside of Program Area," including emergency services, assessment and monitoring. Prior to FY2012, those individuals were included in either "mental health services," "alcohol and drug services," or "intellectual disability services." The county's CAFR has retained the old categories but has not added this new one. Therefore, there is an appearance that services have been reduced, when in reality we are just more narrowly defining who is categorized as receiving a service defined by a particular disability. The number of individuals served who are not counted in the CAFR is large: in FY2013, there were

13,249 individuals who received CSB services that were not categorized in those three disability area categories.

If you actually compare apples to apples, our numbers have remained consistent, and have even increased slightly, despite the economic difficulties of recent years. For this, we can thank our county leaders and our community who recognize, as you do, the importance of supporting these critical CSB services.

Thank you very much for your support.

**George Braunstein**

Executive Director  
Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board

#### Expand Medicaid in Virginia

To the Editor:

Do you know someone who works but cannot afford health insurance? I do. My hairdresser supports an adult son who cannot work because of a physical condition, and her four-year-old granddaughter. She simply does not have the money to buy insurance

even under the Affordable Care Act. And she is not alone. In Virginia, 70 percent of the uninsured come from families where at least one person is employed.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the uninsured are more likely to use the Emergency Room because they do not have a family doctor. Hoping their symptoms will go away, they often delay getting medical help until their condition is serious and more expensive to treat.

Those of us who can afford insurance bear the cost of the uninsured (working folks, pregnant women and children) in several ways. The General Assembly usually appropriates \$100M from the General Fund (our tax revenues) for indigent care at state teaching hospitals. Hundreds of millions more are lost by private hospitals when they don't get paid by the uninsured. Those of us who do have insurance pick up these costs in higher premiums.

Virginia is the eighth wealthiest state, yet it is 46th in Medicaid expenditure.

If Virginia accepts Washington's help to make more people eligible for Medicaid, the federal government will pay 100 percent of the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7



# NEWS

**McLean Woman's Club President Mildred Thompson and Investigator Tom Polhemus, of the Fairfax County Police Department's Financial Crimes Unit.**



PHOTO BY LAURA SHERIDAN/WOMAN'S CLUB

## County Investigator Speaks About Credit Card, ID Theft Risk

At the Feb. 4 meeting of the McLean Woman's Club, Officer Tom Polhemus, an investigator with the Financial Crimes Unit of the Fairfax County Police Department, spoke to the group about sophisticated schemes for stealing personal financial data and recommended ways to avoid being targeted. Officer Polhemus is one of 12 investigators in the Financial Crimes Unit, which handles some 4,500 fraud reports per year, he said.

Among his recommendations were: Review credit reports annually to protect against identify theft (he suggested [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) for this purpose), opt out of receiving pre-approved credit applications by calling 1-888-567-8688, monitor credit card and bank accounts online, use electronic banking if possible,

mail bill payments from postal facilities rather than from home and review bank statements for unauthorized debits. Regarding the latter, Polhemus noted that, by law, a bank must make restitution for fraud if the account holder reports it within 60 days.

He also cautioned against using credit cards in restaurants, as some establishments in Fairfax County have been detected using card readers that send data to unauthorized as well as to authorized recipients. Polhemus suggested that before donating to a charity it can be checked at [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org). Finally, identity theft victims should get a police report to that effect and secure a 7-year fraud alert or a credit freeze on their accounts.

— LAURA SHERIDAN

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

cost through 2016 and 90 percent thereafter. And if sometime in the future, the federal government reduces its contribution to Medicaid expansion, Virginia can modify its program. The state budget already includes language that compels the Department of Medical Assistance Services to disenroll the expansion population if the federal match rate falls below current legal requirements.

I'd like to see my federal tax dollars used to insure my hairdresser and other hard-working people right here in Virginia so they can address health problems before they become health emergencies. It's a more common-sense approach and a better use of our tax dollars.

**Helen Kelly**  
Herndon

## Ending Fox Penning

To the Editor:

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) applauds Virginia state Senator David Marsden (D-37) for his tireless efforts to pass legislation to crack down on fox penning, a brutal blood sport in which wild-caught foxes are released into fenced enclosures and made targets for packs of dogs in gruesome competitions. When the foxes are cornered and forced to fight for their lives, the dogs are also often injured. A bill to place a morato-

rium on fox pens – S.B. 42 – passed the Senate earlier this week, thanks to Sen. Marsden's continued efforts to keep the issue of fox penning front and center to ensure that the foxes – and dogs – are protected against this vicious activity.

Over the past six years, more than 7,000 wild-caught foxes have been forcibly transported to Virginia pens often hundreds of miles away, where they are forced into these cruel fox penning competitions. As if this deplorable activity wasn't cruel enough, the transportation of foxes and coyotes across state lines can also lead to the spread of rabies and other zoonotic diseases to domestic animals and humans, posing a threat to everyone involved.

Virginians have spoken on this issue. According to a 2014 Mason-Dixon poll, Virginia residents oppose fox penning by a margin of 9 to 1. It's time to turn public opinion into law and stop this vicious and unnecessary cruelty inflicted upon defenseless foxes and dogs. These animals cannot speak for themselves, so it is our job to give them a voice and fight for their protection.

The ASPCA thanks Sen. Marsden for his concern for animals, and we strongly urge the Virginia House of Delegates to pass S.B. 42 to crack down on this barbaric and intolerable practice.

**Ann Church**  
Vice President of State Affairs for the  
ASPCA  
McLean

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PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE GAZETTE

**SLEEP advocate Beth Steel speaks in favor of later high school start times at a recent school board public hearing.**

## School Board Votes for a Longer SLEEP

**Money saved from annual bus route review will be earmarked for implementation of later start times.**

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE GAZETTE

**A**ccording to SLEEP, a local group advocating for later high school start times in Fairfax County, 72 out of 92 counties in Virginia have a high school start time of 8 a.m. or later.

Many students and parents say that the 7:20 a.m. start time of high schools in Fairfax County is having a devastating effect on students' health and well-being.

"There is concrete evidence proving that teens with adequate sleep have improved learning, better memory, and a brighter outlook," said Beth Steel, who advocated for later start times on behalf of SLEEP at a recent school board hearing.

As a follow-up motion to approving the FY 2015 budget, the school board passed a motion recommending that Superintendent Karen Garza identify savings from the 2014 annual bus route review and earmarks those savings to offset the possible cost of implementing later high school start times.

**THE MOTION** was introduced by Mason District School Board member and SLEEP co-founder Sandy Evans.

"I offer this motion as a very modest approach to earmarking some transportation funds to help implement later high school start times," Evans said. "We find efficiencies in our bus service. If we find these efficiencies, it simply makes sense to recognize that these resources may soon be needed to implement improved bell schedules."

Evans stressed that the motion does not change the transfer request of the FY 2015 proposed budget, and does not take money out of any other budgets.

"As we look at the best approach to make sure that all of our students, K through twelve, have healthy schedules, it's important to show that we're looking ahead and moving in the right direction," Evans said. "The community has been waiting a long time for this. This is a small way for us to say that we do indeed care about and are committed to the physical, emotional and academic health of our teen students."

Springfield District School Board member Elizabeth Schultz and Providence District School Board member Patty Reed referred to an April 2012 resolution adopted by the board, which aimed to start high



**Fairfax County Public Schools student Stuart Orloff spoke in support of later high school start times at the public hearing on Jan. 27.**

schools after 8 a.m., as a reason to approve this motion. "We have the opportunity right now to demonstrably put our foot down and say, as we identify savings, we are going to make strides to fulfilling the promise that the resolution set more than a year ago. We're not going to do it with no money. This is the time for us to say, we choose to take the next step," Schultz said.

**SLEEP**, which stands for Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal, has been advocating for later start times in Fairfax County since 2004.

"It was April 2012 that this board set the goal of later start times for high schoolers. This board has also established the goal of physical health and safety and well-being of our students. For those reasons, I feel that we need to be pursuing this with added haste and zest," Reed said.

**SLEEP ADVOCATES** voiced their concerns for implementing a later start time as soon as possible at the last public hearing on the budget on Jan. 27.

"In some respects, this is the longest running community engagement project that FCPS has ever had. Now, it is time to act," said SLEEP advocate Phyllis Payne.

Mount Vernon School Board member Dan Storck was among the supporters of Evans' motion.

"All we are asking for is that with any savings that we have, from now on in a sense, at least in this budget year, that we will invest that in the way that this board has already said that we should invest it, which is in our kids, giving them an opportunity to get a little more sleep at night, to be a little more rested and do better in school frankly," Storck said.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Rendering of Station Street, as part of the Scotts Run Station South master plan.**

## Transforming Tysons

**Scotts Run Station South wins the award for 'Best Master Plan.'**

**S**mithGroupJJR was awarded a 2013 Award of Excellence by the Northern Virginia chapter of National Association of Industrial and Office Parks (NAIOP), a commercial real estate development association, for its planning and design of the Scotts Run Station South master plan. The NAIOP awards program, which celebrates significant contributions to Northern Virginia by the commercial, industrial and mixed-use real estate community, was held on Nov. 30, 2013 at the Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner. Scotts Run Station South won the award for "Best Master Plan."

With the planned arrival of four new Metrorail stations, the community of Tysons Corner has an exceptional redevelopment opportunity. SmithGroupJJR's master plan for Cityline Partners' properties at the new Tysons/McLean station will transform the area into a transit-oriented, mixed-use community with the Scotts Run Stream Valley Park at its heart.

The development plan introduces a new pedestrian-scaled grid of streets with an engaging mix of uses along Station Street, the development's main avenue. A total of 17 new buildings are planned, including residential, office and retail uses along with a full-service hotel.

"Scotts Run Station is a model of how the most challenging

suburban developments can be transformed into authentic, mixed-use, connected and sustainable urban places," said Merrill St. Leger Demian, APA, AICP, LEED AP, urban design and planning principal for the Scotts Run Station South master plan. St. Leger Demian, a leader with SmithGroupJJR's Urban Design and Planning studio, is recognized for her expertise in commercial, campus, and mixed-use development throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

Scotts Run Station South will feature highly sustainable architecture, site, landscape, and stormwater design throughout. New buildings will be designed for energy efficiency, with minimum LEED-Silver certification targeted for office and LEED certification for residential buildings. The park will add another dimension of livability and sustainability to the area, featuring a restored stream, new trails and public open spaces. The result is a holistic vision for transforming this part of the suburban edge city into a true urban center.

"At Scott's Run Station, the buildings will be carefully sited for energy efficiency, and sculpted to make daylight and views available for all building types," said Sven Shockey, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, design principal with SmithGroupJJR's Workplace practice.

# Battle for the 10th District

FROM PAGE 4

Comstock's mainstream GOP platform includes "repealing and replacing Obamacare," as well as promoting policies for a healthier economy and "fighting to protect our national security and dedicated military."

"I will be a tireless advocate for one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in the Commonwealth and I will demand and work hard for common sense results," she said in a news release. "I am running for Congress because I believe my strong record as a common sense conservative leader is what is needed in Congress. I know how to effectively fight for Northern Virginia's hard working taxpayers having first learned from Congressman Wolf, working in his congressional office."

Comstock is currently facing seven declared candidates for her party's nomination, including a challenge from Virginia Del. Bob Marshall, who entered the crowded Republican pri-

mary field last week.

In a news release announcing his candidacy, Marshall, who has represented parts of Prince William and Loudoun counties in the General Assembly for more than 20 years, vowed to vote no to any tax increases, and said he would "be on the front lines to defund and dismantle Obamacare."

Marshall also said in his announcement that he would oppose "the creation or maintenance of a police surveillance state to spy on us," and oppose the "executive assault" on congressional powers. He told reporters he believes his candidacy will appeal to the conservative party activists.

Earlier this month another Republican, Rob Wasinger of Fairfax Station, announced his candidacy, citing 20 years of experience of working for prominent conservative lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Potential candidates have until March 27 to file the necessary paperwork for a run.

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jurisdiction	amount	per capita	percent of statewide average
Arlington	\$14,637,352	\$68.28	241.58 percent
Alexandria	\$6,910,580	\$48.17	148.76 percent
Loudoun	\$11,854,503	\$36.55	129.32 percent
Fauquier	\$2,051,735	\$31.19	110.36 percent
Manassas Park	\$511,095	\$35.15	108.56 percent
Manassas	\$1,356,148	\$34.72	107.23 percent
Prince William	\$11,798,000	\$28.46	100.7 percent
Fairfax City	\$690,751	\$30.21	93.29 percent
Fairfax County	\$28,626,359	\$26.12	92.41 percent

## Money on the Shelves

Northern Virginia jurisdictions take a variety of approaches to funding libraries.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

What is the future of the neighborhood library? That's an open question as jurisdictions across America are rethinking their library system, a reevaluation brought on by tight budgets and technological change. Here in Northern Virginia, jurisdictions have taken a variety of approaches to funding libraries. Some, such as Arlington, have restored almost all the funding cut during the recession. Others, such as Fairfax County, lag behind the statewide average. "We are very concerned about this because our funding is far down behind the rest of the state of Virginia and in the entire metropolitan area as well," said Charles Fegan, vice chairman of the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees. "How are we going to get books on the shelves? How are we going to get hours?"

Supporters of public libraries are concerned that elected officials who control funding don't seem as committed to the idea of public libraries as they once were. Some of that change is technological. In an era when bookstores are vanishing and books are available for download, some are questioning the logic behind having public libraries at all. That's why libraries across Northern Virginia took massive hits when budgets became tighter because of the recession.

"The libraries are a convenient target because a lot of people look at the libraries relative to many other things and decide they are not as important," said Alexandria City Councilman Justin Wilson. "I don't necessarily always come to that conclusion, but I do think libraries are changing. They're definitely changing."

**BACK IN FISCAL YEAR 2009**, before the recession hit, the Fairfax County Public Library system had a budget of \$33.1 million. Since that time, members of the Board of Supervisors have slashed about 20 percent out of budget for the library system, which has reduced the numbers of hours libraries are open and the collections available on the shelves. As a result, library officials have had

to get creative to stretch their limited budget as far as they can. "As an example, there are some days that we don't answer the telephone," said Mary Mulrenan, marketing director with the Fairfax County Public Libraries. "We just don't have the staffing." When the recession hit, all Northern Virginia jurisdictions cut back on library funding. Some have made efforts to restore funding, while others have lagged behind. Arlington had led the way in restoring almost all the hours that were cut in their neighborhood libraries, although the Central Library still opens an hour later than it used to and closes an hour earlier than it used to. But overall, Arlington's library system remains one of the best in the region. Earlier this month, the Library Journal named the Arlington Public Library one of six "star" libraries in Virginia.

"The library is the only place you can get face-to-face personalized research assistance that you would never get online," said Peter Golkin, public information officer for Arlington Public Library. "Librarians are a professionally trained group of experts. They're kind of like concierges for all sorts of life issues."

**LIBRARIES REMAIN** a budget target, even as jurisdictions emerge from the recession. Last year, for example, Alexandria City Manager Rashad

**"How are we going to get books on the shelves? How are we going to get hours?"**

— Charles Fegan, vice chairman, Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees

Young's proposed budget included a proposal to reduce hours at three libraries as well as the materials budget at the central library and services to the visually impaired. The proposal would have eliminated three employee positions and slashed about \$240,000 out of the operating budget, but members of the Alexandria City Council restored funding when they voted on a final budget. "The citizens really turned out and said no. The City Council responded, and the cuts were restored," said Oscar Fitzgerald, vice chairman of the Alexandria Library Board. "We're facing the same thing again this year because the city is facing a substantial downturn in their income, and they are looking for cuts across the board."

Nowhere will the battle be more pitched than Fairfax County, where libraries are still working with reduced staffing and reduced collections. Members of the library's board of trustees say they are ready to make a pitch to the Board of Supervisors that it's time to restore the hours that were reduced and add back the funding for the collections. "A library is the heart of a community," said Fegan. "I've spoken to a number of people who have come into this country, and the first thing they did was get a library card."

## CALENDAR

Send announcements to McLean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19-FRIDAY/FEB. 28

**"Here and There: Paintings of the Brogue and Beyond."** Paintings on exhibit by artist Jill Banks. Katie's Coffee at the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760C Walker Road, Great Falls. www.JillBanks.com.

**Fine Arts Photography Exhibition.** Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls artist Richard Suib depicts many scenes from Venice, Florence, Slovenia, and Russia.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 20

**Dance and Dessert.** 7:30 p.m. Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Regional choreographers will showcase and discuss their latest works-in-progress with lots of opportunities for audience members to ask questions.

**Memory Café.** 1 p.m. Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Rd, Vienna. Memory Café celebrate its second anniversary. A memory café is a casual social meeting venue for those with progressive memory or cognitive impairment and their caregivers. 571-236-6933.

**Chad & Jeremy.** 8 p.m. Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Veteran Brit-pop folkies Chad Stuart and Jeremy Clyde first achieved success during the '60s with breezy guitar anthems, witty repartee, and songs like "Yesterday's Gone." Chad & Jeremy's biggest hit in the United States is "A Summer Song."

### FRIDAY/FEB. 21

**Artist Talk with Eric Celarier.** 7 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) will present a talk by exhibiting artist Eric Celarier. This presentation will cover artists who use trash to touch on subjects as far ranging as globalization, environmentalism, consumerism, classicism and colonialism. Free, but reservations are suggested. Please email Info@mpaart.org or call 703-790-1953.

**"Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins"** at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$22-\$27; \$15 for students and military. Information

### 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/FEB. 19

**Vienna Photographic Society (VPA) Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Oakton Elementary School, 3000 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton. www.vpsva.org.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 20

**Great Falls Writer's Group.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Great Falls Writer's Group, Great Falls Public Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike (large conference room), Great Falls. Writers of all experience and skill level are invited to discuss the joys/challenges of writing, and to hear authors read from their work. No registration necessary. No charge.

**U.S.-Israeli Relations: Why They Matter.** 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Richard Hellman, a Vietnam War veteran and Middle East specialist,



PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

**From left: Brian Keith MacDonald as Cosme McMoon and Lee Mikeska Gardner as Florence Foster Jenkins in 'Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins' at 1st Stage Now playing Friday, Saturday, Sunday through March 2.**

call 703-854-1856 or visit: www.1stStageTysons.org

### SATURDAY/FEB. 22

**Winter Wine Tasting.** 7 p.m. River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Rd, Great Falls. Great wines, hors d'oeuvres, cheese and company. \$45 per person, tickets available online until Feb. 18. www.celebrategreatfalls.org/Tickets.html

**MPA Workshop for ages 9-14 with artist Eric Celarier: Anatsui and Reuse Art.** 1-4 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. A special opportunity for young people to work with exhibiting artist, Eric Celarier. During this workshop, 9-14 year olds will create a woven piece from waste materials, similar to the work of well-known African artist El Anatsui. \$10 per person. Register for the workshop at www.mcleancenter.org

**Langley Fashion Show.** 7 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Over 100 students participate as well as some of the Langley administration and faculty. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Email tmpoythress@fcps.edu for more information.

**Celtic Invasion.** 8 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Nova Scotia's Celtic rock ambassadors,

will discuss US-Israeli Relation: Why They Matter. The general public and all veterans are invited. Admission is free. For information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit www.vva227.org.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 23

**American Red Cross Blood Drive.** 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

### MONDAY/FEB. 24

**McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia** will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean to discuss plans for their Aug. 24, 2014 event commemorating the bicentennial of the burning of the nation's Capitol during the War of 1812. If interested in taking part in the organization and its upcoming contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 27

**American Red Cross Blood Drive.** 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Federal Highway

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Grand Dérangement, will perform a rousing mix of new Acadian music. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for McLean tax district residents.

**"Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins"** at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets: \$22-\$27; \$15 for students and military. Information call 703-854-1856 or visit: www.1stStageTysons.org

### SUNDAY/FEB. 23

**Chili Cook-Off.** 5-8 p.m. Vienna's American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St, N, Vienna. \$8.

**Amadeus Concert.** 4 p.m. Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Amadeus Concerts inspires a community of classical music lovers through up-close performances by professional musicians, educational outreach, and mentoring for young musicians. Tickets: \$30. http://www.amadeusconcerts.com. Students 17 and under are admitted free of charge.

**Young Soloists Recital.** 3 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The recital will feature young violinists and pianists. It will include music by Haydn, Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Hamelin, Bartok, Beethoven, Vieuxtemps, and Chopin. 703-620-9535.

Administration, 6300 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

### 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 and experienced speakers. Open to the public.

**Run With the Doctor.** Every other Saturday at 7 a.m. 8230 Boone Blvd, Tysons Corner. The Center for Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine offers its services in a convenient format to runners at this running event. Free. facebook.com/runwiththedoctor.

**Senior Fall Prevention Classes.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 2-3 p.m., The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Classes are held in a heated indoor pool and are designed to work on balance and core muscles. \$10. 703-667-9800.

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Thank you to these businesses, organizations and individuals in our community for their contributions to Jeans Day and for their commitment to ending homelessness in Fairfax County and Falls Church. The \$60,000 raised will make a difference for the more than 3,000 children, women and men facing homelessness and the threat of severe temperatures and hunger today in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. The awareness raised by Jeans Day will help in the continued efforts to end homelessness in our community by 2018.

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This list includes donations of \$25 or more.

# FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Great Falls United Methodist Church** is offering "24 Hours That Changed the World," about the last 24 hours of Jesus' life – before the resurrection. The study, written by Adam Hamilton, will be offered during the Sunday school hour (9 to 9:45 a.m.) beginning on Sunday, March 9 through Sunday, April 27 at Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Youth and adults are welcome to participate. The study will also be offered on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. beginning Ash Wednesday, March 5 through Wednesday, April 16. On Sunday morning, the nursery will be staffed for childcare needs.

If you have questions, contact Bertina at [youth@greatfallsumc.org](mailto:youth@greatfallsumc.org) or Pastor Denise at [apastordenise@greatfallsumc.org](mailto:apastordenise@greatfallsumc.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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.ChesterbrookUMC.org).

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

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

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children's chapel and children's choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax**, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, offers the Religious Exploration (RE) program for all children, from pre-K toddlers through high school seniors, emphasizing exploration of all religious traditions while developing a personal spiritual path. The RE program offers classes on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. 703-281-4230.

**Trinity United Methodist Church**, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at noon. 703-356-3312 or [umtrinity.org](http://umtrinity.org).

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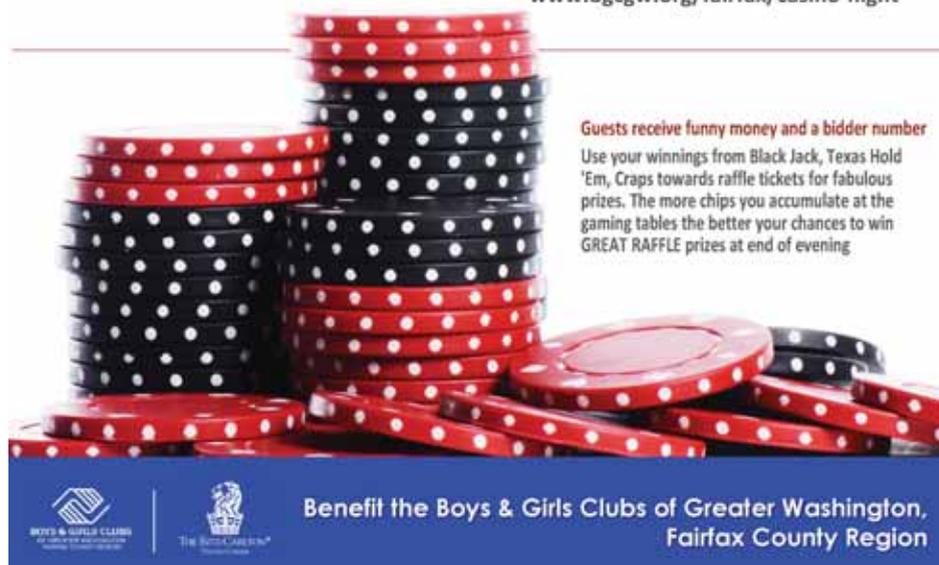
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# Launch Pad for Young Adults?

**Paws4people develops pilot for former foster children, others.**

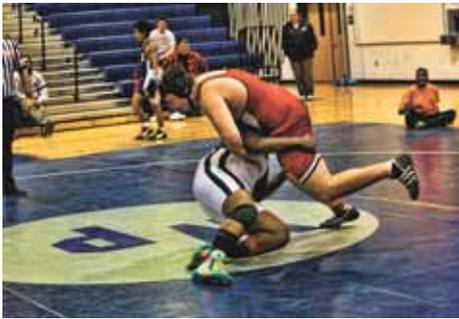


PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

**2008: Hayfield High wrestling**



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

**2008: Tyrell as a young photographer, Lake Accotink Park during the annual 5K to benefit kids in foster care.**



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

**2008: Voices for Change arts competition for Virginia foster kids. Tyrell won 2nd place awarded at the Governor's mansion**



**2009: Tyrell's high school graduation selfie which he combined with an image of the Fairfax Families4kids group, winning 3rd place in the 2009 Voices for Change competition**



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

**2009: After graduation, Tyrell played for the Northern Riverneck semi-pro football team**



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

**2013: Tyrell was living precariously, without prospects for a better future**



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

**Tyrell with his new boss April Cook (left), Terry Henry, Claire, a psychiatric service dog, and Kyria Henry, founder of paws4people.org.**

Imagine if in your childhood, it was normal for a social worker to show up unexpectedly, hand you a big black garbage bag and tell you to pack your things.

That's what happened to Tyrell in the first quarter of his senior year of high school. Left behind were Tyrell's friends, the football and wrestling teams he had played on and the security he had finally found after nine years in foster care.

Tyrell, a resident of Fairfax County, was once among the 500,000 kids who are in foster care across the United States. He struggled to earn his high school diploma in his new school but succeeded, thanks in part to a mentor from Fairfax Families4Kids.

Earning that high-school diploma put Tyrell ahead of more than 50 percent of kids who have been in foster care, according to a report by the Association of Small Foundations/Annie E. Casey Foundation.

In Fairfax County, foster kids can choose to stay in foster care until they are 21, rather than aging out at 18. The extra years of services come with requirements that are designed to prepare kids for adulthood. They must go to school or work with little oversight. Imagine young adults who, in many cases in foster care, were housed more than they were raised. Kids whose caregivers did not work to instill ambition, confidence, self-esteem, work ethic or core social skills. What are their chances for becoming self-reliant? Many former foster children can't meet the requirements to stay in the system, and even those who made it through until 21 did not gain the skills needed to be successful.

**NOW 22, TYRELL IS** one of the 26,000 young adults who age out of the foster care system each year in the U.S. without family and the emotional and economic support that often come with family. In Fairfax County in 2012, 49 foster children aged out. Nationwide, four years after aging out of foster care, 25 percent have been homeless and more than 80 percent are unable to support themselves, according to Association of Small Foundations/Annie E. Casey.

Despite his winning smile, good nature and potential, Tyrell was living precariously. He has been essentially homeless. Alternating between the couches of friends and not having a place to sleep, there have been times when Tyrell stayed on the bus, where it was warm, until it stopped running at 3 a.m. Then he would head to an all-night McDonald's where he would hope that the manager didn't kick him out.

Mentors and other adults tried to support Tyrell, both emotionally and materially by paying his phone bill and providing him with leads on jobs. He never followed through on the job leads. Like the social workers before them, these well-meaning adults, myself included, became frustrated. For an adult who was raised with caring parents, it was mind-boggling. How could he not make one single phone call to help himself? Why

didn't he see that he had to change his life? This was a kid who we believed in, why couldn't he believe in himself?

But Tyrell represents so many young adults who have grown up in the system. They are focused on survival, food and shelter. They don't trust. They have seen only failure, despite their potential. Their expectations are low. Their dreams don't exist. They are lacking that one person who is pivotal to success: the full-time, caring motivator. The person who is on them, as emerging adults, every waking minute to get out of bed, to follow up on job leads, to never give up.

I was working to develop a plan for Tyrell and others that would incorporate this "caring motivator," that could include housing and maybe even employment, when Kyria Henry, co-founder of paws4people.org, contacted me. Understanding the human and actual price tag that comes along with foster care's failures, Kyria wanted discuss developing a program for young adults, paws4potential.

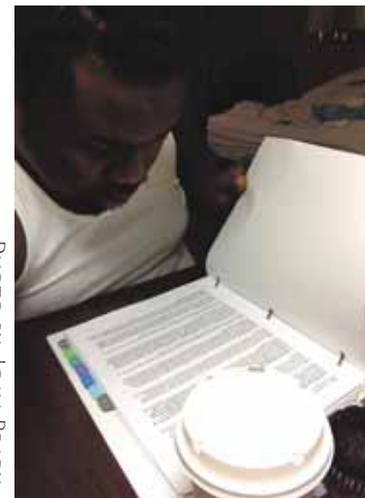
The non-profit that Kyria Henry founded with her parents, paws4people.org, has a mission to enhance the lives of those living with serious illnesses or disabilities.

Kyria Henry founded with her parents, paws4people.org, has a mission to enhance the lives of those living with serious illnesses or disabilities.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

**Feb 1, 2014 Tyrell arrives at his housing for the pilot program**



**Feb 2, 2014 - Tyrell's selfie, pouring over his job manual before his first official day of work.**

ties by utilizing highly trained assistance dogs for children, veterans and civilians. The bulk of the dog training is done in prisons by inmates. I have seen firsthand the magic that happens when you bring together dogs and people with emotional and physical needs. Many lives have been forever changed by paws4people.

Kyria's proposal had the right ingredients to create success. The program frees participants from the stresses of seeking shelter and job. These emerging adults have stability inside a supportive community of staff, volunteers, students, clients and the dogs themselves. They learn marketable skills, among them dog grooming, care and training as well as facility maintenance skills. The boss becomes the full-time, caring motivator.

Tyrell said he was ready to get his life on track. He agreed that if he was accepted into the program, he would leave friends and family behind here to move to Wilmington, N.C. for the three-month pilot program.

The first hurdle was getting him down to Wilmington for his interview. Tyrell was more than three hours late to meet me for the six-hour drive. Biting back my frustration, I told him that, if he was accepted, being on time was a something they would help him with. I knew he could do this. He had to believe it too.

When Tyrell was offered the one place in the pilot program, he was shyly pleased.

There were two weeks between that day and the day I drove him to North Carolina to start his new life. We were in constant communication, talking through the what-ifs, me constantly reassuring him that he could do it. And he reminding himself that it was only three months.

**TWO DAYS BEFORE** we were to drive down to Wilmington, I got a text from Tyrell. He couldn't do it, he wrote. He wasn't going to go.



PHOTO BY GENNA SOBERANO

**Tyrell working with a young dog at paws4potential**



**Tyrell, selfie with Joan Brady**

My heart fell. The statistics were already against him. He had to really want this in order for him to have a chance of succeeding. In my opinion, this pilot program would give him the best chance of having a successful life. Then he texted, "I new I would get u. Haha. U fell for it. See you at 10:30am on Saturday."

The kids I have watched grow up in the foster care system are in now prison, living on the street and/or are parents. There are very few success stories. I believe that the many young adults who have been let down by both their families and the foster care system can succeed if given the right opportunity. These were once babies who entered the world expecting to be loved, taken care of and supported. They didn't get those things as children. Nothing about this is easy. It will take commitment and caring support.

Tyrell texted me after I left him at the extended stay hotel which would be his home for the next three months, "I am going to do my best to complete the program. [This] is what I'm starving for. I know it'll all work out for me. I just have to leave everything in the past and I will be ok."

Paws4potential isn't going to be the right fit for everyone, but I believe that paws4people.org is on the right track to change outcomes for kids who have aged out of foster care and others similarly at risk. According to a study by the Jim Casey Youth Initiative, every person who gets his or her life on track, saves society an average lifetime cost of \$300,000. Getting ex-foster kids successfully launched makes for a better society and a better world.

If you are interested in finding out more and/or would like to help turn this pilot into a long-term program, please contact me joan@joanbradyphotography.com. Or go to paws4people.org and click on the paws4potential program page.

*Joan Brady is a professional photographer; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; volunteer with Paws4People; and a resident of Great Falls.*

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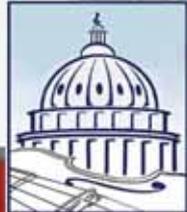
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## SPORTS

# Grapplers Grammes, Adams Gain Spotlight Experience

McLean freshman, Langley senior each finish region runner-up.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**B**rendan Grammes said he lost to a “stronger” opponent during the 6A North region wrestling championships on Sunday, but the McLean freshman’s pre-season goals remain attainable.

Jacob Adams came up short in the region finals, but the Langley senior said he will learn from his experience in the spotlight.

Connor Eckhardt suffered a knee injury in defeat, but the Madison senior vowed to return for the state meet.

For wrestlers unable to secure a title during Sunday’s region finals at Centreville High School, the state meet on Feb. 21-22 at Robinson Secondary School will provide another opportunity to prove themselves with a championship up for grabs.

Grammes lost to Battlefield junior Matthew Asper by decision, 10-4, in the 113-pound region final. Grammes entered the match with a 43-3 season record, including an 11-6 victory over Centreville’s Victor Echeverria in the semifinals, but settled for region runner-up.

“He was just stronger than me, for the most part,” Grammes said. “I felt like he was more developed than me. He was a little quicker. In the very beginning, I felt like I came out a little tense because I was a little nervous. I worked that out by the end, but I was down by a little bit at that point.”

**EARLY IN THE SEASON**, Grammes set goals of winning the Conference 6 championship, finishing runner-up in the region and placing at states. The McLean grappler came through with a conference crown and remains on track to achieve his goals.

“I thought it was a little [far-fetched], like [they were] pretty challenging goals,” Grammes said, “but I thought I could do it if I really tried.”

Adams lost to Robinson senior Dane Robbins by decision, 4-1, in the 138-pound final. He entered the match with a 42-4 season record, having won the Conference 6 championship.

“I want to win,” Adams said about his goal at the state meet. “I’ll be on the opposite side of the bracket as [Robbins], so I should get another shot at him in the finals.”

Adams wrestled at 132 pounds as a junior, when he placed fifth at regionals. He said Sunday’s experience in a championship setting should help him at states.

“It’s probably the biggest crowd I’ve ever wrestled in front of,” he said. “I’m starting to get used to it and I think it will definitely help at states — the spotlight and everything.”



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**McLean freshman Brendan Grammes placed runner-up in the 113-pound bracket during the 6A North region wrestling championships on Sunday at Centreville High School.**



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Langley senior Jacob Adams, left, lost to Robinson’s Dane Robbins in the 138-pound final at the 6A North region wrestling championships on Sunday at Centreville High School.**

Eckhardt, a Conference 6 champion experiencing his best season as a high school wrestler, injured his left knee during the 145-pound final. He finished the match, but lost to Chantilly senior Walter Carlson by decision, 10-4.

Eckhardt said he had multiple surgeries on the knee in the past. He walked with an ice pack on the knee after the match, but said he will “definitely be able to compete at states.”

“I wrestled terribly,” Eckhardt said about

his performance in the region final. “... I didn’t wrestle my match. I didn’t take my shots. I could have wrestled a better match, and that’s what I’m going to have to do next weekend to get a state title.”

McLean sophomore Conor Grammes placed third in the 132-pound bracket, beating Westfield junior Ryan Yorkdale via injury in the third-place match.

Langley senior Alex Pratte placed sixth in the 145-pound class, losing to Centreville senior Connor Mitchell via pin in the fifth-

place match.

Madison 195-pound senior Chris Hines finished fourth, falling to Osbourn Park sophomore Jacob Maile by decision, 16-9, in the third-place match. Warhawks junior Ryan Barrett captured fifth place at 182 pounds, beating Chantilly senior Logan Barr via decision, 7-4, in the fifth-place match.

Herndon senior Sean Pike took fifth place in the 160-pound bracket, beating Chantilly senior Jeffrey Weinberg via decision, 9-5. Hornets sophomore Sam Milligan finished sixth in the 138-pound bracket, falling to West Springfield’s Junior Ramos by major decision, 15-5, in the fifth-place match.

South Lakes senior Colby Laxton finished fifth in the 195-pound bracket, pinning Robinson senior Maksym Sears in the fifth-place match.

Robinson won the team championship with 257.5 points, giving the Rams three region titles in four seasons. Robinson has also won two of the last three state championships.

**“It’s probably the biggest crowd I’ve ever wrestled in front of. I’m starting to get used to it and I think it will definitely help at states — the spotlight and everything.”**

**— Langley senior Jacob Adams**

“This is a pretty special team, a great group of kids,” Robinson head coach Bryan Hazard said. “They’ve been together a long time. They have an expectation that they place on themselves and they really competed well.”

**INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS:** Lake Braddock’s Dante Wiles (106); Asper (113); Lake Braddock’s Ryan Haskett (120); Robinson’s Mason Rockman (126); South County’s Hunter Manley (132); Robbins (138); Carlson (145); Robinson’s Jack Bass (152); Robinson’s Zak DePasquale (160); Robinson’s Daniel Mika (170); Robinson’s Cole DePasquale (182); Centreville’s Tyler Love (195); Osbourn’s Robin Garcia (220); and Robinson’s Jake Pinkston (285).

# NEWS



PHOTOS BY KIM MORAN

**Churchill Road second graders Natalie Meza, Isabella Chemel, Carter Smith, Amy Park and James Isherwood have an assembly line going for making sandwiches for the homeless at Martha's Table.**

## Making Sandwiches for Martha's Table

On Jan. 15, Churchill Road second and fifth graders, along with members of Girl Scout Troop 1588, worked hard for the second official community service activity of the school year. The group made sandwiches for Martha's Table, a shelter in Washington, D.C., which serves more than 2,500 sandwiches daily to the homeless

and those in need. The industrious group of students, scouts and parent volunteers made more than 2,100 sandwiches, bringing the total for both events to more than 4,300. This event was coordinated by Churchill Road PTA Community Service Committee Co-Chairs Robin Hoeymans and Sarah Walter.



**Second grade parent Gabriela Nistor helps second graders Logan Jones, James Isherwood, Olivia Liu, Daniel Isherwood, Liam Schuette and Jacob Sedaca package the sandwiches they made for Martha's Table in Washington, D.C.**

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# Until Further Notice



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not to state the obvious (which I readily admit I do), but to be given a terminal diagnosis: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, along with a rather disappointing prognosis: "13 months to two years" is a challenging set of extremely unexpected (given my immediate family's medical history) circumstances. I don't want to say that I live under a dark cloud - because I don't like the negative implication or reaction it conjures, but I definitely feel as if I have a metaphorical sword of Damocles hanging over my head; which I only refer to as an out-of-context Three Stooges reference wherein a non-Stooge was innocently standing under a pie which Moe had thrown to the ceiling and there it stuck, hanging precariously over the character's head. Now I still don't know the proper historical context of the sword of Damocles, I only know the Three Stooges version, but there was some imminent danger involved (not death, mind you), but rather a falling pie which ultimately landed flush on the character's face as she looked up to make further inquiries.

Nevertheless, pie issues/references notwithstanding, having seen my oncologist today while being infused and receiving a big smile/ "you're going great"/thumbs-up set of gestures/reactions while reclining in my Barcalounger with a chemotherapy I.V. dripping medicine into my right arm, is the kind of super-positive feedback with which I can live. Along with my every-three-week pre-chemotherapy lab work and my every-three-month CT Scan followed by my every-three-month face-to-face appointment with my oncologist, this is how I roll. Worrying about upcoming tests, waiting anxiously for results, trying not to anticipate good, bad or indifferent; living day to day and trying to appreciate my good fortune and the unexpected above-average quality of life with which I've been blessed - for a terminal cancer patient, that is.

Ergo, the title of this column: "Until Further Notice." Whenever I'm asked by those in my know how I'm doing, I typically respond: "I'm doing fine, until further notice." And "further notice" is my way of lightening the emotional load under which I live and thankfully still breathe; any port in a storm, you might say. Moreover, even though there's relative calm right now, given my diagnosis/prognosis, there's likely to be some inevitable unpleasantness down the road - as I'm semi-fond of saying/joking. And as many changes as I've already made to diet and lifestyle since I was diagnosed, I don't suppose I'll know what turns I've taken until my oncologist advises me after my miscellaneous test results have been analyzed. As much as I'm doing internally, I still feel as if the news will come externally. As a result, I feel pressure every day; self-assessing, analyzing, introspecting; it's a constant battle of mind over what may or not matter yet. And of course, I can never forget the pie.

The great Satchel Page joked to not look back because you never know who's chasing you. And though I'm certainly mindful of death and what's chasing me (figuratively speaking), ignoring certain facts as they were presented to me by my oncologist is much easier said than done. When I first learned about my medical situation/diagnosis/prognosis, it certainly sounded like a death sentence; now, five years later, it has evolved into more of a life sentence. And though it's unlikely I'll ever make parole, it is life nonetheless, and though there are some days when it's not very pretty, these are days I didn't anticipate having. And so far, there's been no pie or sword to diminish them - all things considered.

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

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**Grand Dérangement will perform a mix of new Acadian music at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22.**



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# It's A Celtic Invasion!

The Alden welcomes Nova Scotia's Celtic Rock Ambassadors, Grand Dérangement, and Ireland's Own Traditional Band, Caladh Nua, to its stage.

Two up-and-coming, internationally acclaimed Celtic music bands, one that treasures the heritage of traditional Irish music and one that brings a totally new rock aesthetic to the genre, will come to The Alden in McLean's stage in the coming few weeks, just in time to get in the mood for St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The theatre is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue, inside the McLean Community Center.

Nova Scotia's Celtic rock ambassadors, Grand Dérangement, will perform a mix of new Acadian music at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for McLean tax district residents.

Grand Dérangement is a group from the Saint Mary's Bay area of Southwestern Nova Scotia. The name refers to the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755, but also alludes to the group's ability to rouse its audience. The music is exciting, the show is a visual feast and the highly poetic songs, while insightful, defy the audience to sit still. This award-winning group, comprising Daniel LeBlanc (fiddle, guitar), Briand Melanson (drums, lead vocals), Jean-Pascal Comeau (bass, step dancer), Charles Robicheau (guitar) and Monique Comeau (step dancer), is very eclectic in its musical approach, drawing from such disparate musical inspiration as French chansonniers, folk, Celtic, rock, and Broadway.

Grand Dérangement holds a special place in the world of French-language music, building a bridge between the old and the new, and succeeding in acquiring an acclaimed international reputation. The group's popularity is growing in Europe and the United States and this is a rare opportunity to see them in person.

On Saturday, March 1, at 8 p.m., The Alden welcomes Ireland's own Caladh Nua as they embark on their first U.S. tour. Caladh Nua, pronounced "coll-ah noo-ah," which means "New Harbour" or "New Haven" is a tightly-knit, vibrant and talented band with its origins deeply rooted in the southeastern counties of Ireland. Tickets are \$27, \$18 for McLean district residents.



**On Saturday, March 1, at 8 p.m., The Alden welcomes Ireland's own Caladh Nua as they embark on their first U.S. tour.**

Through a series of international tours and festivals across the globe, which saw the band take the stage in cities such as Paris, Vienna, Copenhagen, Berlin, Mumbai and Vancouver, and having been invited to play for the former Irish President, Mary McAleese, at her residence in Ireland, Caladh Nua has cast a uniquely captivating net of Irish music and song to an ever-receptive and increasing worldwide audience. Comprising five versatile musicians and singers (Eoin O'Meachair, Paddy Tutty, Lisa Butler and Derek Morrissey) playing a wide selection of instruments (from banjo to fiddle, guitar to bodhrán, tin whistle to button accordion), the band has captured the essential qualities of traditional Irish music and balanced them finely with an innovative, contemporary styling.

With a long list of television and radio appearances under their belt, and two highly acclaimed albums already in the bag ("Next Stop" and "Happy Days"), Caladh Nua's musicians are as accomplished off-stage as they are on. Performing a vast repertoire of haunting songs and evocative tunes, the band continues to lead their listeners on a musical escapade through a sound-scape of their own creation.

Tickets are on sale now. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit: [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org) or call 703-790-0123.

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