

Information assistant, Sandy Souleles, with Elvis at Great Falls Community Library. Elvis' birthday is Jan. 8 and there are many fiction and nonfiction books featuring 'the King' available at the library.

# 'The King' at Great Falls Library

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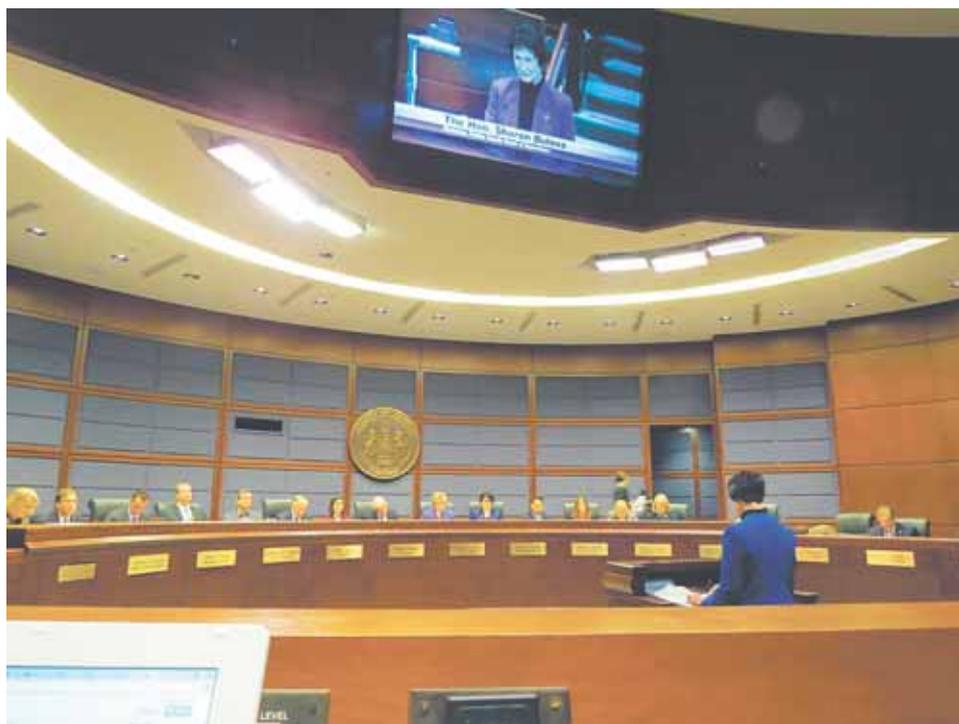


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Sharon Bulova, with entire delegation visible.

PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION



More than 30 people had signed up to speak for Critical Thinking Revolution. Shaista Keating said: "The era to teach to the test must indeed come to the end."

## Schools, Guns, Judges, Marijuana and the Safety Net

Residents tell legislators of priorities ahead of the 60-day session of the General Assembly.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**B**arbara Quesada, parent of a Franklin Sherman Elementary School student, reminded the General Assembly delegation from Fairfax that Nova Firearms opened its new store right next to the McLean elementary school.

During Quesada's three-minute testimony, Dranesville School Board member Janie Strauss, McLean resident Marilyn White and a dozen others stood in solidarity.

White held a sign that said, "Gun store free school zone."

"Please pass legislation so gun stores are not located within immediate proximity to schools," said Quesada, who testified before the county's delegation to the General Assembly Saturday, Jan. 10 at Fairfax County Government Center.

"This is not a second amendment issue, and it is so infuriating the amount of time it gets twisted," she said, requesting authorizing legislation to allow localities to regulate the proximity of a gun store to a school.

Nearly 100 speakers testified Saturday, Jan. 9, in a hearing that lasted more than 240 minutes.

Burke's Martina Leinz attended the CNN Town Hall meeting at George Mason University two nights before where President Barack Obama spoke about the need for gun reform.

Leinz, speaker number 88 on Saturday, said she was asked if she had been personally affected by gun violence. "I looked him in the eye and said, 'I am an American citizen. Of course I have been affected by gun violence — we all have,'" Leinz told the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly.



Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34)



State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31)



Dean Howarth of McLean, physics teacher: "Students have lost the joy of learning because their teachers are shackled." Marcus Simon recognized Howarth as his physics teacher, and recalled a particular lesson involving roller skates.

**"A state that is in the top 10 in income should not be in the bottom 10 in state education funding."**

— Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

The 2016 session of the Virginia General Assembly starts Wednesday, Jan. 13, and will last six weeks.

Leinz testified on behalf of the NOVA Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and the Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Coalition.

"We cannot stop all gun deaths but certainly we should do everything we can to stop some. And surely we all can agree that there are some categories of people who should not have access to firearms — that is why we have prohibited purchaser categories; criminals, domestic violence abusers, the adjudicated mentally ill and terrorists should not have easy access to guns."

**CHAIRMAN SHARON BULOVA** was the first to testify Saturday.

"Fairfax County is often described as a wealthy community, but we also have many individuals and families struggling finan-

cially," she said. "More than 52,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools qualify for free and reduced lunch. Only four school divisions in the state have more total children than we have children living in low-income households."

State cuts to K-12 education in recent years have cost localities \$1.7 billion per biennium, Bulova said, "and have been detrimental to our efforts to educate our children."

"A state that is in the top 10 in income should not be in the bottom 10 in state education funding," said Bulova.

Dozens spoke of the need for full funding for K-12 programming and education.

Steve Greenburg, president of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, supports legislation for an increased county tax on cigarettes.

"If people are going to kill themselves and run up everyone's health care costs by smok-

ing the stupid things, then we should certainly get some return for the costs they incur the rest of us," he said.

Advocating for the importance of the investment on education, Dean Howarth, a teacher from McLean, talked of the need for schools to emphasize critical thinking, not standardized test scores.

"We always say, 'Great minds think alike. No they don't, great minds think differently,'" said the physics and science teacher. "Students come back. You know what they remember? It's never ever their SOL score."

Del. Marcus Simon stopped the testimony to say Howarth was his physics teacher in high school.

Simon remembered Howarth getting students on rollerskates to learn about physics. But emphasis on standardized testing has robbed teachers of the freedom to teach in creative ways, Howarth said.

"Students have lost the joy of learning because their teachers are shackled," said Howarth. "I like being like Bill Nye, stoking fun in education."

Brad Ward, of Fairfax Station, also spoke for Critical Thinking Revolution and advocated for less rote teaching and emphasis on standardized testing. "In my professional life, I have never been given a multiple choice test," he said. "I never asked a potential employee to choose from a list of possible answers. ... Rote learning does not

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 17

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## PEOPLE

### Great Falls Doctor Receives Award from the American College of Physicians

April S. Fitzgerald, MD, FACP, of Great Falls, has been awarded The Herbert S. Waxman Award for Outstanding Medical Student Educator by the American College of Physicians (ACP), the national organization of internists. The award will be presented at ACP's annual convocation ceremony on Thursday, May 5, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington D.C., where ACP is hosting its annual scientific conference, Internal Medicine 2016, through May 7.

The award recognizes an ACP member who is an internal medicine group leader, clinical clerkship director, program director or faculty member who spends a significant amount of time teaching medical students.

Dr. Fitzgerald is assistant professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University

School of Medicine and associate professor of medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine. Dr. Fitzgerald is also a colonel in the United States Air Force Reserves.

Dr. Fitzgerald is a member of the ACP Maryland Chapter Council, as well as president-elect for her regional chapter of the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) and a diplomate for the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). In 2013, she received the National Leadership Award from the Association of Chiefs and Leaders of General Internal Medicine, as well as the regional award for Best Faculty Oral Presentation from the SGIM. In 2014, she received the ACP Maryland Chapter Early Career Physician Award.

### VOLUNTEER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7-8 p.m.** We will discuss Balancing Safety and Your Loved One's Self-Determination. Register beforehand at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm) and click on Caregiver Telephone Support Groups. Call **703-324-5484**, TTY 711.

The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on **Wednesday, Feb. 17** at noon at the **Patrick Henry Library**, 101 Maple Avenue East, **Vienna**. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more

at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm). Call **703-938-0405**, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

Fairfax County's **Independent Living Project** helps older adults remain safely in their homes. Each session includes a prevention presentation and a gentle exercise program that focuses on fall prevention. The series takes place on **Thursdays, February 25-April 21**, 10 a.m.-Noon, at Congregation Adat Reyim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, **Springfield**. Call 703-324-7210, TTY 711 or go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/independent.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/independent.htm) to register for this free program.

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## President's Award

### Superintendent Karen Garza

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PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY



PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY

## State Sen. Favola, Del. Murphy Hold Public Hearing in Great Falls

A couple of dozen people attended the Saturday public hearing in Great Falls held by Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) and Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34).

At least six people turned out to support

Sen. Barbara Favola's bill on Fostering Futures. This would leverage federal funds to support some of the approximately 500 foster children in Virginia who turn 18 each year without having been adopted or re-

united with family, and so are without any family support. Statistics show that many such young adults end up homeless and unemployed, some end up in the criminal justice system. Young women who age out

of foster care are particularly vulnerable to falling victim to sex traffickers.

Other topics at the public hearing including raising the minimum wage, increasing the cigarette tax, support for widening Route 7, affordable housing for seniors.

## Elvis at Great Falls Library Creative book displays promote reading.

**J**an. 8 was Elvis Presley's birthday and the perfect inspiration for a new book display at Great Falls Community Library. The exhibit includes a life-size cut-out of Elvis in a gold lame suit, recipe cards for his favorite sandwich (peanut butter and banana and sometimes bacon) and highlights many of the fiction and nonfiction books featuring "the King." The display is the latest in an ongoing promotional series developed by Great Falls Community Library information assistant, Sandra Souleles.

"Every few weeks I put up a new themed display to highlight parts of the library collection that may be overlooked. It's a fun way for people to find books they may not otherwise



PHOTOS BY DEAN SOULELES

**Information assistant, Sandy Souleles, with Elvis at Great Falls Community Library. Elvis's birthday is Jan. 8 and there are many fiction and nonfiction books featuring the King available at the library.**

go looking for," explained Souleles. "People are always asking for recommendations on what



**"It came from the library..." featuring scary Halloween themed books is one of a series of topical book displays by information assistant Sandra Souleles at Great Falls Community Library. Souleles' popular displays change every few weeks and highlight books in the library's collection.**

to read and this is one way of making it easy for them. I can tell when it's working when the books

fly out the door."

Previous displays include the Halloween themed "It Came from the Library" complete with black wreath and Edgar Allen Poe's raven, "National Bathroom Reading Month" in June, and "Dog Days of Summer," featuring all kinds of books about dogs. Albert Einstein and science even got their turn last year in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity.

"Sandy's book displays are creative, popular, and inspirational," said Daniella Dixon, branch manager at Great Falls. "And always with a sense of humor. Whether it's books on gardens and gardening, spa day romances, or no-shave November's 'I mustache you to read this book...,' where all the books had little black mustaches, Sandy always finds a way to catch your

eye and make you stop and pick up a book. And it works. People come in every month to see what's in the new display."

"Elvis" will be up through mid-January followed by "You've got mail," featuring epistolary novels (novels written as a series of letters between the characters). "Valentine's day is always special," added Souleles. "Last year's 'Blind Date with a Book' was fun. The books were wrapped so you didn't know what you were getting until you checked out. People were puzzled at first but smiled once they figured it out. And I've got something new planned for this year."

Great Falls Community library, located at 9830 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, is open Monday through Saturday.

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# WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

## Comstock to Speak at Brightview Great Falls

Brightview Great Falls is hosting a special Town Hall Meeting with U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Comstock, Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 3:30 p.m. During the presentation, Congresswoman Comstock will provide information about the services and resources available to constituents through her office, as well as Social Security benefits, Medicare and other platforms that are important to seniors. A question and answer session will follow.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED  
**U.S. Rep Barbara Comstock (R-10)**

To RSVP for the Town Hall or for more information about Brightview Great Falls, contact Carolyn Pennington at 703-759-2513. Brightview Great Falls is located at 10200 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls.

## The Arts of Great Falls School to Host Student Art Show

The community is invited to the Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony for the Annual Student Art Show. See and appreciate the talents of The Arts

of Great Falls School students as they exhibit still life, landscapes, portraiture, drawings, and mixed media art. The Opening Reception is 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16. You can view the exhibit, meet the student artists and enjoy refreshments. Award Ceremony for Youth and Adults at 7:30 p.m. Other open hours for exhibit viewing are during Artists' Atelier Open hours: Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through Jan. 30. The Arts of Great Falls Gallery is at 756 Walker Road in Great Falls Village Centre. Details at [www.greatfallsart.org](http://www.greatfallsart.org)

## Jewel Scholarship Deadline Feb. 18

The Joyce-Gillespie-Harrington Educational and Charitable Foundation, Inc., (JGH) invites applicants for its 36th Annual Jewel Scholarship award. The \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to 10 local students aspiring to pursue an undergraduate degree at an accredited college or university. The scholarship assists with tuition and other educational expenses.

For over 36 years, JGH has recognized and awarded certificates of achievement and scholarships to high achieving, socially and/or economically disadvantaged students during its annual awards program in June. Applications for the Jewel Scholarship are being accepted from Jan. 4 through Feb. 18. For details and the application, please visit [www.JGHFDN.org](http://www.JGHFDN.org).



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[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

Peggy Wallace Kennedy, Daughter of George Wallace

# A WALK TO REDEMPTION

SUNDAY, JAN. 17, 2 P.M.



The daughter of infamous segregationist Governor George Wallace, Peggy Wallace Kennedy now stands apart from her past as one of America's most important voices for peace and reconciliation. Kennedy's personal journey to redemption captures the hearts of those that hear her voice and reminds us that none of us can be responsible for the circumstances of our birth, but all of us will be held accountable for who we will become.

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# OPINION

## Budget Season Trainwreck?

### County looks at “lines of business,” schools call for full funding.

**K**aren Garza didn't move to Fairfax County from Texas to preside over the decline of Fairfax County Public Schools.

For this year's budget, the superintendent refused to cut to fit as the school system has the last two years, and called for a fully funded budget. It's true that Fairfax County schools have more students who are poor and/or are still learning English and those students cost more to educate. It's true that Fairfax County teachers make less than teachers in other bordering jurisdictions. It's true that Fairfax County spends less per student by a significant amount than other bordering jurisdictions, even accounting for size.

It's also true that Fairfax County, which provides most of the school funding, already transfers 52 percent and more of its annual budget to the schools. It's true that the county has limited revenue sources, with almost all revenue coming from property taxes. Residential property tax revenues are not growing much. Fairfax County's commercial tax base is flat or contracting with historically high vacancy rates. This is in part due to reduced spending by the federal government, but it's also about new and likely lasting trends in the way companies use office space.

The county is facing a shortfall, not just for education, but for other important things like transportation, social services, recreation and

the environment.

The Board of Supervisors and heads of county departments are about to engage in an intensive effort to review every area of county spending, with supervisors devoting two full days a week for the foreseeable future on “lines of business” review in the budget committee. What results from this process could set the stage for some reforms and some savings.

But none of those invested in Fairfax County, not the elected officials, not the teachers, not the county employees, especially not the residents, want to preside over the decline of quality of life in one of the wealthiest counties in the universe.

#### EDITORIAL

What's really needed is for the county to have access to a variety of revenue sources. It's excruciating to raise property taxes across the board, knowing that some people will be hard hit since there is no relation to ability to pay. But that is almost the only option the county has.

This brings us to tax reform and the General Assembly. It's pie in the sky, but localities in Virginia should have direct access to a portion of the income tax collected by the state. Northern Virginia pays the vast majority of the income taxes paid to the Commonwealth, but every penny set gets funnelled through a formula that by definition sends less money back.

Income is a measure of economic viability. There are other options, which we will detail in the future.

To find the names of your current representatives in the Virginia House and Senate, visit <http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/> and enter your address.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### Pet Photos for the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on Feb. 24, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 17.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Brooks Farm and the Community's Future

To the Editor:

It is crucial to elevate awareness of the long-term comprehensive plan for Great Falls. When I grew up in this town, residents banded together to protect the rural and picturesque beauty. Sadly, that emotional argument has expired and been elevated to the need for a rational, thoughtful plan for a town built upon a delicate infrastructure. Great Falls has essentially two major arteries. It simply won't withstand significant future development that does not consider its limitations.

The controversy over the Brooks Farm is not about developing the property. It is about developing the property within the existing Rural Agricultural (RA) zoning which

permits one house per five acres. This issue far exceeds the Brooks Farm.

There has not been a rezoning in Great Falls in many decades. If passed, this would pose significant concerns and considerations for residents. The Brooks Farm may be the largest undeveloped parcel of land; however, there remain many significant parcels of land here. Hill Nursery, an 11-acre parcel has also recently applied for rezoning from Rural Agricultural (RA) to Rural Residential (RE). If passed, ten homes will be permitted.

There is a need to raise awareness for a focused future for Great Falls that considers cause and effect.

I wanted Starbucks and love the staff because they are truly a great part of our community. However, I wrote an article years ago stating we need to be careful about the long-term plan for businesses because even our commercial infrastructure is limited. I said parking would become an issue with a

consumer passionate chain. If another (i.e., Whole Foods) came, you wouldn't be able to get in and out of that parking lot.

A mere fifty new homes, three cars equals 150 more cars. This town can't sustain, infinite development. There is a need for responsible development. Rural beauty will become the least of worries superseded by the inability to navigate and exit and enter these limited, country roads.

Please attend Jan. 19, 7 p.m. Supervisor Foust's public meeting at Great Falls Elementary to plan for the future of our community.

It's crucial because the Fairfax County staff has recommended to the Fairfax County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors rezoning and cluster development of Brooks Farm be approved.

Please e-mail opposition to county Planning Commissioners at [plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**Colleen Sheehy Orme**  
Great Falls

### Preserving Rural Community

To the Editor:

Why should anyone be surprised that the Fairfax County Planning Commission staff recommended approval of the rezoning for Brooks Farm development (“What's Happening in 2016 in Great Falls?” - Great Falls Connection, Jan. 6-12, 2016). The mid-term elections are over and no one will be held accountable for the slow deterioration of the rural community here in Great Falls in the next election. I attended a meeting held at Forestville Elementary school last year and other than the developer and their lawyer I did not hear one voice speak out in favor of this pending cluster development. However, what the local citizens want should not deter Fairfax County approval, as their “tax base” on

## Great Falls CONNECTION

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

thirty houses will surely exceed the tax base that the county would receive on ten houses on five acre lots and the tax/spending base is the primary focus of Fairfax County and as an extension our elected officials. Let's turn Great Falls into a Reston. Just think of the cash cow that would provide Fairfax county. For whatever it is worth I again will attend the next scheduled GFCA meeting scheduled at the Great Falls Elementary school Jan. 19. I have lived in Great Falls since 1974, 40+ years and believe me the changes I have seen here in Great Falls over the years are not necessarily in the best interest of the community, cluster development being one major downside over the years unless one really wanted to live in Reston. Re the attorney for McGuire Woods Mr. Regle and his statement "We would not be able to meet the expectation of the landowner with five acre lots. There is an economic value to this that we have to balance." My response is, "there is a quality of life issue that we the residents of Great Falls have to balance and we have worked hard to keep and maintain rural community over the years." Speaking for myself and most likely the Great Falls community we believe it is better to wait for the right time to develop on five acre lots instead of rushing to cluster development for the good of the developers' bottom line and Fairfax county tax base.

**Dudley Losselyong**  
Great Falls

## Concerned for School Bus Stop Safety

To the Editor:

I am a seventh grade student at Kilmer Middle School. My bus stop is at the corner of Georgetown Pike and Falls Bridge Lane in Great Falls. I am concerned about the safety of my bus stop and the other people that cross the road. Recently, when the bus driver stops to pick me up cars will often continue to speed past the bus. This even happens when my bus driver puts out his stop sign and turns on the lights. My bus driver tries to attract the attention of the driver, by honking his horn on the bus, to let them know that they shouldn't be passing the bus at this time. Even though they have all of those warnings, the drivers constantly pass my bus at bad times.

**Sammy Dallas**  
Great Falls



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# HomeLifeStyle Design Trends for 2016

Local style gurus predict the elements that will be popular this year.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

The start of the year offers an opportunity to ring in new trends, particularly when it comes to a home's interior. From sustainably sourced textiles to sparsely accessorized rooms, local tastemakers look into their crystal balls and offer predictions on design elements that will be popular this year.

Interior design is going high tech, allowing designers and clients an opportunity to work collaboratively during the design process. "Technology seems to be driving design firms," said Jean P. Freeman, professor of Interior Design at Marymount University in Arlington. "Since there are so many computer programs that assist designers in creating visual, 3-D drawings, clients are able to better understand the designs. Designers

and clients both are able to visualize how spaces appear with colors, textures, volume, proportion and other aspects of design."

Freeman believes that consumer demand for energy efficient appliances and designs, as well as sustainably sourced materials, is a trend that will continue and even be elevated. "Now they are interested to find out the origins of various textiles, furniture [and] cabinets," said Freeman. "Clients are seeking healthy environments that are safe. The off gassing of toxic gases from some of the synthetic materials used in carpet, paint, upholstery, furniture is now considered harmful."

Eschewing fussy and indulgent decor in favor of a clean and simple aesthetic is a trend that Kristine Winner, associate professor of Interior Design at Northern Virginia Community College expects to see this year. "... This indicates a trend toward more comfortably contemporary environments with minimal accessories," she said. "It also indicates that we should be designing interiors for people that will allow them to be surrounded by the things they love rather than a load of things selected for no real reason."

The trend toward de-cluttering and simplification will extend to home choices. "Go



Designers will be tasked with creating elegant spaces on a small scale in 2016, predicts interior designer Sharon Kleinman.

PHOTO BY GWIN HUNT



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

Interior designer Marika Meyer expects to see a transition from cool grays to warmer grays, whites and cool beiges being used as neutral shades in 2016.

small or go home" is one theme that Sharon Kleinman of Transitions in Potomac, Md. believes will resonate with consumers this year.

"One trend I'm seeing among my clients is that they are either downsizing from large homes on more acreage or moving towards city living with little to no property and more compact living space," said Kleinman. "I'm also seeing clients gravitate towards transitional furnishings. There doesn't seem to be as great a divide between the more traditional versus the more modern."

Outdoor upholstery fabric will no longer be confined to alfresco furniture, forecasts Amanda Mertins, president of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria. "One of the most popular design trends for this year is the use of outdoor fabric for indoor upholstery," she said. "It has been used for high traffic rooms especially where kids are involved but now, given a broader selection and interesting patterns, customers are using it in traditional living areas and dining rooms."

Elegant and bold mirrors will make an appearance in bathrooms marrying style and function. "Bye-bye to medicine cabinets and hello to mirrors that make a statement," said Mertins. "Modern metallics, large wood-framed and vintage mirrors add interest and boost style to a utilitarian space which is used every day."

Furniture and accessories made of Lucite, a transparent plastic material, is one trend that Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors predicts for 2016. The designer also expects to see a transition from cool grays to warmer grays, whites and cool beiges being used as neutral shades. "We are seeing a return to organic patterns as a change from the strong geometrics, which have populated the fabric field for the last few years," she said. "Colors and patterns are still quite popular and will be."

Trends that Gretchen Fuss, interior designer with Tchoupitoulas Furnishings in Alexandria, expects to see include "classic, elegant, fundamental pieces with clean lines as seen in midcentury modern, vignettes com-

"We should be designing interiors for people that will allow them to be surrounded by the things they love rather than a load of things selected for no real reason."

— Kristine Winner, Associate Professor, Interior Design, Northern Virginia Community College

posed in thoughtful arrangements that include pops of color found in Abstract art," she said.



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN-COLBERG

Pops of color and clean, sleek lines like those seen in this room by stylist Charlotte Safavi and designer Alexandria Davenport of Tchoupitoulas Furnishings will be prevalent in 2016.

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Jinny Beyer Studio .....	703-759-0250
Katie's Coffee House .....	703-759-2759
Knowlera Media .....	703-757-5444
Lauren Liess Interiors .....	571-926-7825
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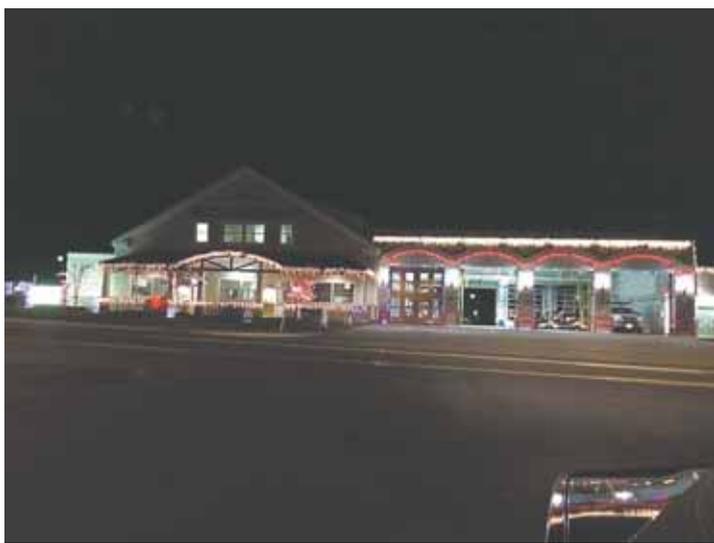
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# COMMUNITY



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



## And the Winners Are ...

**Great Falls Auto Service and Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department won the Great Falls Holiday Decorating Contest 2015. Most Honorable Mention went to Lauberge Chez Francois and Adeler Jewelers.**



## Great Falls Scouts Complete Holiday Service Project

**The Scouts of Troop 673 spent their last meeting of 2015 working on their annual holiday service project. They wrapped gifts and brought in food for two Fairfax County families they are sponsoring for the Christmas holiday. The project is under the auspices of Our Daily Bread-Fairfax, which works closely with Fairfax County public schools and other county agencies to identify several thousand individuals and families who need support for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Scouts delivered the presents and food to their sponsored families, one with six kids who live in Fairfax, and the other a household of seven children in Alexandria.**

### FAITH NOTES

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

**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.

**The Antioch Christian Church** offers a time of Prayer and Healing on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for anyone wanting encouragement and healing through prayers. People are available to pray with you or for you. Antioch Christian Church is located at 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.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. [bodysoulandmcleanbible.org](mailto:bodysoulandmcleanbible.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.

**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).

**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).

### CALENDAR

Send announcements to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

#### ONGOING

**Pigments of My Imagination.** Jan. 4-March 31. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Long time Great Falls resident Donna Barnako, has created over a dozen colorful and whimsical small works. Her subjects are varied, from pigs to puppies and cowboy boots.

**Weekly Storytime.** Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

**53rd Annual James A. Bland Contest.** Through Monday, Feb. 15. Vienna Lions Club invites elementary and high school vocalist and instrumentalists to present a song or piece for cash prizes. For information and application, contact Susan Stiles at [sandcs89@yahoo.com](mailto:sandcs89@yahoo.com) or 703-938-1142.

**Trail and Ales with Caboose Brewing and Grass Roots Fitness.** Mondays through Jan. 31. Caboose Brewing Company, 520 Mill Street, NE Vienna. Come Run with us every Monday night. \$1 Off All Pints! All paces welcome. We will run between 3-5 miles with options to go shorter or longer. You can walk or run. Dog and stroller friendly. Contact Joann Meginley at [joannandfrancine@grassrootsfitness.org](mailto:joannandfrancine@grassrootsfitness.org).

**Tai Chi Beginners' Practice.** Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Weekly Tai Chi practice. Group has met for over 20 years. Free. [FreeTaiChi.org](http://FreeTaiChi.org). 703-759-9141.

#### TUESDAY/JAN. 12

**Jammin Java Local Scene: My Vanity Project.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. My Vanity Project is a rock band in the DC area. They create a musical blend of hypnotic backdrops, rhythmic chords, and catchy vocal hooks for a unique yet familiar sound. They blend rock and pop while maintaining the integrity of both. \$10-\$18. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

**NARFE 1116 Vienna-Oakton Chapter Meeting.** 1 p.m. American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street N, Vienna. Speaker Myra Gillum will talk on to Place or not to Place 24/7 Dementia Care. All members and their guests are invited to attend. For further information please contact Ralph Dantine. 703-938-9757.

#### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

**Mary Pickford's "Sparrows" (1926).** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Produced by and starring Mary Pickford, this mature silent film has been described as "Dickensian" and "equal parts Gothic thriller and sentimental melodrama." Tickets: \$12/\$8 MCC tax district residents. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>. 703-790-0123.

**Westminster Choir Concert.** 7:30-10 p.m. St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Music in McLean presents a special concert featuring one of America's most renowned choral ensembles, Westminster Choir of Rider University. [musicinmclean.org](http://musicinmclean.org). 703-356-0670.

#### WEDNESDAYS/STARTING JAN. 13.

**Nature Detectives.** 1 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. During this naturalist-led class, children and parents get the opportunity to explore the natural world through hikes, stories, songs, crafts and other hands-on activities. Additional supply fee payable to instructor at first class. Ages 3 to 5. \$66/\$81 for six classes. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

#### THURSDAY/JAN. 14

**Vienna Arts Society Monthly Meeting.** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Features water colorist Jack Harding, who will demonstrate his technique of creating "distressed" rice paper for instant texture in watercolor paintings. 703-319-3971. [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

**Opening Exhibition Reception.** 7-9 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

McLean. Come view new exhibits, meet the artists, and enjoy a special wine tasting provided by The Vineyard. Free. 703-790-1953.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 15

**Family Fun Bingo.** 7-8:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Vertical, horizontal, diagonal or picture frame—whatever your strategy, join us for this family fun-filled evening of Bingo! Win great kid-friendly prizes, play guessing games, enjoy light refreshments and more. Fees: \$10/\$5 MCC district residents; Free for children up to 36 months old. <http://www.mcleancenter.org>. 703-790-0123.

**Falu's Bollywood Orchestra.** 8 p.m. The Barnes, Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Fronted by one of India's most influential musicians—who's collaborated with masterminds including Yo-Yo Ma and A.R. Rahman—this ethereal ensemble, led by singer Fulu, combines the timeless elegance of Bollywood's musical golden age with an inventive modern style. \$22-\$27. <http://www.wolftrap.org/> or 703-255-1900.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 16

**Barter Theatre's "A Wrinkle in Time."** 2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Come join for John Gloré's delightful, wildly theatrical adaptation that brings the acclaimed story magically to life. Tickets: \$15/\$10 MCC district residents. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>. 703-790-0123.

**Projected Man Album Release Show + Pleasure Train.** 5:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Join for the two band groups - Projected Man and Pleasure Train - for some jam music. \$10-\$18. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

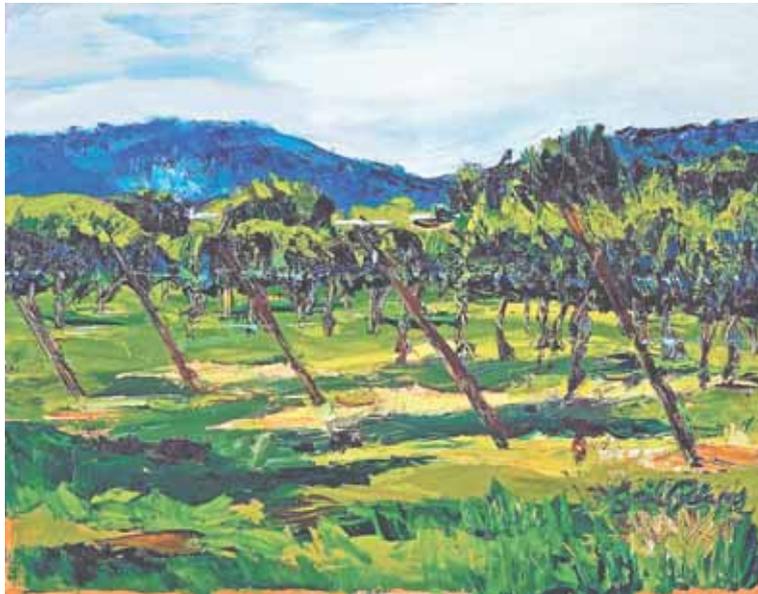
**Model Trains and Thomas at Open House.** 1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his friends. The layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina with award winning structures. Free. Donations accepted. [www.nvmr.org](http://www.nvmr.org). 703-938-5157.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 17

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration: Peggy Wallace Kennedy.** 2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Peggy Wallace Kennedy now stands apart from her past as one of America's most important voices for peace and reconciliation. Come hear about Peggy's personal journey, who is a civil-rights activist. Fees: \$20/\$10 MCC tax district residents. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>. 703-790-0123.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 21

**"Brush Up Your Shakespeare."** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Experts from the Shakespeare Theatre, American Shakespeare Center and the Folger Shakespeare Library are back to give you a guided tour of the world of Shakespeare in preparation for American Shakespeare Center on Tour's Shakespeare Weekend at The Alden. Tickets: \$6/\$3 MCC district residents; free with the three-play ASC weekend package. Single tickets available at the box office only. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>. 703-790-0123.



**"Excellent Schoolmasters," Impasto Oil paintings by Gail Péan, are on view at Katie's Coffee House, Jan. 1-31. 2016**

**Here, Now and Forever + Eric King & The Thin Line.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Formed in 2014, HNF brings a modern twist to original vocal and instrumental progressive rock composition; plus, arranging some of their personal favorites, from the artists they truly respect, giving audiences an exceptional approach to concert performance. \$20. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

**Zen Coloring.** 7-8 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. De-stress and meet new people while working on detailed coloring pages for adults. Coloring pages and colored pencils provided. Teens and Adults. 703-356-0770.

**American Shakespeare Center on Tour's Shakespeare Weekend at The Alden: "Julius Caesar."** 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Shakespeare shows us a world on fire; a world turned upside down; a world where some of history's most famous men commit horrific crimes in the name of patriotism and honor. "Julius Caesar" is a dazzling thrill ride of betrayal, violence and perhaps most surprisingly, love. \$20-\$35 (three plays for \$50-\$88). <http://www.mcleancenter.org/> or 703-790-0123.

**McLean Art Society Meeting.** 10 a.m.-noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Beverly Ress, a graphic artist who does Botanical illustrations, will be the featured presenter. 703-790-0123.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 22



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## Here's What's Happening at MCC



**Classic of the Silent Screen Series**  
**Mary Pickford's "Sparrows" (1926)**  
Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.

**5th and 6th Grader Party**  
**Winter Wonderland**  
Friday, Jan. 15, 7-9 p.m.

**Family Fun Bingo**  
Friday, Jan. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Onstage @ The Alden**  
**Barter Theatre:**  
**"A Wrinkle in Time"**  
Saturday, Jan. 16, 2 p.m.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**  
**Peggy Wallace Kennedy:**  
**"A Walk to Redemption"**  
Sunday, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.

**Onstage @ The Alden**  
**American Shakespeare Center**  
**on Tour**

**"Julius Caesar"**  
Friday, Jan. 22, 8 p.m.

**"The Importance of Being Earnest"**  
Saturday, Jan. 23, 2 p.m.

**"Henry V"**  
Saturday, Jan. 23, 8 p.m.

**The McLean Community Center**  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)  
**Home of the Alden Theatre**  
[www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org)



1234 Ingleside Ave.  
McLean, VA 22101  
703-790-0123, TTY: 711



# Call for Candidates

## McLean Community Center 2016-2017 Governing Board Election

**Qualification:**  
Must be a resident of Small Tax District 1A-Dranesville.

**Petition to Become Candidate:**

- Candidate must pick up petition packet at the Center.
- Ten (10) signatures of tax district residents required on candidate's petition.

**Voting will take place at:**  
McLean Day on Saturday, May 21 at Lewinsville Park in McLean.

**Absentee Voting:**  
Will be available April 11 through May 18.

**Key Petition Dates:**

- January 25: Petition Packets are available.
- March 25: Petition Packets are due at MCC by 5 p.m.



For more information, contact the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 411, write elections@mcleancenter.org, or visit our website, www.mcleancenter.org.

## HOME SALES

In November 2015, 13 Great Falls homes sold between \$2,750,000-\$455,000.

Address	BR . FB . HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
835 WALKER RD	5 ... 6 ... 2	GREAT FALLS	\$2,750,000	Detached	3.17	22066	NONE	
642 NALLS FARM WAY	5 ... 6 ... 2	GREAT FALLS	\$1,725,000	Detached	1.78	22066	GREAT FALLS WEST	
1000 PRESERVE CT	4 ... 4 ... 1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,150,000	Detached	0.83	22066	GREAT FALLS WOODS	
502 WALKER RD	5 ... 5 ... 0	GREAT FALLS	\$1,150,000	Detached	1.88	22066	SQUIRES HAVEN	
1104 DAPPLE GREY CT	6 ... 3 ... 2	GREAT FALLS	\$1,115,000	Detached	0.94	22066	SADDLEBROOK ESTATES	
704 UTTERBACK STORE RD	5 ... 3 ... 1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,060,000	Detached	1.00	22066	CLARKS BRANCH	
11107 BOWEN AVE	5 ... 3 ... 1	GREAT FALLS	\$937,500	Detached	0.61	22066	TIMBERLAKE ESTATES SOUTH	
10311 SHESUE ST	4 ... 2 ... 2	GREAT FALLS	\$887,000	Detached	0.55	22066	HICKORY CREEK	
704 MILLER AVE	4 ... 4 ... 0	GREAT FALLS	\$850,000	Detached	0.92	22066	GREEN ACRES	
10896 WOODLEAF LN	4 ... 3 ... 0	GREAT FALLS	\$705,600	Detached	2.09	22066	WOODLEAF	
11100 BOWEN AVE	4 ... 3 ... 0	GREAT FALLS	\$700,000	Detached	0.68	22066	TIMBER LAKE ESTATES	
10613 CAVALCADE ST	4 ... 2 ... 1	GREAT FALLS	\$695,000	Detached	0.84	22066	LEXINGTON ESTATES	
10162 YORKTOWN WAY	4 ... 2 ... 1	GREAT FALLS	\$455,000	Detached	0.24	22066	GREAT FALLS FOREST	

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McLean & Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales:					
ALL 2015 compared to ALL 2014 (Based on Final Closed Price)					
	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$750k-\$1.25 Mil	<\$750k
<b>ALL 2015</b>					
22101	10	32	96	204	83
22102	5	15	39	72	213
22066	3	18	48	106	33
	<b>Total: 18</b>	<b>Total: 65</b>	<b>Total: 183</b>	<b>Total: 382</b>	<b>Total: 329</b>
	<b>Combined Total Upper Brackets: 266</b>			<b>Combined Total Lower Brackets: 711</b>	
	<b>All 2015 Sales: 977</b>				
<b>ALL 2014</b>					
22101	9	22	103	189	67
22102	10	21	45	65	180
22066	3	15	56	76	20
	<b>Total: 22</b>	<b>Total: 58</b>	<b>Total: 204</b>	<b>Total: 330</b>	<b>Total: 267</b>
	<b>Combined Total Upper Brackets: 284</b>			<b>Combined Total Lower Brackets: 597</b>	
	<b>All 2014 Sales: 881</b>				

## An Outstanding Year

### Real Estate market in McLean and Great Falls in 2015.

BY KAREN BRISCOE

The numbers are in for 2015 in McLean and Great Falls and the market is up almost 11 percent over 2014 in terms of number of sales. This is excellent news for the market area as it indicates an environment for the potential for price appreciation, provided demand remains strong relative to supply.

The best performing segment for these zip codes was the lower brackets, considered to be under \$1.25 million. Not surprising the entry-level home purchaser experienced the most significant increase of 23 percent in demand. Most analysts attribute this to the Millennial Generation now entering the market to purchase their first home. In this area because of cost of housing that is likely to be either condo or town home ownership.

The 22102 part of McLean that is located in Tysons Corner offers numerous condo options. The opening of the Silver Line metro in 2014 has increased Tysons attraction for this demographic that desires an urban lifestyle. The other options available in McLean and to a lesser extent in Great Falls for the under \$750,000 price point are town homes and smaller, older single family homes.

The next price range up, between \$750,000 and \$1.25 million, experienced an increase in demand of almost 16 percent year over year. The first level

move up home owner typically is what represents this market segment. Having more confidence that their lower-priced home should sell quickly for a strong price, these owners are in a better position to make the move to a home in a higher bracket.

New home builders continue to represent a portion of this market segment by purchasing lots for new construction. As there is very little available land remaining for development in McLean and Great Falls, builders mostly rely on in-fill by tearing down an older existing home for the land value. When the builders compete for lots, there is less available for owners that would buy the home to live in. These scenarios can make it challenging for a first-time home buyer to purchase, although it actually can be a healthy sign of recovery when new home construction is strong.

The upper bracket categories comprise all home sales over \$1.25 million and represent the next levels of move-up homeowners. The \$2-3 million price range is the only one that experienced an increase, which was marginal. The other two brackets saw slight declines in number of sales year over year.

For many home sellers in McLean and Great Falls 2015 represented "best of times." Good homes priced correctly for the current market sold quickly for strong prices. All signs are for 2016 to continue the trend with positive market conditions.

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# Langley Guard Galiani Breaks Program Scoring Record

## Saxons beat McLean to improve to 11-1.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ohn Galiani crunched some numbers prior to the 2015-16 season and made a prediction for when his daughter, Paige Galiani, would break the Langley girls' basketball program's career scoring record. Saxons head coach Amanda Baker monitored her standout guard's point total, as well.

Galiani, a fourth-year varsity player, tied Kathryn Hemlock's record of 1,153 points during Langley's win over Hayfield on Tuesday, Jan. 5, setting the stage for No. 4 to break the record during a home game against rival McLean. She had to wait until Friday to do it, however, giving Galiani's friends multiple days to mention the impending achievement.

"There was a bit of pressure," Galiani said. "Everyone came up to me talking about it. I'm like, 'I don't know if I'm going to score, don't make any assumptions.' I try not to let it get to my head too much."

With 4:26 remaining in Friday's opening quarter, Galiani received an in-bound pass from teammate Lizzy Shamloo, turned toward the basket and laid it in off the glass, giving the Saxons a 2-0 lead and Galiani sole possession of the Langley scoring record.

The game was stopped briefly to honor her accomplishment.

"I originally didn't want them to stop, but I forgot to tell them," Galiani said. "... It was great, though."

The Saxons honored Galiani's historic achievement and then took care of team business as well, beating McLean 35-23 at on Jan. 8, Langley High School. The victory improved the Saxons' record to 11-1, including 4-0 in Conference 6.

While Galiani's performance Friday started in celebratory fashion, the rest of her evening was less than stellar. The Langley guard scored the Saxons' first four points and then failed to score for the remainder of the contest, putting her at 1,157 for her career.

"It's pretty nice," Galiani said about having the record, "but obviously basketball's not an individual sport. It's all teamwork. I really owe it to my team more than anything. ... Especially, as you can tell in that game, it wasn't my best. It was my team pulling it out."

The fact Langley won despite only four points from its primary offensive threat could be viewed as a positive for the Saxons. Langley relied heavily on Galiani to produce points last season, when the team won 21 games and finished conference runner-up.

"We are a lot more balanced," Baker said, "so I think there's less pressure on her to do too much, so she's able to kind of just do her thing. She doesn't have to worry about carrying the scoring load. I thought she's



**Langley senior Paige Galiani scored four points during the Saxons' 35-23 win over McLean on Jan. 8.**



**Senior guard Paige Galiani, with ball, became the Langley girls' basketball program's all-time leading scorer during a Jan. 8 game against McLean. Galiani finished with four points, giving her 1,157 for her career.**

adjusted well to that role."

Junior guard Olivia Augustini led Langley with nine points. Sophomore guard Emily Shively and junior forward Ellie Buckley each had six, and senior guard Shamloo had

five.

The Saxons continued to play well defensively, setting a season-best for points allowed. Langley surrendered 36.7 points per contest through its first 12 games, holding

each opponent to 45 or fewer.

Langley faced Fairfax on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Saxons will travel to face Madison at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 15, for a rematch of the 2015 Conference 6 championship game.

Last year, Langley started 17-1 before suffering back-to-back losses against Madison and South Lakes near the end of the regular season. Led by Galiani, the Saxons have several key players back with an additional year of experience.

"We're definitely more understanding of our teammates and our abilities," Galiani said, "so it's definitely created better chemistry throughout the years ..."

Galiani will attend Lehigh University, but is undecided about her basketball future.

"She is a program-changing type player," Baker said. "The leadership she brings, obviously the scoring impact has helped us win a lot of games, but she just changed the culture overall. Everyone wants to work hard and be successful and she's kind of been at the forefront of that movement."

John Galiani's prediction: Paige would break the record on Jan. 8 against McLean.

"At the beginning of the season this year, my dad was like, 'If I calculated all the math right, you're going to break it in the McLean game at home,'" Paige Galiani said. "Somehow it worked out exactly that way."

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

### Langley Boys Beat McLean

The Langley boys' basketball team won its first meeting with McLean this season, 44-36, on Jan. 8 at Langley High School.

The victory improved Langley's record to 8-4, including 4-0 in Conference 6. McLean fell to 1-11, 0-4 in the conference. It was the Highlanders' 11th straight loss since beating Thomas Jefferson in the season opener.

Langley faced Fairfax on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Saxons will travel to face Madison at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 15.

McLean faced Yorktown on Tuesday. The Highlanders will travel to take on Fairfax on Friday.

### South Lakes Girls Earn Back-to-Back Wins

After a 2-8 start, the South Lakes girls' basketball team won back-to-back games last week, beating McLean 56-49 on Jan. 5 and Yorktown 61-51 on Jan. 8. The Seahawks had lost six out of seven before the wins. South Lakes faced Madison on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Seahawks will travel to face Washington-Lee at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 15.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

# Residents List Priorities for General Assembly

FROM PAGE 3

prepare students for the jobs of today. Critical thinking is key to creative solutions, the engine of growth. Standardized testing yields standardized thinking.”

**THE DISPARITY** between Virginia’s rank as one of the 10 most wealthy states and spending on social services and education was invoked by many speakers.

Keith Foxx spoke in favor of state Sen. Barbara Favola’s bill to help young adults that age out of foster care without being united with family or being adopted.

“It’s critical that you support and fund Senator Favola’s bill ‘Fostering Futures’ for the more than 500 young adults who age out of foster care at age 18 in Virginia every year,” said Foxx, of Springfield. “Helping these young adults grow successfully to independence will save the commonwealth hundreds of millions of dollars over their lifetimes.”

With a waiting list statewide of more than 10,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for access to services in the community (through Medicaid waivers), only 325 new slots are included in the Governor’s proposed budget. This is the minimum number required by settlement agreement between the Justice Department and the Commonwealth, said Rikki Epstein, executive director of the ARC of Northern Virginia.

“We can’t keep doing the minimum and hoping the time will come when the problem solves itself,” Epstein said, calling for the addition of 800 waivers in this cycle. This would “give hope to those with most urgent need, hope to those who have been waiting the longest.”

Molly Long of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board pointed out that people moving out of residential facilities like Northern Virginia Training Center are getting priority for services ahead of those who have been on the waiting list for a long time, and the waiting list continues to grow. Nearly 1,000 people locally qualify for services urgently, but their waivers are not funded at the state level, including people with intellectual disabilities whose elderly parents can no longer meet their needs at home, and youth aging out of special residential services who are in danger of becoming homeless.

Long also cited the intense local battle with heroin addiction, and lack of resources. “Detoxification is often the important first step,” she said, but clients seeking help must wait two-to-three weeks or longer for a detox bed.

“Waiting decreases the chance of successful intervention, and puts people’s lives in danger. We must have more detox beds.”

Richard Kennedy of Lorton testified in favor of sensible marijuana policy and cited the “insanity of arresting people for use of a drug that is an order of magnitude safer than alcohol or tobacco.”

**SEVERAL OTHERS** spoke of the poten-



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

**Gun-Store Free School Zone: Many from Franklin Sherman Elementary School in McLean, including Marilyn White, came to support legislation that would allow localities to regulate proximity of gun stores to schools. Sign says “Gun Store Free Zone.”**

**Brooke Annessa of Fairfax, Maya Simbulan (in wheelchair) of Burke, Brian Rosen of Vienna, and Sarah Pickford of Springfield spoke in support of Brain Injury Services of Northern Virginia. “We tell families we will walk with them after the unthinkable has happened. ... We give a voice back to survivors of brain injury and their families,” said Annessa.**



tial dangers of legalizing marijuana, even for medical purposes.

Sara Freund, of Great Falls, and a member of the Unified Prevention Council, said that states with medical marijuana laws have higher levels of youth use of marijuana. She also cited a recent survey showing that a higher percentage of Fairfax

County 12th graders than national average have recently used marijuana.

Jerry Foltz of Centreville, a retired minister in United Church of Christ, was one of several speakers who requested increase of the minimum wage. “We need to support the people who are working hard,” he said. “Those on the bottom rung who get a little

increase in income, they spend it. That stimulates the economy. This should be non-partisan issue to raise the minimum wage. It’s a good year to do it. It doesn’t cost much to do it, and it has all kinds of benefits.”

And Medicaid expansion was discussed by many.

“Medicaid expansion is a life issue. Everyone has a right to health care coverage,” said Bob Stewart, speaking for Social Action Linking Together, also citing good financial reasons for extending coverage to more people by expanding Medicaid.

Brooke Annessa of Fairfax, Maya Simbulan of Burke, Brian Rosen of Vienna, and Sarah Pickford of Springfield spoke in support of Brain Injury Services of Northern Virginia, and thanked members of the delegation for past support. “We tell families we will walk with them after the unthinkable has happened. ... We give a voice back to survivors of brain injury and their families,” said Annessa.

**“YOU NEED TO WRAP** it up,” said state Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35), moderator of the four-hour plus hearing, said when people ran over their allotted time.

Others talked of the need for reduced class sizes, exposure to foreign languages in elementary school, and giving teachers more freedom to teach.

Attorneys talked for the need for all 15 allotted circuit court judges and eight juvenile and domestic relations court judges to be filled, and several called for keeping Judge Jane Roush on the Virginia Supreme Court.

“Cases are taking forever,” because of the vacancies, said Joseph Dailey, of McLean speaking for the Fairfax Bar Association. “This is about justice for your constituents.” A case that begins this week, he said, won’t be resolved until after the next World Series is over.

Chief Public Defender Todd Petit asked the delegates and senators to enact legislation to change criminal discovery so defense attorneys “have all the evidence beforehand,” to be able to go forward with a fair trial. The issue was studied in 2014 by the Virginia Supreme Court.

Fairfax’s Douglas Stewart and McLean’s Marc Rosenberg, of the Virginia Sierra Club, Eric Goplerud, executive director of the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, and John Cartmill, of Herndon, were just some of the speakers who addressed the environment as issues including storm runoff, infill development, tree canopy, transportation choices, clean energy, solar and wind power and the health of the rivers and Chesapeake Bay.

Rosenberg of the Virginia Sierra Club called for more efforts to clean up Virginia’s rivers by addressing sewage treatment plants that overflow in heavy rains, runoff from farms, toxic chemicals and heavy metals from mining operations and coal pits. Many people support removing plastic shopping bags from the environment. “At least stay out of the way and let localities act in this area,” Rosenberg said.

# "You're Old News"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

So said my wife, Dina, after hearing me describe my most recent visit to the Infusion Center. Visits which I've now made approximately 100 times since I received my cancer diagnosis in late February, 2009. For nearly seven years, save for 15 months or so when I was taking two pills a day at home instead of infusing once every three weeks, I have been an oncology patient getting treated for stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) – a treatable but not-curable form of cancer, as my oncologist explained to Team Lourie on February 27th, 2009. In short, I was "terminal," with my chance of surviving beyond two years calculated in the low single digits. The fact that I sit here, almost seven years later, alive and reasonably well, is a miracle of biblical proportions, and a reality for which I am extraordinarily grateful and fortunate, although "fortunate" doesn't really characterize how lucky I am, all things considered.

And seven years into my treatment, it's safe to say I know the drill at the Infusion Center. As such, I require very little attention, special or otherwise, when I am admitted into the treatment area. This past visit was a bit different, however. Due to a computer coding/data-entry error, one of my lab results was not posted. As a result, there was a delay of nearly an hour before the results were retrieved, which in turn prevented my chemotherapy drugs from even being ordered/mixed, a process which ordinarily takes 15 to 20 minutes. Because of this snafu, I was left to sit in my Barcalounger/pace in my cubicle for quadruple the normal wait. Eventually, the results were loaded, but in the interim, I was left to fend for myself.

It was during this delay that I noticed a fellow oncology patient across the room who seemed to be getting an inordinate amount of attention, although it didn't seem urgent; from the LPNs, the oncology nurses and even from my oncologist – who is generally not present/involved (nor does he need to be, according to my experience) at the Infusion Center. Yours truly, on the other hand, stood idly by/sat minding my own business/making numerous non-medically-related cell-phone calls and was basically but not totally ignored. (I'm not a shrinking violet; if I needed something, I would have asked.)

When I shared this story with my wife, she scoffed at my semi inconvenience and said: "You're old news." To which I laughed and agreed. I suppose, after seven years of treatment/miscellaneous interactions, and having far exceeded my original "13-month to two-year" prognosis, I am very old news. The kind of news which apparently is very rare; but having survived so long requiring so little, I guess I'm sort of ignorable. Not that there's anything wrong with that; I'd much rather not require any attention, especially the life-saving kind, and go about my regular infusions with amazingly minimal complications – which seems to be my norm.

Of course, I don't take any of this for granted, as you regular readers know. But there was a peculiar sort of indifference/lack of concern/being taken for granted that was oddly reassuring. If the staff is not paying attention to me, then I must not need any attention paid. And if I don't require any attention, I must not present any kind of problem. And if I don't present any kind of problem, then what am I worried about? So what if there's a delay? Apparently, there are patients with bigger problems and I don't seem to have any of them. Perhaps I should just recline in my Barcalounger and relax; I've earned it.

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

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

**-Werner Heisenberg**

**21 Announcements**

**ABC LICENSE**  
BVP Exxon, Inc. trading as BVP Exxon, 4746 Lee Hwy, Arlington, VA 22207. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Arpit Sethi, President  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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**21 Announcements**

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**21 Announcements**

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**21 Announcements**

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## COMMUNITY

# McLean Chocolate Festival Returns Jan. 31

The Rotary Club of McLean is hosting its fifth annual Chocolate Festival at the McLean Community Center on Sunday, Jan. 31, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Each year the festival has grown in both the number and quality of vendors, and in the number of visitors attending.

This year's Festival vendors include C and D Sweets, Dave's Candy Kitchen, Fair Trade Winds, Fluffy Thoughts, Zinga! Yogurt and many more. Buy treats to eat on site or stock up for Valentine's Day. Plenty of free parking. Admission fee is \$2. Children six and under are free.

This family-friendly event features a

children's game room with chocolate-themed games; performances on the Festival Stage by Ukulele Phil and the Hula Kids at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and by accordion player Dave Lovins at 3:30 p.m. Participate in an interactive demonstration of colonial America chocolate-making by American Heritage, a Mars company. All proceeds go to fund local charitable organizations through the McLean Rotary Club Foundation.

For additional information about vendors and for directions to the McLean Community Center, visit the Festival website at [www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org](http://www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org).

### BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

**THURSDAY/JAN. 14**

**Roadmap to Our Region's Economic Future.** 7:15-11:30 a.m. The Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Stephen Fuller's presentation of the Roadmap, an industry-diverse panel of business leaders, and a keynote speaker. The discussion will center on how the Washington regional economy can be repositioned to remain competitive and grow in a national and global marketplace. \$100, \$120. Registration required. [www.fairfaxchamber.org](http://www.fairfaxchamber.org).

**WEDNESDAY/JAN. 20**

**Fairfax Commission on Aging.** Noon. Oakton Regional Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm). 703-324-5403, TTY

711 for meeting access needs.

**McLean Newcomers and Neighbors Monthly Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. Ristorante Bonaroti, 428 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Eileen O'Grady, a nurse practitioner and wellness coach, will speak about the Science of Flourishing. \$29. For further information on the club, visit [www.McleanNewcomers.org](http://www.McleanNewcomers.org). RSVP Ann Skelly at [mfskelly@verizon.net](mailto:mfskelly@verizon.net) by Jan. 13. Prospective members invited.

**Dyslexia, An Overview for Parents.** 7-8:30 p.m. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1, Dunn Loring. Workshop presented by specialists from FCPS Office of Special Education. Register [www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc](http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc) or 703-204-3941.

**THURSDAY/JAN. 21**

**Model Investment Club.** 6-9 p.m. Meeting Room, Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Learn about investing following an investment club model. New visitors welcome. Adults. 703-356-0770.



### Cooper Students Send Snack Packs to Groveton

For the month of December Cooper Middle School students collected enough food to send Groveton 113 snack bags for the students. **Snack packs included: Juice box/pouch, oatmeal, breakfast bars (i.e. Nutrigrain bars), tuna, soup, canned pasta (i.e. ravioli), fruit cups, pudding cups, crackers and cheese packs (non-perishable), Goldfish Easy Mac/Ramen noodles, fruit snacks, apple sauce, any non-perishable snack item. This program "mobilizes communities, individuals and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry." Each week some students at Groveton will receive these snack bags for the weekend.**

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