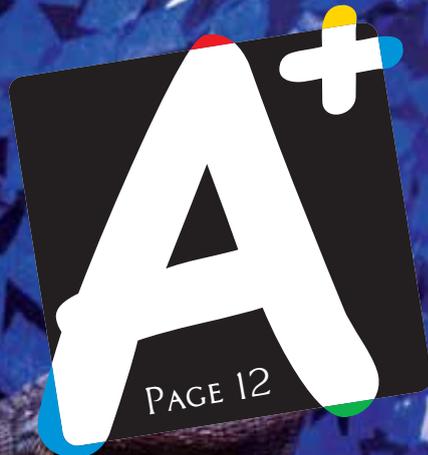


McLean CONNECTION

A Disarming Production

FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10



OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 14 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18

PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

Share Honors Volunteers

NEWS, PAGE 3

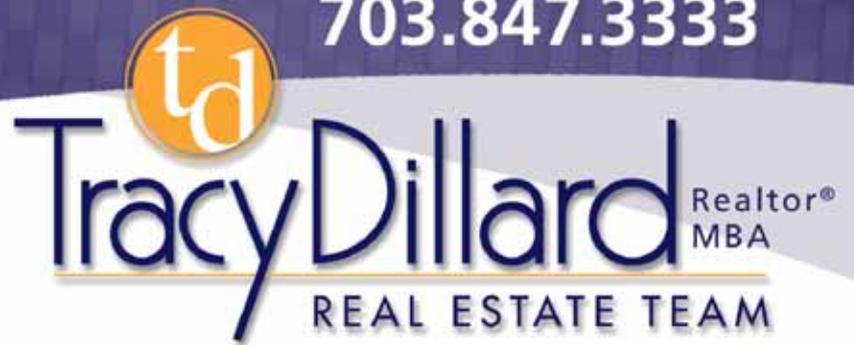
Tasting Pleasures Of the härth

FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10

Katrina Clark in "Proof" at
1st Stage in Tysons Corner.

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As Don Frickel, right, listens, Therese Dyer-Caplan honors long-time Share volunteer Hunter Pollitt who will be moving to the northwest. "He knows our clients by name, their children and their stories. They know him as a person they share their life with; births, job offers, promotions, health scares, legal trouble, graduations, victories, defeats. He'll be a hard act to follow."



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/
THE CONNECTION

Share Honors Volunteers

Share of McLean was established in 1969 by coalition of faith communities to help meet emergency needs of those in need.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Nate Gallen's father needed a volunteer to help deliver furniture to a family in need on Thanksgiving Day five years ago,

"I knew he escaped on the weekends after retirement but never knew exactly what it was that he did," said Gallen.

Gallen is now a regular volunteer for Share of McLean's Furniture Exchange Program, where volunteers pick up and deliver clean used furniture for families in need and formerly homeless individuals.

"I can understand why my Dad did this for so many years," said Gallen. "I look around and see so many wonderful folks involved in so many different aspects of this."

"You really get to see a lot of the good spirit in the community and the compassion that people have," he said.

Last year, Share delivered used donated furniture to 200 households, and 700 family members, mostly children.

"Through people's generosity and compassion, there are always things to be delivered. Through that, we're able to make a bit of a difference and help

people get their lives started again," said Gallen.

Share honored its volunteers at an appreciation dinner at McLean Baptist Church on Thursday, April 14.

SHARE WAS ESTABLISHED in 1969 by a coalition of faith communities to help meet the emergency needs of people who are less fortunate in the area.

See www.shareofmclean.org.

Last year, Share provided assistance to more than 1,500 households, including 4,300 family members.

Clients include economically distressed families and individuals, seniors living on limited pensions, impoverished immigrants, victims of domestic abuse and recently homeless individuals.

Clients are referred to Share by local faith communities, social workers and a number of nonprofits working with victims of spousal abuse and formerly homeless households.

Share partners with the Fairfax County's Coordinated Services Program.

Last year, Share spent \$150,000, 57 percent of its budget, on its Family Assistance Program, a crisis intervention program to pay bills to help families avoid evictions or utility stoppages.

SEE SHARING, PAGE 5



Alex McVeigh and Katie Sue with their daughter Mia (10 months). Sue is on Share of McLean's board of directors. Mia will be a Share volunteer in approximately 16 years.



Victor Kimm: "I now know when I'm no longer here, this will still be running."

VIEWPOINTS

A Joy of Sharing



Nate Gallen with his wife Amanda Gallen, Furniture Program

"You really get to see a lot of the good spirit in the community and the compassion that people have. There's some tremendous donations that people make and it usually just flies out that day. Sometimes stuff doesn't even stay in storage, people are in so much need.

"The best moments are when we are delivering a mattress to a family with a few young ones. They get so excited, their eyes and hearts just light up. To see those reactions is definitely a reminder why we do what we do."

Don Frickel, Board President

"People who live in McLean sort of think to themselves, 'How could there be people that are in need?' Unfortunately, they are kind of invisible, but when you make yourself available to them, and you meet them, you realize they live right next door to you. It's very uplifting to know that we can reach out and we can help out people who otherwise would fall under the radar screen."



Chris Wilbur, Holiday Program

"You have people within the community who have more helping people in the same community who have less. ...

"We have personable relationships with the clients. In my program, the Holiday program, we sit down and we interview each client and actually talk with them about their families' needs during the holidays. It gives us the opportunity to hear if there's something special we can do."



Glenn Feit, McLean High School, Refurbished Computer Program

Feit helps Share collect donated computers from the community, helps to refurbish them and helps distribute them to families with children in schools.

"A lot of these families are living paycheck to paycheck, they can't afford an expensive computer. It's really helpful for students especially.

"I'm really happy to see that at least we help in a small way."



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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

MAY

5/4/2016.....McLean Day Pullout
5/4/2016.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II
5/4/2016..... Wellbeing
Mother's Day is May 8
5/11/2016.....HomeLifeStyle
5/18/2016..A+ Camps & Schools, Proms, Summer Planning
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Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Open House And Public Hearing On Transform 66 Inside The Beltway Multimodal Components

Wednesday, May 18, 2016
4:30 P.m. Open House, 6:00 P.m. Public Hearing
Reston Station, 1904 Reston Metro Plaza, Reston, Va 20190
(near The Wiehle-reston East Metro Station)

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (nvtc) Is Seeking Public Input On The Multimodal Components Submitted For Fy 2017 Funding Consideration As Part Of The Virginia Department Of Transportation's (vdot's) Transform 66 Inside The Beltway Project.

Nvtc Will Select Multimodal Components For Presentation To The Commonwealth Transportation Board For Funding Using Toll Revenues From Vdot's Transform 66 Inside The Beltway Project. The Principal Objective Of The Transform 66 Inside The Beltway Project Is To Select And Fund Multimodal Components That Meet The Improvement Goals, Which Are To (1) Move More People, (2) Enhance Transportation Connectivity, (3) Improve Transit Service, (4) Reduce Roadway Congestion And (5) Increase Travel Options. The Improvement Goals Will Benefit The Users Of The Portion Of I-66 Between I-495 (the Capital Beltway) And U.s. Route 29 In The Rosslyn Area Of Arlington County.

Nvtc Urges The Public To Get Involved By Learning About And Commenting On The Proposed Multimodal Components During The Open House And Public Hearing On May 18, 2016. The Hearing Will Be Held At Reston Station, 1904 Reston Metro Plaza, Reston, Va 20190. The Open House Will Begin At 4:30 P.m. The Public Hearing Will Start At 6:00 P.m. A Hearing Officer Will Preside At The Public Hearing. Members Of The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission May Be In Attendance As Well.

The List Of Submitted Multimodal Components For The Transform 66 Inside The Beltway Project Is Too Extensive For Publication In This Advertisement. The List May Be Accessed By Visiting www.novatransit.org/i66multimodal; Calling Nvtc At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321); E-mailing i66multimodal@nvtc.org; Or Visiting Nvtc's Offices At 2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 620, Arlington, Va 22201, Monday Through Friday, 9:00 A.m. - 4:30 P.m.

Comments May Be Submitted By Mail To Nvtc At 2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 620, Arlington, Va 22201; E-mail To i66multimodal@nvtc.org; Or Phone At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321). The Public Comment Period Has Been Extended Through Close Of Business On Monday, May 23, 2016. For Additional Information On The Open House And Public Hearing On May 18, 2016, Contact Nvtc At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321).

You May Pre-register To Speak By:

- E-mailing Nvtc At: i66multimodal@nvtc.org Or
- Calling Nvtc At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321)

Accessibility For Persons With Disabilities Or Non-english Language Speakers: The Hearing Is Located At A Facility Believed To Be Accessible To Persons With Disabilities. Any Person With Questions About The Accessibility Of The Facility Should Contact Nvtc At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321) Or i66multimodal@nvtc.org. Persons Requiring Special Assistance Or A Foreign Language Translator Must Notify Nvtc At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321). Those Requiring Interpreter Services For The Deaf Must Call Nvtc At 703-nvtc-321 (703-688-2321) Or Via Virginia Relay By Dialing 7-1-1. All Requests For Special Services On May 18 Must Be Received No Later Than May 11, 2016.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 21

Open House and Registration. 10 a.m.-noon. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Adventures in Learning Spring Classes - Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna. Eight-week semester. Classes every Thursday from April 28-June 23 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. \$40. office@scov.org. 703-281-0538.

THURSDAY/APRIL 28

International ADHD Professionals Conference. 6-8:30 p.m. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Coaches who serve children, adults, teens, seniors, entrepreneurs and other groups of individuals with ADHD will be in attendance. Exhibitors from companies that serve ADHD clients will also be present during the event. Plus more. \$25/\$75. Purchase tickets at <http://www.adhdprofessionalsconference.com/events/open-house-event/>.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

Annual Spring Event: Luncheon & Silent Auction. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. International Country Club, 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Hosted by Assistance League of Northern Virginia to benefit its Operation School Bell programs. Event will feature a presentation on Identity Theft and Personal Safety. \$65, \$30 is tax deductible. lindamshilts@gmail.com or 703-424-6652. www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

Understanding Mood

Dysregulation in Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. 10 a.m.-noon. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, Entrance 1, Room 100, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Dr. Sajjad Khan, an experienced clinician and researcher at Neuroscience Inc., will cover assessment, and treatment of mood dysregulation in students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Register at 703-204-3941 or <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/resources/events/documents/UnderstandingMoodDysregulationinASD.pdf>.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Bike Collection. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chesterbrook Elementary, 1753 Kirby Road, McLean. The class is partnering with Bikes for the World to collect all size bikes to refurbish to donate to the needy in third world countries and here in the US. \$10 donation. htanpaa6@gmail.com.

Sharing with Neighbors in Need

FROM PAGE 3

"We provide cash to people who have a short-term need and a bump in the road, somebody who got sick and missed a few paychecks and is about to be evicted because they haven't paid their rent or Dominion is going to come and turn off their electricity," said Board President Don Frickel.

Sometimes families need temporary help due to illness, job loss or family crisis.

"We step in after getting a little understanding of what their situation is and we pay the demander of the money directly and that usually gets people over that hump and on to better things," he said.

THE ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION has more than 35 core volunteers and more than 200 occasional volunteers to help with all their programs, which includes a Food and Clothing program housed at space donated by McLean Baptist Church.

Food Pantry and Clothing Rooms are open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon in donated space at the McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Rd.

Share provides more than 1,000 bags of groceries and 200 bags of clothing to its clients each month.

Katie Sue got involved when she was job hunting in October 2011.

"On your resume, they want you to have

something that you've been doing instead of sitting on the couch so I started volunteering with Share on Wednesdays and Saturdays at the food pantry," she said. "I fell in love with it. I felt really good."

She is now a Board member.

"I stayed because of the people, other volunteers are so wonderful," she said. She appreciates that she gets to give people "fresh vegetables, full bellies."

"Area churches have their garden plots, they grow lettuce and fresh stuff and they bike it in the morning," she said.

Share's operations are dependent on volunteers and private contributions since it receives no government funding.

Chris Wilbur helps run the Holiday Program.

Share raised \$50,000 last holiday season to give clothing, toys and gift cards to approximately 250 families in need in McLean, Great Falls and Pimmit Hills. Families were invited to an annual holiday celebration in December.

"Everybody's needs are different. If you don't know your clients, you may not know what people are struggling with," said Wilbur.

"If you are looking for a way to give to somebody who might be your neighbor, by coming to Share, you can help people who live right in your own community," she said.

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Living History

Holocaust survivor teaches teens hard lessons about world history.

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

World War II is the focus of 10th-graders across the board in history and English classes at W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax.

Students were transfixed Monday by a little lady with a big story to tell about her horrifying experience as a 13-year-old girl in the largest concentration and extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland: Auschwitz.

Holocaust survivor Irene Fogel Weiss, 85, witnessed the worst of all war crimes — genocide — and told Woodson teens about the inhumane treatment of European Jews under Nazi rule as she saw it happen for more than a year before she and other survivors were liberated by Soviet troops Jan. 27, 1945.

Her testimony is part of an enrichment program for nearly 500 students as they read in English class the Holocaust memoir “Night,” penned by another Auschwitz-Birkenau survivor — Elie Wiesel — who received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1986 for his humanitarian efforts as chairman of the President’s Commission on the Holocaust during the Jimmy Carter administration.

“Too often words in our textbooks can become mere letters on the page,” said English department chair Ryan Brown in his opening remarks on April 11.

“Today we have a direct connection with history,” Brown told his audience before they watched Weiss’ presentation “Surviving the Holocaust.”

ALL EYES were glued to the soft-spoken dignified woman as she described her youth as one of six kids in a small farm town in Czechoslovakia, where her father ran a lumber business.

Although her community knew at the time that trouble was brewing in Germany, they didn’t think the Nazi grasp would reach all the way into their own back yard and seize control of their lives.

Then their country became occupied by Hungary in 1939. “We sat there in our little town in Hungary minding our own business.”

Hungary allied with Nazi-controlled Germany in 1940. The world of Meyer and Leah Fogel, and their six children between the ages of 6 and 17 years — Moshe, Edit, Reuven, Gershon, Irene and Serena — changed for the worse.

The human indignities started out small, with vicious propaganda as Jews were separated from society.

The sub-human conditions ended with unspeakable horror Weiss couldn’t discuss for at least 25 years after she was freed from slave labor, sorting through mountainous piles of personal property — such as eyeglasses — confiscated by Schutzstaffel guards before marching their victims to the killing machine known as Gas Chamber No.



Fairfax County resident Irene Weiss, left, points to an enlarged photograph of Hungarian Jews while they were selected and processed in 1944 by Schutzstaffel guards as they stepped off a train at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. At the time, Weiss was the young woman with a kerchief — shown at the bottom of the picture, second from the left. Her mother gave her the scarf to cover the teen’s shaved head. It saved her life because it made Weiss appear old enough to join the ranks of forced laborers. People too frail to work plus women and their children are shown at the top of the page, from left to right, walking toward the gas chamber. Weiss was just separated from her younger sister and watched the child disappear into the crowd. “The drama of the separation still lingers with me today,” she said April 11 to 10th-grade students at W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax.



After 10th-grade students at Woodson High School were dismissed from the auditorium Monday, several dozen teenagers risked being tardy to their next class so they could shake hands and personally thank guest speaker Irene Weiss for sharing her painful testimony as a Holocaust survivor. Woodson students are near and dear to Weiss’ heart. She moved to Northern Virginia in 1953 with her husband, Martin, and raised three WHS graduates. Two grandchildren are Woodson alumni as well.

4.

“Children were condemned to death in the world I came from,” she said, “but what was their crime?” Weiss simply asked. There was no court, no jury, no process, she re-

calls vividly.

Her rapt audience saw old photographs taken by SS prison guards and now in possession of the U.S. National Archives.

The images show Weiss’ separation from

her parents and siblings as they were ordered off a freight train by Nazi soldiers in Auschwitz-Birkenau, following a three-day journey from Hungary to Poland in boxcar filled with 80 people and no windows.

A narrow strip near the top corner of the car provided air and light. A bucket in the middle of their small space served as the only latrine.

Surely their rank conditions couldn’t get any worse, Weiss and everyone else thought initially. The situation quickly grew abysmal at Auschwitz — which claimed the lives of more than a million men, women and children.

This killing machine consumed lives at the rate of 6,000 innocent people a day — an incomprehensible number Weiss has spent the last 70 years trying to process and may never reconcile.

Audience members stood in awe before Weiss and asked questions on several topics including mercy and forgiveness. With no bitterness, gall or vitriol in her voice, Weiss replied in her matter-of-fact manner:

“No,” the SS authorities showed no mercy whatsoever to Weiss and fellow prisoners. “They were terrifying.”

“No,” she cannot forgive Nazi soldiers who mistreated Weiss and her family — including former SS guard Oskar Gröning, against whom she testified last summer in Germany during the trial for his role as bookkeeper at Auschwitz.

Although Gröning is an elderly man of 94 years, the mere sight of him made Weiss tremble as she did when she was 13 and he wore the SS uniform.

“The magnitude of the crime ... is so appalling and so painful, how could you forgive someone who participated,” she asked in response.

Germany has no capital punishment, Weiss says, and Gröning was sentenced to just 4 years in prison for his crimes as an accessory to the murder of 300,000 people. She believes he will die waiting for an appeal.

She told students “the fact I experienced something so terrible” makes it her responsibility to share her experience with everyone willing to hear. Woodson faculty were smart to record Weiss’s living history testimony last year on film and released this haunting documentary in January through the Fairfax County Public Schools television network.

THE VIDEO helped mark the annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 71st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz prisoners by Soviet soldiers.

“Surviving the Holocaust” can be seen online through the Fairfax County Public Schools television network at http://www.fcps.edu/it/fairfaxnetwork/holocaust/video_segments.html in 15 segments that offer viewers a complete discussion guide.

Part of Weiss’ account also can be read at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum at www.ushmm.org.

PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

PHOTO BY RYAN BROWN

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OPINION

On the Guilty Plea of Adam Torres

Geer's death exposed "obfuscation ... and a lack of public accountability."

Adam Torres, charged with murder in the death of Springfield resident John Geer, was the first Fairfax County Police officer in the history of the department to be charged in such a death. Monday, Torres entered a guilty plea to involuntary manslaughter, with a likely sentence of 12 months, most of that already served. He has been in jail for eight months.

Geer was a Springfield resident, a remodeling contractor and an involved father, always on the sidelines of his daughters' sports games. He was unarmed, standing in the doorway of his own home with his hands raised at the time he was killed.

The police and Fairfax County refused to release any information on the case for more than a year, and only then after repeated court orders. Public outrage over Geer's death was compounded by obfuscation and silence, the failure to communicate, and a lack of public accountability. Change is in the works, but there is much work to do.

There is still much to say about the death of John Geer and its aftermath.

But today, the wisdom of his two teenage daughters is well worth reading and sharing:

APRIL 18, 2016 STATEMENT BY THE DAUGHTERS OF JOHN GEER

"Justice is rarely a simple matter, and it would be easy to vent our anger, our outrage, our sorrow, and voice opposition to the plea bargain struck between Adam Torres and the Commonwealth. Nobody would question the rawness of our emotions and our response to it; we have lost a father, and there can be no substitute, no future moment of affection, no further opportunities to be close the man who should be present as our greatest supporter. Torres took that away from us, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County Police Department hid the truth of what happened to our dad for over a year, and there is no going back. ...

"Much like Dad's murder has repercussions for his family and the community, locking Torres in a cell will have an effect on others. Whatever his faults, Torres' wife and children did not murder our father, and it would be wrong to hurt them just to allay our own anger and pain. Robbing other children of time with their father would only make us complicit in another wrong. ...

"Where Torres failed to show prudence and mercy, we will show him and his family both.

"As for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Police Department, we remain appalled by their actions in cover-

ing up the truth and putting Torres in the position to decide life and death given what they knew about his background. Until such time that the ad hoc committee's recommendations are adopted and the policies of the FCPD are changed, we fear that these tragic events can occur again with different victims and different officers. We call upon the Board to immediately adopt and implement the Committee's recommendations without delay for the good of the FCPD and the citizens of Fairfax County.

"No family should have to suffer the loss of a mother, a father, or a loved one under circumstances like ours."

Send in Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 8 this year and every year at this time this newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, ages of children, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your contact information, just names and town of residence.) You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to north@connectionnewspapers.com.

EDITORIAL

A Bipartisan Compromise To Unclog the Region

BY JIM CORCORAN,
PRESIDENT AND CEO,
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

COMMENTARY

Northern Virginia's transportation crisis maintains a stranglehold on our regional economy and quality of life. It costs our region \$4.5 billion annually due to the countless hours we waste sitting in traffic, and has earned our region the dubious distinction as one of the most congested areas in the country. The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce has long believed that unclogging our region's transportation grid requires a strategic, regional approach. We cannot expect to retain and attract business without implementing a 21st Century transportation infrastructure.

Thankfully, however, a significant compromise struck during the 2016 Virginia General Assembly Session has the potential to address the most serious choke point in our region: I-66 inside the Beltway. Improving travel along this important economic corridor is critical to maintaining our economic competitiveness and getting our region moving again.

The bipartisan compromise plan is the result of collaboration between the Commonwealth and localities that takes into account various jurisdictional transportation interests, creating a regionally balanced solution. Combined with the existing express lane network on I-495 and I-95 and in conjunction with new improvements to I-66 outside the Beltway, this project will provide reliable, enhanced travel options throughout the region by car, carpool, and transit. Each of these modes of travel will play a critical part in moving goods, services, and people to and from our region's key assets.

For those traveling along I-66 from points west of I-495, the scheduled improvements will contain enhancements and options including additional lanes, new bus service, and new commuter lots. Key to the plan is the ability of single-occupant drivers to use I-66 inside the Beltway during peak times for the first time in the road's history.

For those who reside inside of the Capital Beltway, this project will provide enhanced bus service, enhancements on parallel roads to

better protect neighborhoods, pedestrian access, and Metro station access improvements all geared toward providing more transportation options for residents and businesses along I-66.

Addressing much needed congestion relief on I-66 by adding an additional eastbound lane has been a priority for the Northern Virginia Chamber and the Northern Virginia business community for decades. The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce congratulates Governor McAuliffe and lead-

ers in the General Assembly for working across party lines to achieve this historic victory for the residents of the Commonwealth.

We will continue to advocate for dynamic, regional projects like this as the business community looks to maintain our status as the economic engine of the Commonwealth and a cradle of innovation in the United States. We look forward to more bipartisan successes in the years to come as we work together to enhance our regional transportation network.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inappropriate Use of FEMA Relief Funds

To the Editor

Your recent article "Fairfax County Schools to Apply for FEMA Relief Funds" is another example of attempting to exploit the American taxpayers.

I visualize the typical American taxpayer as a middle class couple living in the heartland of our country. They have two children. They go to church every week. They don't smoke, don't use illegal drugs, and use alcohol in moderation. Their children go to school each school day. They vote in ev-

ery election. They must struggle financially even when the economy is strong, but they pay their bills, and they pay their taxes. They pay for their children's education, and they save for their retirement.

I don't feel that it is appropriate for the Federal government, which consists of millions of such middle class families, to pay for the removal of snow at Fairfax County Public Schools.

Dave Elmore
Great Falls

McLean
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There's nothing else quite like this magnificent, brand new 2500-square-foot condominium home that occupies the entire terrace level of The Overlook at Lansdowne Woods. From the waterfront patio and huge windows with their enticing panoramas to the private elevator, gallery space, fireplace, 3 bedrooms and 3 baths, this home features

upgraded finishes throughout! One of just 7 homes in this unique enclave, this home also includes covered parking, ample indoor and outdoor storage and all of the recreation and convenience of award-winning Lansdowne Woods, Loudoun's premier active adult community. Brokers welcome.

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Tasting Pleasures of the härth

Profile: Meet Luc Dendievel, the executive chef at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner härth restaurant.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY
THE CONNECTION

When you first enter Hilton McLean Tysons Corner restaurant, härth, you are greeted by cordial staff and an upscale casual setting, marked off by a glass wine cellar, a tapas bar and a large dining area skirted by an outdoor patio. Then when you get your orders, you will enjoy how the executive chef, Luc Dendievel, has assembled all the delightful textures and flavors on your plate. He can even elevate the humble hamburger into a gastronomic treat by filling a patty with bacon jam.

Understanding his lifelong passion for cooking and fine foods explains how he comes up with such elegant fare. A native of Belgium, Dendievel asked his mother when he was only 8 years old about becoming a chef, and at the age of

14, he enrolled in a culinary program at l'Ecole Hoteliere de Libramont. "I grew up around the table," he said, and his intense passion for fine food explains his adult success.

Then after serving in the military and gaining further culinary training, Dendievel headed to Paris to work in a three-star restaurant called Lucas Carton under chef Alain Senderens. There his boss taught him the importance of precision, from cleaning lettuce to roasting meats.

From Paris to D.C., Dendievel ended up working as the chef de cuisine at the embassy of the European Economic Community before heading back to restaurant life working for celebrity chef Michel Richard at the now-closed Citronelle in the Latham Hotel in Georgetown. "I worked there for one-and-a-half years," he said. "This was an important step in my career...He taught me a lot."

After his stint there, Dendievel moved to New York and then to California to open various upscale restaurants, finally returning to the metro area to work as executive chef at the Willard InterContinental for five years, where its eateries earned awards for the outstanding food.

Now at härth, Dendievel is delighted to work closely with his crew in a basic and smaller kitchen, where he can tend the restaurant's rooftop garden and beehives. He has also reshaped the menu, keeping its American character but adding a certain European edginess and adding a sophisticated children's menu.

"Most children's menu just offer fried chicken and pizza," he said. "I have two children and when they go out to eat, they must taste and try something new and different." Dendievel makes meatballs but made with a mix of ground pork and veal. He also does offer fish,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Luc Dendievel

but not fish sticks, but something that is "kid-friendly" and he offers different vegetables that children may not know or like. "We should educate children to eat something they don't eat at home. That way we teach them the pleasures of the table," he said.

As he maps out upcoming menus, Dendievel noted that he always keeps seasonality in mind as he creates recipes. "The menu is constantly changing, depending on what is available," he said. "Right now, with our waffles we serve a rhubarb compote. I try to respect what nature gives you."

Luc Dendievel's Strawberry Red Wine Soup

SERVES 8

1 pound strawberries, washed and hulled
1 bottle red wine
1/2 cup sugar
1 cinnamon stick
1 lemon, quartered
1 vanilla bean

Garnish

1 pint strawberries, hulled and sliced
1 pint raspberries
1/2 pint blackberries
1/2 pint blueberries
8 scoops vanilla ice cream
Fresh mint sprigs for garnish

Cut strawberries into quarters and process them in a mixer until puréed. Combine the wine, sugar, cinnamon, lemon and vanilla bean in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to medium low, and cook for about 30 minutes. Add the strawberry purée and bring to a boil again. Strain through a fine mesh, and discard the cinnamon, vanilla bean, and lemon. Cool the soup.

To serve, display the fruit in large soup bowls, and pour the strawberry soup over top. Add the vanilla scoop, and garnish with a sprig of mint. Serve.

härth Restaurant, Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. 703-761-5131. Hours: breakfast and lunch Monday-Friday; dinner, Monday-Saturday; breakfast buffet, Saturday and Sunday.

FRIENDS OF THE MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER INVITES YOU!

"Meet the Candidates" in the 2016 McLean Community Center Governing Board elections.

When:
Sunday, May 1, 2-4 p.m.

Where:
McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue,
McLean, VA 22101

Who:
Nine adult candidates, three teens from the McLean High School boundary area, and four teens from the Langley High School boundary area.

Format:
Informal Reception

Nine adults are vying for adult votes to fill three seats on the Governing Board. Three teens from the McLean High School boundary area and four teens from the Langley High School boundary area are vying for teen votes to fill one board seat from each high school boundary area.

Refreshments will be served. For planning purposes, please let us know if you will attend by emailing elections@mcleancenter.org. **See you there!**

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



A Disarming Production

1st Stage's presents "Proof."

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

In a satisfying character driven play about the fragility of the mind, rich with intriguing dialogue about genius and fears of mental illness, 1st Stage has created a disarming production of "Proof." Written by David Auburn, "Proof" is a Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning play.

The title "Proof" refers to questions raised in the play including how one can know what true love is.

Directed by Alex Levy, "Proof" is a fertile drama of unanticipated puzzles that will stick with audiences after the final curtain. Even after playwright Auburn lays bare one of the show's major mysteries at the midpoint of Act I, the 1st Stage production holds audience attention.

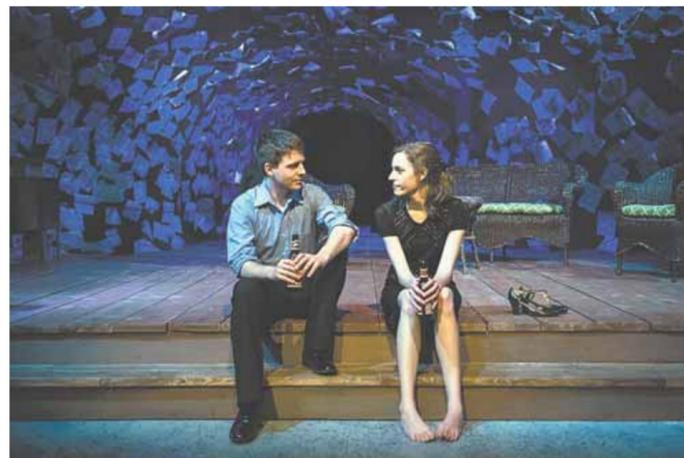
"Proof" progresses with candid conversations between a father and his daughter told in flashbacks and in the imagination. Ray Ficca is noteworthy in the role of the mathematical genius father Robert, who has

struggled with mental illness. Katrina Clark is top-notch as Catherine, Robert's care-taker, enabler daughter who clearly fears she may well share her father's mental health issues.

Added to "Proof's" mix of attracting characters are Sam Ludwig as a befuddled, but ultimately like-

able grad student who finds an astonishing mathematical "proof" in a locked desk drawer. His discovery leads to the gradual unraveling of family secrets as the play moves to its final curtain. Liz Osborne adds bite and patronizing authority each time she appears on stage as Robert's second daughter.

"I'm outside a house, trying to find my way in," these are keywords in "Proof." The team of Kathryn Kaweck's scenic and costume design, lighting design by Robbie Hayes, with sound design by Neil McPadden have created a visual other-worldly space befitting these words and the storyline of a



PHOTOS BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

Sam Ludwig and Katrina Clark in "Proof" at 1st Stage in Tysons Corner.

Where and When

1st Stage presents "Proof" performed at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Performances through May 8, Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$30 (adults) \$26 (seniors) and \$15 (students and military). Call 703-854-1856 or visit www.1stStageTysons.org. Note: Free Parking. Wheelchair accessible.

play set deeply into the minds of its characters. The moment the audience walks into the stage area, they will know they are in for a unique evening as they notice beyond a wooden porch with outdoor furniture scattered here-and-there a visual display that comes alive with electric energy.

Patrons of the 1st Stage venue can also avail themselves of a display of over 20 works of art from a juried show of the Vienna Arts Society that accompanies the stage production

"Proof" is another well accomplished, thoughtful production by the award-winning 1st Stage in the energized "new" Tysons area. 1st Stage continues its growing list of accomplishments that also includes recently enlarged theatrical space.

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Congressman Lewis Comes to Potomac School

Iconic civil rights leader and U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Georgia) visited The Potomac School on April 12, to share a message of unity, peace, and non-violence. He told the assembled students, “You are the future. You will be the great leaders of the 21st century.”

The representative for Georgia’s 5th congressional district, Congressman Lewis is widely recognized as one of the “Big Six” leaders of the civil rights movement of the 1960s. As chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, he played a key role in the struggle to end legalized racial discrimination. He was a Freedom Rider, organized lunch counter sit-ins, and spoke at the 1963 March on Washington. He is perhaps best known as a leader of the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery on March 7, 1965 – a day that became known as “Bloody Sunday” after the marchers were violently attacked by state troopers. A member of Congress since 1987, Lewis has continued to devote his life to protecting human rights, securing civil liberties, and building what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called “The Beloved Community” in America.

Upon arriving at Potomac, Lewis was welcomed by the Third Grade Chorus, who offered songs both celebratory and patriotic. He thanked the youngsters, telling



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Congressman John Lewis with members of the Potomac School community, including Head of School John Kowalik (far right).

them, “Music was so important during the Civil Rights movement. Without our songs to lift us up, the movement would have been like a bird without wings.”

Later, the Congressman spoke to an au-

dience of several hundred, including the school’s fourth through twelfth grade students, faculty and staff and parents. He shared personal stories of the fight against discrimination and encouraged his listen-

ers – especially the students – to become activists committed to the ideals of peace, love, and nonviolence. “You can teach America and the rest of the world a lesson,” Lewis said. “Be hopeful, be optimistic, and always stand up when you see something that’s wrong, unfair or unjust.”

Lewis was accompanied by his digital director and policy advisor, Andrew Aydin. The two co-authored the New York Times best-selling graphic novels “March: Book One” and “March: Book Two” (with “March: Book Three” soon to be released). The books offer young people “a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis’s lifelong struggle for civil and human rights.” In preparation for the Congressman’s visit, Potomac students in grades 7 and 8 read “March: Book One,” and the entire school community was invited to a weekend screening of the film “Selma.”

Reflecting on the visit, Head of School John Kowalik remarked, “It was an honor to welcome Congressman Lewis to our campus. His message of love, nonviolence, and standing against injustice is consistent with the values that we teach and model at Potomac. His words clearly had a powerful impact on our students, faculty, and friends, who gave him a heartfelt standing ovation. This was an event that the Potomac community will not soon forget.”

Removing a Barrier to Pomp and Circumstance

Gowns for Grads program at George Mason provides regalia for needy graduates.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Muntaha Choudhary walks across the stage during George Mason University’s graduation ceremony this May she will celebrate not only her bachelor’s degree, which has been eight years in the making, but also the fact that she is the first person in her family to graduate from college.

Her financial circumstances could have put a damper on her graduation plans, however. She was not sure that she could afford the cost of purchasing a cap and gown, a requirement to participate in the graduation ceremony.

“Some people might say, ‘\$67, that’s not a big deal,’ but it is in my family,” said Choudhary. “We’re always on edge when it comes to money. My dad is a four-time heart attack survivor, and any money that my family saves goes to medical bills or something. That’s why it has taken me so long to graduate. I’ve had to pay my own tuition and help my family pay bills.”

Choudhary and many other George Mason University graduates in need will have one less barrier to their graduation ceremony thanks to a new program at the university called Gowns for Grads.



Amanda Myers started a program to provide donated caps and gowns to George Mason graduates who cannot afford them.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
GEORGE MASON
UNIVERSITY

Through the program, recent Mason alumni donate caps and gowns to students who can’t afford the \$60-\$120 price tag for graduation regalia. The program was founded by Amanda Myers, a Mason alumna and an academic adviser in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The idea for the program was sparked when Myers was counseling a student who was nearing graduation, and had tapped out all of her financial resources to buy textbooks to complete her last semester. In fact, says Myers, the student’s situation was so dire that she was on the brink of homelessness, and wasn’t planning to par-

ticipate in the graduation ceremony because she didn’t have money to spend on the required clothing for graduation.

“I waited until the student left my office, and then I started crying,” said Myers. “It was heartbreaking that something like not being able to afford a cap and gown would stand in the way of her graduation. When students have worked so hard to graduate, they deserve to be cut a break.”

Since the program’s inception in February, Myers has been able to meet the cap and gown needs of nearly 150 students through the generosity of Mason alumni from Northern Virginia but as far away as North Carolina and New Jersey.

Jumana Kamal graduated last year with a master’s degree in Middle East and Islamic Studies. She chose to donate her graduation wear to the Gowns for Grads program.

“I very simply wanted to make it easier for at least one person who worked really hard to get to this one day,” said Kamal. “If you’re wondering about sentimental value, making someone else’s day is much more rewarding to me than holding on to something for a keepsake.”

After receiving her master’s degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security in 2013, Regina Yun kept her cap and gown and looked for a way to donate it, but didn’t find one until she learned about Gowns for Grads. “I’m saving the environment by recycling and reusing and helping out a fellow student,” said Yun. “I had my cap and gown packed up and ready

to go. I hope a few students can get a few uses out of it.”

Students who want to be considered for a cap and gown donation must complete an application and describe their financial constraints.

“Their stories are compelling,” said Myers. “One student wrote, ‘Eventually I became the first person in the family to earn a college degree; however, I have never been able to participate in any of the graduation ceremonies for the various levels of my academic journey due to financial constraints. I would humbly like to impress on your good offices to grant me the opportunity to rent a cap and gown to enable me to finally participate in my first ever graduation ceremony.’”

“Another student stated, ‘I have had to pay for school out of my own pocket for years. Graduating will be the happiest day of my life, not only because I will no longer have to pay an arm and a leg, but also because I will be able to devote more time and money to helping my parents.’”

Myers designed the program to make it as easy as possible for alumni to donate. “All they have to do is send it to me and I can take care of the rest,” she said. “I de-wrinkle them and use a cleaning spray to get them ready to be worn.”

Mason alumni who are interested in donating and graduating students who would like to borrow a cap and gown are encouraged to send an email to Gowns4grad@gmail.com or visit: [Facebook.com/GMUcapandgown](https://www.facebook.com/GMUcapandgown).

McLean Student Volunteers for Robotics Teams, Featured on TV

Rohit Narayanan of McLean, a soon-to-be ninth-grader at the new BASIS Independent McLean school, loves robotics, and recently shared his passion on WTTG-FOX 5 DC, where he talked about April's National Volunteer Month and giving back. Narayanan mentors and volunteers at many robotics tournaments, helping younger robotics students learn and design.

"We're always excited to see students use their entrepreneurial and project skills to give back and learn by teaching others," said Sean Aiken, head of school of BASIS Independent McLean.

School registration is underway for Tyson Corner's new school, BASIS Independent McLean. The school will be located at 8000 Jones Branch Drive in McLean and opens in August 2016.

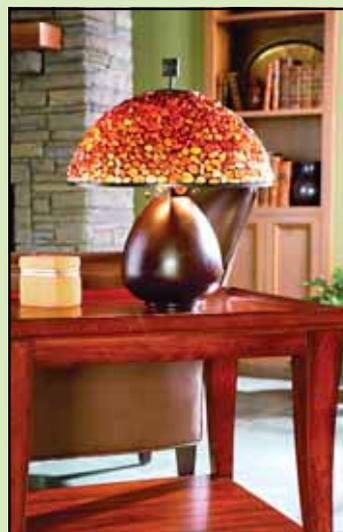
For more information, go to <http://mclean.basisindependent.com> or call 703-854-1253.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BASIS INDEPENDENT MCLEAN

Sean Aiken, head of school BASIS Independent McLean and Rohit Narayanan of McLean, student, BASIS Independent McLean at WTTG-FOX 5 studio in D.C.

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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

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

www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The McLean Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

~Reminder: Father's Day is June 19~

- ATTENTION - Fairfax County Public School Employees

If you are a participant in the **Fairfax County Public Schools 403(b) Plan**, we would like to speak with you about our investigation of the fees charged on your **Great-West Mutual Funds**.

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Can't Vote at McLean Day or Just Want a Head Start on Voting?

Vote by Absentee Ballot through May 18 at either:

<p>McLean Community Center (MCC) 1234 Ingleside Avenue McLean, VA 22101 (703) 790-0123/TTY 711 Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.</p>	OR	<p>Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC) 1440 Chain Bridge Road McLean, VA 22101 (703) 448-8336/TTY 711 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. (closed on weekends)</p>
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Requesting Absentee Ballots:
You can pick up absentee ballot packages and vote at MCC or OFTC. You can also request absentee ballot packages by e-mail at elections@mcleancenter.org or by telephone at 703-790-0123.

Returning Completed Applications and Ballots:
You can return your application and ballot to the front desk at either MCC or OFTC. Or, you can mail your application and ballot using the pre-addressed envelope enclosed in the absentee ballot package.

Absentee voting ends promptly at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18.
Hand-delivered applications and ballots must be received at either MCC or OFTC by that time. Absentee applications and ballots returned by mail must be received at MCC on May 18.

If you have questions:
Please call 703-790-0123 or e-mail elections@mcleancenter.org



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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Small Gems Exhibit. Through May 10. Wednesday, noon-4 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Village Green Center, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Contributed work no larger than 12 inches square. Sparkling jewelry, bronze sculpture, fiber arts, painting, print and mixed media. The exhibit hangs on the walls and is displayed in cubbies and glass cabinets. Free. greatfallsstudios.com.

"Unnecessary Farce." Fridays-Sundays. April 29-May 14. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Call for times. Classic farce with a contemporary American plot: the police procedural. \$18-\$20. www.mcleanplayers.org. 866-811-4111.

Driven to Abstraction. April 1-30. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Features over 20 works. 703-757-8560.

April Artist Showcase. April 1-27. Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Great Falls Gallery will feature the paintings of Australian artist Ken Strong. broadwaygalleries.net. 703-450-8005.

"Proof." March 31-May 8. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Pulitzer Prize-winning play. \$30/\$26/\$15. 1ststagetysons.org. 703-854-1856.

Time Traveler Tuesdays. 4:30 p.m. March 29-June 7. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. This weekly series will take participants on an interactive journey through time, focusing on a different period in Virginia history each week. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvinrunmill/events.htm>.

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

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase your flexibility, improve your breathing and health, reduce your stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

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. 703-759-9141.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

McLean Newcomers and Neighbors Monthly Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Brio Tuscan Grille, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. CiCi Williams, food writer and author, will speak. \$32. RSVP by April 15 to sosserv@verizon.net. McLeanNewcomers.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 21

Penny University Event. 7 p.m. Caffe Amouri, 107 Church St. NE, Vienna. Try Tap with Kayla Moore, who has 18 years' experience tapping. Free. nicki@caffeamouri.com.

Opening Exhibition Reception. 7 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.



PHOTO BY ANNA BARKER

The Cooper Middle School Students preparing for their play "How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

Cooper Middle Presents Spring Musical

This April, Cooper Middle School will be holding their annual Spring Musical: "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." The play will be held on April 27 and 28 at 2:30-4:30 p.m. and April 29 and 30 at 7-9 p.m. Tickets can be bought at the door. They are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. This quirky musical will keep you on your toes; so if you love the arts, come see the play at Cooper Middle School's cafeteria this April.

Teacher's exhibition. Free. mpaart.org.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 21-23

"Loserville." 7:30 p.m. George C. Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. It's 1971 and geeks shall inherit the Earth in this high-octane, pop-rock, feel-great musical. \$15/\$10. Statesmentheatre.org. 703-714-5450.

FRIDAY/APRIL 22

Bev Ress. 10 a.m.-noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean Art Society with artist who does 3D nature drawings. 703-790-0123.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Meet Corduroy (Costume character event). 2 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. brief Meet & Greet with Biscuit will follow Storytime. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

"Goodnight Moon and Runaway Bunny." 2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. "Goodnight Moon" is a celebration of familiar nighttime rituals, while "The Runaway Bunny" is a pretend tale of leaving home that evokes reassuring responses from a loving mum. Ages 4+. \$15/\$10. mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 23-24

Community Art Show. Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Vinson Hall Retirement Community, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Community residents show off their works. Free. 703-970-3694.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

Vienna 5K and One-Mile "Run for Fun." Starting at 8:10 a.m. 128 Center St. S, Vienna. Sponsored by the Vienna Elementary School PTA. \$15-\$30. www.vienna5krun.org. 703-282-0084.

Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce 5K. 8:30 a.m. Near Bloomingdale's Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. \$25-30+. <http://www.tysonscharity5k.com/>.

Oakton Elementary Family 5K. 8:30 a.m. Centennial Park, 131 Church St., Vienna. Proceeds benefit enrichment program at Oakton Elementary. \$12-\$35.

Love Worth Fighting For. 5 p.m. McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. National marriage event featuring actor Kirk Cameron. \$20-\$50. www.loveworthfightingfor.com.

Spring Fashion Show. 10 a.m.-noon. Bloomingdale's Tysons Corner, 8100 Tysons Corner Center, McLean. By the Great Falls Friends and Neighbors Scholarship Fund, Inc. Proceeds will go toward scholarships to post-college aged Virginia women. Champagne brunch, raffle, silent auction. Channel 9 news anchor Andrea Roane emcees. www.GFFNSF.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 26

Creed Bratton. 6:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. "The Office's" Creed Bratton headlines an evening of music and comedy. \$20-\$30. www.jamminjava.com.

Author Event. 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Brooke C. Stoddard discusses his book "Steel: From Mine to Mill, The Metal that Made America." fairfaxcounty.gov/library. 703-757-8560.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

"Jazz Masters with John Eaton: The Music of Hoagy Carmichael." McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Jazz pianist, musicologist and humorist, John Eaton brings his popular continuing education program. \$12/\$5. mcleancenter.org.family5kandfunrun.com.

Bike Collection. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chesterbrook Elementary, 1753 Kirby Road, McLean. The class is partnering with Bikes for the World to collect all size bikes to refurbish to donate to the needy in third world countries and here in the US. \$10 donation. htanpaa6@gmail.com.

Gospel Concert. 3 p.m. Historic Pleasant Grove, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. This free community event features Voices of Worship community choir singing traditional gospel music and uplifting spirituals in a quaint 1895 church setting, now an historic site. For information, see www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Sunrise Garden Opening. 6-10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Photographers, birders, strollers, and anyone who enjoys a peaceful morning walk are invited to visit during special hours. \$2.50-\$5. novaparks.com.

Audubon Bird Walk. 7:30-9:30 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Join leader Ray Smith from the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. \$2.50-\$5. novaparks.com.

NDWC Spring Fling Fashion Show. Noon. Flemings Restaurant, 1960-A Chain Bridge Road, McLean. New Dominion Women's Club event features fashions from Bloomingdale's. Tickets at www.ndwc.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 3

Small Standard Flower Show. 1-2:30 p.m. Vinson Hall Retirement Community, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Presented by The Gardeners of the Junior League of Washington. Free. 703-970-3712. fredj@vinsonhall.org.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 4

"Healing Voices." 7 p.m. First Christian Church of Falls Church, 6165 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Documentary exploring real-life stories of individuals working to overcome the extreme effects of their illness and integrate their experiences into their lives in meaningful ways. 703-324-7006.

THURSDAY/MAY 5

Jennifer Knapp. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Knapp will perform songs from her new album Set Me Free. \$80. www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Document Shredding. 9 a.m.-noon. Long and Foster, 1355 Beverly Road, McLean. Free, secure paper shredding for the community. Here's your opportunity to clear your home or office of paper clutter! Spring clean your office and shred outdated documents. 703-903-8643.

Yard Sale/Flea Market. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. To reserve a space to sell or for more information call 703-582-1640.



Transform 66 Inside the Beltway Project Eastbound Widening Arlington County, City of Falls Church and Fairfax County

Public Information Meetings

Monday, May 9, 2016

Washington-Lee High School Cafeteria
1301 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22201

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School Cafeteria
7130 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043

Meeting Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Presentation: 7 p.m.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will host public information meetings for the proposed eastbound widening as part of the Transform 66 Inside the Beltway Project. On February 10, 2016, Governor Terry McAuliffe and members from both parties and chambers of the Virginia General Assembly announced a bipartisan agreement to move forward on a plan to reduce congestion on I-66 inside the Beltway by widening a four-mile stretch from the Dulles Connector Road to Ballston. This proposal is intended to address an east-bound chokepoint where traffic merges onto I-66 from the Dulles Connector Road. The meetings will provide information about the Environmental Assessment (EA) that VDOT is preparing for the widening to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To inform the EA, VDOT is conducting environmental analyses and coordinating with regulatory agencies to obtain information about environmental resources in the vicinity of the project.

Stop by to learn more about the project, discuss your questions with VDOT staff, and attend the formal presentation.

Review project information and project schedule at www.Transform66.org and at the public information meetings.

Give your written or oral comments at the meetings or submit them to Amanda Baxter, Project Manager, at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. You may also e-mail comments at any time to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "Transform 66 Inside the Beltway" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0066-96A-417, P101, R201, C501 UPC: 108424

Saint Ann Catholic Church

<p>SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:</p> <p>Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 AM 1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy</p>	<p>DAILY EUCHARIST:</p> <p>Weekdays Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM Saturday, 8:30 AM</p>
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Here's What's Happening at MCC

Onstage @ The Alden

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's

"Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny"



Saturday, Apr. 23, 2 p.m.

The Old Firehouse Double Feature at AMC Tysons Corner Friday, Apr. 29, 3:30-10 p.m.

Insider Knowledge Series

"Jazz Masters with John Eaton"

The Music of Hoagy Carmichael
Saturday, Apr. 30, 1 p.m.

Jammin' Juniors Concerts McLean Central Park

Free admission

Roger Day
Wednesday, May 4, 12:30 p.m.

SteveSongs
Wednesday May 11, 12:30 p.m.

5th and 6th Grader Party
@ The Old Firehouse

Spring Fling
Friday, May 6, 7-9 p.m.

Onstage @ The Alden
ArtsPower's

"Chicken Dance"

**Saturday,
May 14, 2 p.m.**



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org



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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Fairfax County and Prince William County Public Hearings

All hearing times are 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
A brief presentation at each hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 23, 2016

Oakton High School Cafeteria (Entrance #1 or #14)
2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

***Tuesday, May 24, 2016**

VDOT Northern Virginia District Office
4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

*Visit Transform66.org to view a live stream of this hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Piney Branch Elementary School Cafeteria/Gym (Entrance #1)
8301 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, VA 20136

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in partnership with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), will host hearings, pursuant to § 33.2-1820(B) of the Code of Virginia, to present the complete set of draft Request for Proposals (RFP) documents for the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway project and provide an opportunity for public comment on the draft comprehensive agreement. In addition, VDOT will provide information and receive comments from the public regarding its intent to change the existing High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) designation on Interstate 66 from HOV-2 to High Occupancy Toll (HOT-3) when construction on I-66 Outside the Beltway is opened to traffic in late 2020.

Stop by to learn more about the project, discuss your questions with VDOT staff, and attend the formal presentation.

Review the latest project information and schedule at www.Transform66.org or at the hearings.

Give your written or oral comments at the hearings or submit them to Susan Shaw, Megaprojects Director, at the VDOT District Office address above. You may also e-mail comments at any time to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "Transform 66 Outside the Beltway" in the subject line. Comments must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT by June 10, 2016 to be included in the public hearing record.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0066-96A-297,P101 Federal Project: NH-066-1(300) UPC: 105500

SPORTS



Langley senior Halle Duenkel scored three goals during a 17-3 win over South Lakes on April 14.

PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

Langley Girls' Lax Team Starts 11-0

Nine different Saxons score at least one goal against South Lakes.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Langley girls' lacrosse team has a new head coach, one of its top players is in her first season back after suffering a major knee injury and its leading goal-scorer in a recent game against South Lakes is in her first season with the program.

Through 11 games, however, the Saxons have squashed any potential growing pains in impeccable fashion.

Langley defeated South Lakes 17-3 on April 14. Two days later, the Saxons beat Battlefield, 15-10, and Chantilly, 17-6, to improve their record to 11-0. Ten of Langley's victories came by a margin of at least five goals, and six of their wins came by double digits.

Entering Tuesday's action, Langley and Robinson were the only undefeated teams in the 6A North region.

"I don't think we've even thought about [being undefeated]," Langley assistant coach Bucky Morris said. "I think we just focus on the next game."

Junior midfielder Emma Crooks, a William & Mary commit, said the Saxons are a confident group capable of regaining their focus prior to a game.

"I think we're really progressing and I think ... sometimes we come in maybe a little too head strong," Crooks said, "so we always have a talk before each game kind of like, 'All right guys, let's remember who we are, let's remember that we're playing for Langley and not for ourselves,' so we usually settle ourselves down."

Crooks, in her first season with Langley after transferring from Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md., led the Saxons with four goals during their win over South Lakes on April 14.

"I think we have such amazing talent on this team and it's all spread out," Crooks said. "I just think we have so much potential, too. No matter what team we play, I think we can come in and just do what we want to do and what we know how to do and I think we can succeed."

Maggie Kovacs, a 2009 Langley High School graduate, is in her first season as head coach of the Saxons. Kovacs was a two-time first-team all-region se-

lection for the Langley girls' lacrosse team before playing at the University of Oregon.

"She's awesome," senior Halle Duenkel said. "She's developed our game in so many ways. There are things we didn't even know we were capable of as a unit. ... She just makes every single person feel comfortable to be on the field at any given time."

Kovacs said the Saxons haven't focused on being undefeated.

"We focus on ourselves, making sure that each individual as well as the team as a unit gets better each and every practice," Kovacs wrote in an email. "We pick one to two skills or concepts to focus on each practice. If they continue working as hard as they have been and absorbing everything we throw at them the wins will take care of themselves."

One of Kovacs' top weapons is senior attacker/midfielder Duenkel, a James Madison University signee who scored three goals during the Saxons' win over South Lakes. Duenkel entered the season with 112 goals and 53 assists in her high school career, including a junior season that was cut short when she suffered a torn ACL in her right knee in May of 2015.

Duenkel said she has a different outlook for her senior season.

"It's really a big difference," she said. "Last year I had a lot of different goals. This year, it's very, very different. I take every game as a blessing to be back on the field and be able to walk and do the things I love and glorify God on the field. ... Last year, I was worried about a lot of other things like scoring records ... and this year — I don't even know what the records are — I'm just looking for the team to win a state championship."

Kovacs praised Duenkel.

"I first coached Halle when she was in fifth grade playing for GFLA," Kovacs wrote. "While she's still one of the most gifted and determined players I have ever coached, I couldn't be more proud of her development this spring. ... She's elevated her entire game by becoming a much more strategic player."

Nine different Saxons scored at least one goal against South Lakes.

Anna Hofgard finished with three goals and Sareena Dhillon had two. Rebecca Bair, Marina Smith, Sam Suib, Morgan Kuligowski and Avarie Rembert each had one.

Langley finished state runner-up in 2012 and 2013 but has yet to win a state championship.

Langley faced Fairfax on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Saxons will travel to face Madison at 7:30 p.m. on April 26.

NEWS

From left, Colette DiTullio, Joann Cochran, Edith Probus, Carol Saunders, Gerlinde Goode and Maria Raggambi — Members of the Holly Hill Garden Club sharing stories from the past.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Holly Hill Garden Club Says Goodbye to McLean, McLean Trees Foundation Receives Donation

After 52 years of volunteer service to the McLean community, the Holly Hill Garden Club announced that it will no longer operate due to retiring members. In an act of generosity, the club distributed half of its remaining treasury funds to the McLean Trees Foundation in support of the planting and care of trees throughout McLean.

"We admire all the work that the McLean Trees Foundation does for our community and our support for MTF was an easy decision for our club," said Joann Cochran, treasurer of the Holly Hill Garden Club.

The two organizations once worked closely together. Founded in 1964 and known as the "working garden club," the Holly Hill Garden Club has been active in numerous civic development projects, garden therapy programs, plant clinics and beautification projects in McLean.

In the 1980s, a member of the Holly Hill Garden Club started the McLean Beautification Committee, which worked with Dranesville Supervisor Nancy Falck's office on civic projects. The committee merged with the McLean Trees Committee and members of the garden club served as board members for McLean Trees. (In 2004, the McLean Trees Committee became the McLean Trees Foundation.)

The traffic island adjacent to Giant on Chain Bridge Road is one of the longest-standing projects of the Holly Hill Garden Club. In the late 1980s, it was known as "Rotary Island," but in 1989 it became a joint project of the Rotary Club of McLean, the McLean Trees Committee and the Holly Hill Garden Club. The McLean Trees Committee donated the willow oak tree for the island and the Holly Hill Garden

Club offered to design and maintain the island. Responsibility for the island was transferred from the Rotary Club of McLean to Holly Hill Garden Club.

"We took on the responsibility to redesign the island and to raise funds for plants and materials," said Cochran. "It took three years of intense work to get the project rolling. We raised funds by selling plants at McLean Day and we approached many local merchants for contributions. Some members of the club focused on the design aspects of the island while others refurbished the soil on the island by removing rocks, asphalt and construction debris."

"It is with much sadness that we have to abandon our civic project of the traffic island in McLean," said Cochran. "It was a labor of love for our club for many years."

"The garden club's efforts have fueled and enhanced MTF projects and many other sites in our community," said Joyce Harris, Chairman of the McLean Trees Foundation. "In appreciation of their work, we plan to identify, on our website map, the willow oak tree in honor of the Holly Hill Garden Club. Their diligent and creative work will be missed."

Thanks to Tom Jacobi, president of the McLean Revitalization Corporation, and Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust, the traffic island will now be cared for by Wheat's Landscaping, a full-service landscape company in Northern Virginia committed to giving back to the McLean community.

"We are very happy to donate our services to the community to help care for the island," said Mike Wheat, owner of Wheat's Landscaping. "It's a beautiful island."



The Willow Oak on the traffic island.



PHOTO BY ROBIN WALKER

2015 H. Gordon Randall Outstanding Volunteer Mary Anne Hampton (center) with MCC Special Events Manager Catherine Nesbitt, MCC Board Member Deborah Sanders, MCC Executive Director George Sachs, MCC Board Member Laurelie Wallace and MCC Board Chair Paul Kohlenberger.

Mary Anne Hampton Named McLean Community Center's Outstanding Volunteer for 2015

Mary Anne Hampton was recognized for her volunteer service to the McLean Community Center on Sunday, April 3, when she received the 2015 H. Gordon Randall Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. The award was presented at the Center's annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon where Center volunteers were treated to a catered luncheon by Splendid Fare and live music by a classical music ensemble. The center is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue.

MCC Executive Director George Sachs presented the award to Hampton, who retired from the Center in 2008 after 33 years of service. She began to volunteer almost immediately. Each year, she assists the Special Events Division with both the annual jewelry and holiday crafts shows. She has worked to preserve the history of the Center and the McLean community by assisting the Public Information Office with the archiving of early Center documents, photographs and press clippings. In addition, she assisted Governing Board Chair Paul Kohlenberger with the scanning of thousands of pages of Center documents dating from the mid-'60s to

the present. Not only has this effort preserved the Center's history, the result has provided an invaluable tool to staff and Governing Board members in the development of programs and policies.

She has worked with the Director of Instructional Programs to co-sponsor special events, classes and lectures with local heritage groups such as McLean and Great Falls Celebrate Virginia and the McLean Historical Society. As a member of the Friends of the McLean Community Center Board, the Center's support arm, Hampton has helped with the development of the group's website, co-chaired the Friends 50th Anniversary Reception and chairs the Friends "Meet the Candidates" Reception committee. In 2015, she received the Friend in Deed Award from the organization. Currently, along with other Friends members, she is preparing a fundraising campaign to assist with the Center's renovation and expansion project, scheduled to begin in 2017.

For more information on volunteer opportunities at the Center, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit, www.mcleancenter.org.

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Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
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The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

21 Announcements

ABC NOTICE
BallKap, LLC trading as Kapnos Taverna, 4000 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22203. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises/Keg Permit/Delivery Permit license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Michael Isabella Jr, Managing Member

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 or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

ABC NOTICE
AMA, LLC trading as Cafe Monaco, 1800 Old Meadow Rd. McLean, VA 22102. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Agustin Sanchez, owner

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 or 800-552-3200.

The future comes one day at a time.
-Dean Acheson

21 Announcements

ABC NOTICE
Sunoco Retail, LLC trading as Sunoco 7659, 4601 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Sheryl L. Hess, officer

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 or 800-552-3200.

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Comparatively Speaking, It's All Relative



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not quite admitting to being any more of a drag than I already am, but having had cancer now for seven years and nearly two months, has been hard to ignore (believe me, I've tried), but easy to embrace. What I mean by that is: There seems to be a subconscious "governor" (have you ever rented a U-Haul? A "governor" is a device that keeps the engine under control, thereby preventing miles-per-hour from exceeding a certain speed) that keeps my emotions from bursting any seams. As much as I try to attempt it, I just don't/can't/won't get as excited and/or as passionate about things as I used to, pre-cancer. Oh, I still want the Red Sox to win and for Duke to lose, but I don't suffer as much when neither scenario plays out.

And while I'm admitting things, it's not only my subconscious that is acting out/controlling my behavior, it's also my conscious mind, as in when I'm in touch/aware of my emotions/actions (or lack thereof). As my oncologist once said to me about cancer, in reply to a question I asked him about blaming it for my hair turning prematurely gray: "You can blame the cancer for anything," he said, and so I shall. Nevertheless, having an extraordinarily convenient excuse: cancer, might explain most (but not all) of my behavior, and it doesn't bring me much comfort. And so I rationalize some of that unexplained behavior as self-preservation. It doesn't make me particularly proud, however. Still, having survived cancer for as long as I have certainly does, but it's not enough to put a bounce in my step. (Or maybe that's merely the neuropathy in my feet flattening my gait?)

But it's probably not my actual steps that matter. It's more likely my attitude while I'm stepping. And though I'd much rather my feet not hurt, my reality is: I'm alive, quite unexpectedly (based on my original prognosis), so damn the neuropathy and full speed (more like half speed) ahead. And though I may not move as fast as I used to (who among us actually can?), I am still moving and breathing. I'm just not the man I used to be, and I can live with that because I'm still living. I just wish I could exercise a bit more control. But if I've learned anything during this cancer experience, it's that ceding control and accepting certain realities - within reason, and without giving in or giving up too much - is a prudent course of reaction to an incredibly difficult set of circumstances: diagnosed with a "terminal" form of cancer at age 54 and a half; and one for which there is no right or wrong pursuit. Any port in a storm I say, and stage IV non-small cell lung cancer certainly qualifies as a storm, as challenging as any Mother Nature could muster. The difference being, this storm never ends, it only changes in severity and frequency. Right now, the storm is constant. Either I learn to live with it or I die trying. And minimizing the bad and maximizing the good is part of that process.

If only there was a way to find some place (like "the vault" from "Seinfeld") where I could store my cancer diagnosis and only acknowledge it when absolutely necessary. Wishful thinking, but hardly rational. But what choice does one have, really? Unless you think outside the box, it may very well be a box (more like a rectangle, actually) where you'll soon find yourself not thinking at all.

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

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