

Inside **WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT**

McLean CONNECTION

COMMUNITY OUTLOOK 2017

PAGE 3

From left — Robert (Matt Liptak) and his three girlfriends, Marta (Kristina Friedgen), Kathy (Vanessa Miller), and April (Melissa Pieja) in a 'Company' rehearsal photo. McLean Community Players present 'Company' at the Alden Theatre in the McLean Community Center on weekend Feb. 3 to Feb. 19, 2017.

Funny and Bittersweet

WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12

Projects Under Scrutiny in McLean

COMMUNITY OUTLOOK, PAGE 3

South Lakes Secures Narrow Win Over Langley

SPORTS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY IRISH EYES PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOBY/COURTESY OF MCLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14



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Chris Stewart Wins The Langley Schools National Geographic Bee for Third Consecutive Year

On Jan. 12, eighth-grader and Arlington resident Chris Stewart was named The Langley School's National Geographic Bee champion for the third consecutive year. Chris competed against 10 Langley students in grades 4-8 during the first round of the 29th annual National Geographic Bee.

Sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the opening round of the National Geographic Bee is held in thousands of schools across the country and is the first step

toward naming a national champion. During Langley's competition, contestants were challenged with oral and written geography questions, ranging from the locations of mountain ranges and rivers to the names of cities and countries. Students not only displayed their impressive knowledge of world geography, but also showed great confidence and poise as they competed on stage in front of the entire school.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Eighth-grader and Arlington resident Chris Stewart (pictured in middle with his medal) won the school's Bee for the third consecutive year and now advances to the state level.



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Smart Home Technology in 2017



Smart home technology has taken hold and is here to stay. It's becoming simpler and more affordable for homeowners to incorporate smart home technology components into their homes. Here are some of the more popular technologies we are seeing today.

Voice Control. Voice control products are available for use in virtually every aspect of your home including thermostats, lights, and music systems, just to name a few.

Attractive Networking. The unappealing Wi-Fi routers of the past are no more. Today's nicely designed routers can be left out in the open allowing them to perform better than those hidden away.

Bigger Touch Panels. The latest touch panels are larger than ever before, often with 12-inch, full-color screens.

Motorized Shades. Motorized window treatments are becoming more and more popular and can often be integrated into a complete home technology system.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF A FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

The 1.267-acre property is located on the west side of Idylwood Road, west of the Dulles Toll Road. Access to the site is provided from Idylwood Road via a gravel driveway, which is located on a 30-foot wide outlet road easement.

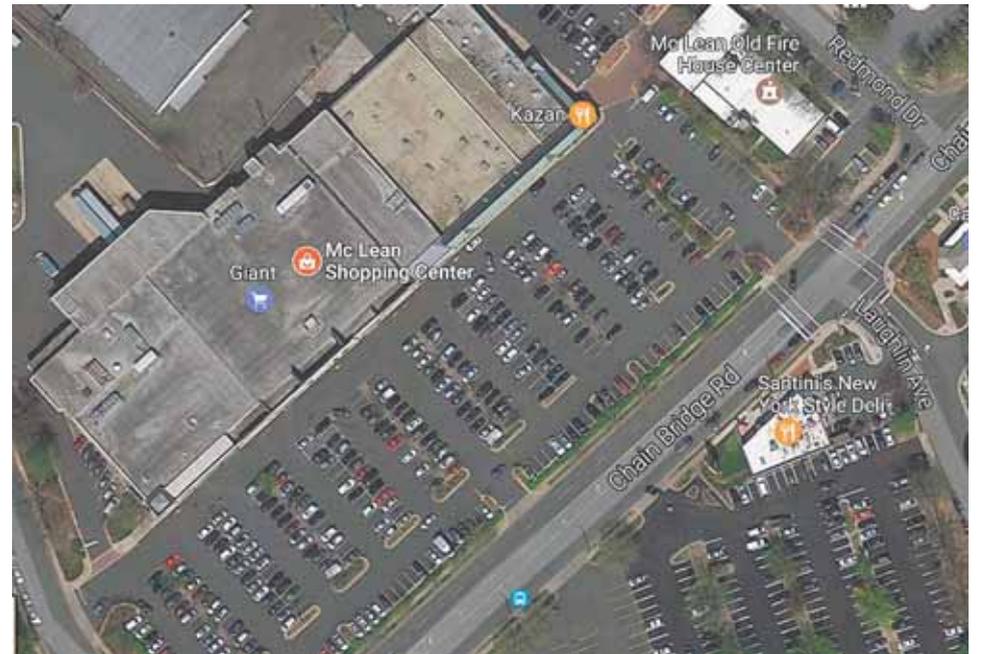


PHOTO CREATED WITH GOOGLE MAPS

McLean Properties is working on plans to redevelop its shopping center on Chain Bridge Road that would include proposing a new pedestrian-oriented street.

Projects Under Scrutiny in McLean

Proposals Supervisor Foust is watching closely right now.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and Benjamin Wiles, his staff aide who works on land-use issues, identified some of the developments within the Dranesville District - and specifically in McLean - that they will be focusing on over the next couple of months.

All of the developments have received interest from surrounding communities, leaving Foust and the other supervisors with ample feedback to consider before the proposals reach them for a vote.

Assisted Living Facility Proposed In McLean ... Again

Sunrise Development, Inc. has once again applied to construct a 73-unit assisted living facility on a 3.7-acre parcel of land at 1988 Kirby Road in McLean that is zoned for residential use.

"This is the third run at this thing that the applicant has made and each one has encountered very strong vocal opposition from the local neighborhoods," Foust says. "I don't know what else the applicant can do at this point, but I do know that there has been no resolution of the community's concerns."

The developer is seeking what is known as a special exception from the county to build the facility in the residential area. The Sunrise Corporation operates many assisted living facilities in northern Virginia, including properties in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fort Belvoir, McLean, Oakton, Potomac Falls, Reston and Springfield, among other locations in the state.

The neighbors around this proposed facility are concerned about the traffic it



PHOTO FROM THE MCLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING PRESENTATION

The developer redesigned the proposal to move the entrance to the facility from Kirby Road to Westmoreland Street in the hopes that it would ease traffic congestion concerns of nearby residents.

would generate in the neighborhood.

"Traffic in the area is already dangerous to the students at the nearby Longfellow Middle School and others," Russel Jones said while testifying before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, June 21, 2016. "With the addition of 90 employees [of the proposed facility], a careful analysis has shown that there will be a minimum of an additional 239 trips per day through the area. No workable solutions have been proposed to deal with this surge in traffic."

Jones is leading a "Say NO to Sunrise" opposition group of more than 1,000 families in 10 neighboring communities.

"The Sunrise proposal contributes no added value to the surrounding neighborhood," Jones continued during his testimony. "The land at 1988 Kirby is large enough for 10 homes, with residents who could become neighbors, and homes in scale with the surroundings. This is the sort of development that we want to see."

The facility would generate about twice

as many vehicle trips when compared to a by right development of single family homes, according to Wiles.

The applicant considered the community's concerns and has submitted revisions to its application. The most recent revision, submitted on Dec. 27, 2016, includes a 33-space underground parking garage, a reduction of height to the facility and the relocation of the facility's entrance from Kirby Road to Westmoreland Street.

There continues to be significant opposition to this application from the community.

The county describes the area as stable residential, Wiles says. However, some residents have noted that the area includes a significant number of institutional uses, including Longfellow Middle School, Chesterbrook Elementary School, the Temple Rodef Shalom, the Chesterbrook Residences and the Chesterbrook Presbyterian Church.

According to Wiles, opposing residents believe that adding another institutional property in the area would tilt the character of the community away from a residential neighborhood.

"The concern that I think that many have is that building a large institutional building on that corner would adversely impact the character of that neighborhood," Foust says.

The McLean Citizens Association's Planning and Zoning Committee held a public meeting to discuss the proposal at the McLean Community Center on Tuesday, Jan. 24, after deadline for this week's paper.

A Fairfax County Planning Commission hearing is scheduled for March 8. A hearing with the Board of Supervisors has not been scheduled for this proposal.

"I have an obligation to consider the community input as well as the zoning ordi

SEE PROJECTS, PAGE 4

Projects Under Scrutiny

FROM PAGE 3

nance requirements and the comprehensive plan," Foust says. "We have to take all of that into consideration."

Foust will also take into consideration the recommendation from the Planning Commission as well as the staff report from the county's Department of Planning and Zoning, which should be published in February.

"Ultimately, the Board of Supervisors has to make the decision," Foust says.

McLean Citizens Association Opposes Proposed Subdivision

H&M of Virginia, LLC applied to build a residential subdivision with two homes on land that is zoned for only one home.

The nearly 1.3-acre land is located at 7072 Idylwood Road in Falls Church. The site is currently developed with a vacant, single-family detached home. The site also contains a detached garage, a shed and a fence, all of which are slated to be removed. The remainder of the property is undeveloped and contains lawn and mature vegetation.

The applicant is seeking a special exception from the county to forgo the minimum lot width requirement of 100 feet. While one of the proposed homes in the application would meet the requirement, the other home's lot would only have a width of 40 feet.

"I think lot width exceptions should be rare and they are," Foust says. "We don't approve many but we have a zoning ordinance that allows landowners to apply for a lot width waiver."

The properties surrounding the site consist of single family homes, according to Wiles.

However, the local Lemon Road Civic Association has expressed support for the application, according to Wiles. Still, the McLean Citizens Association is opposing the application, citing longstanding opposition to lot width waivers.

"This is a tough decision because the homeowners there are in favor of it, but MCA has to think of McLean as a whole," says Jeff Barnett, MCA's president.

The MCA approved a "Waiver of Minimum Lot Width at 7072 Idylwood Road" resolution during its Jan. 4 Board of Director meeting that opposed the waiver requested by the applicant.

"Since at least 2007, it has been the policy of the McLean Citizens Association

("MCA") to oppose the waiver of minimum lot width requirements under the Fairfax County

Zoning Ordinance, particularly where such requests are made to enable the creation of

'pipestem' lots," reads the resolution.

A pipestem driveway, that is planned for the property, is a private driveway off of a

public street that two or more home driveways branch off of.

"This area has always been a suburb of Washington, D.C., and now we're becoming a suburb of Tysons," says Barnett. "There's going to be a lot of development pressures to pack houses onto our lots and that would undermine what we view as one of the iconic natures of McLean."

The Planning Commission recommended the approval of the application at a hearing on Jan. 18. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to have a hearing to consider the application on Feb. 14.

"I respect MCA's position of never supporting these, but if it's an application that provides more benefits than by right use and the surrounding community supports it, I think it's something that is likely to get approved," Foust says.

Revitalization Of The McLean Shopping Center In The Works

McLean Properties is working on plans to redevelop the McLean Shopping Center on Chain Bridge Road.

"Everybody is curious and a lot of people are excited," says Foust. "We've had a very difficult time getting landowners in downtown McLean to move forward with revitalization efforts. This would be a major step towards revitalization and I think it would likely cause other land owners to reinvest in their properties."

The community has been supporting this redevelopment with a "Main Street" concept since the '90s, says Foust.

With this concept, what is now a large parking lot for the shopping center would become a pedestrian-oriented street with ground-level retail and restaurants and "the types of things that would draw people to that street as the go-to place in downtown McLean," says Foust.

The McLean Citizens Association discussed the forthcoming proposal for development at its board of directors meeting on Dec. 7.

The Giant grocery store, the McLean Old Firehouse Center and a nearby bank will remain, but "everything else is probably going to go," Jeff Barnett, MCA's president, said during the meeting.

Though details of the redevelopment are not known.

"Over the past few years we have heard a strong desire from many people in McLean to see Main Street happen, so we are excited to start those discussions," Vidal Sadaka, principal for McLean Properties, said in an email to the Connection. "Our goal is to create a vibrant, mixed-use, walkable place that fosters a sense of community and provides amenities for local residents."

Sadaka hopes to have a preliminary plan ready by March that will provide more details.



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NEWS



PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

Pictured, from left, are: Churchill Road Geography Bee co-sponsor Devon Rook, Arthur Wu, Daniel Overdeck, Elliott Lee, Kaiden Wu, Atharva Bendre, Andrew Choi, Vendela Fack, co-sponsor Nicholas Kilpatrick and (seated) Christian Jemio, Daniel Lian and Jacob Schildkraut.

Joshua Lian Wins Churchill Road Geography Bee, Again

Churchill Road Elementary School crowned a new Geography Bee champion. On Thursday, Jan. 19, ten Churchill Road fourth-sixth graders competed in the finals of the school's National Geography Bee. Sixth grader Joshua Lian won his third consecutive Churchill Road Geo Bee. Fifth grader Jacob Schildkraut and fourth grader

Christian finished second and third, respectively.

The following students who competed in the school finals: Atharva Bendre, Andrew Choi, Vendela Fack, Elliott Lee, Daniel Overdeck, Arthur Wu and Kaiden Wu. The fourth grade teachers Nicholas Kilpatrick and Devon Rook helped overseeing the Bee.

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OPINION

Not Helping the Local Economy

Federal hiring freeze will have rippling effect.

The hiring freeze announced earlier this week, will not help the local economy which has struggled in recent years due to the sequester, automatic cuts and limits to federal spending. The federal government is a critical part of the local economy and had helped recession-proof the Northern Virginia area, but more recently it has been a negative.

Kudos to U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) for speaking out against a foolish freeze on federal hiring. As the lone Republican representing Northern Virginia in Congress, her opposition is important.

"The federal budget cannot be balanced on the backs of our federal workforce. I don't support this type of across-the-board freeze and think it is better to look at priorities and areas where appropriate cuts can be made and where we can consolidate efforts or identify unnecessary costs that can be eliminated," Comstock wrote. "As the General Accounting Office has previously reported, past hiring freezes in both Republican and Democrat administrations have cost the federal government money in the long-run because of staffing problems, or problems in recruiting or disruption of key government operations and required services to the American people. We will be monitoring and highlighting the results of this freeze and how it is impacting the mission of various agencies."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) identifies the freeze as one of many "anti-federal workforce policies" in the works.

"Past hiring freezes in both Republican and Democrat administrations have cost the federal government money in the long-run because of staffing problems, or problems in recruiting or disruption of key government operations and required services to the American people."

— U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA10)

"An across-the-board federal hiring freeze is a mindless way to manage. ... It fails to take into account the need to actually beef up certain capabilities in the federal government, like cybersecurity," Connolly said. "This Executive Order, coupled with many of other anti-federal workforce policies being proposed in Congress, will have a depressing effect on our ability to recruit and retain the next generation of federal workers."

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) calls it

scapegoating. "The number of federal workers is at its lowest level since the 1960s, and over 30 percent will be eligible to retire in the next year," Beyer said. "A report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) on previous federal hiring freezes stated such freezes are not an effective strategy for shrinking the size of the workforce, and only serve to disrupt agency operations and in the long-term increase the cost of government operations."

Bills to Watch in General Assembly

In no particular order, more to come next week:

❖ SB 1005 Community services boards and behavioral health authorities; services to be provided, in particular, access to same-day access to mental health screening services.

❖ SB 923 raises felony larceny threshold to \$500 (\$1,000 would have been better).

❖ SB 1379 that discourages universities from stockpiling cash, and instead lowers tuition for Virginia students and families.

❖ SB 931 removes the exemption for "working papers and correspondence" for university presidents.

❖ SB 1376, requires a 30-day notice from the Board of Visitors before tuition can be raised.

❖ SB 1102, records of closed investigations of unattended deaths were not exempt from the state Freedom of Information Act.

❖ SB 1442, requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to identify an evidence-based, standardized instrument for mental health screening for anyone incarcerated in local, regional, and community correctional facilities.

❖ Various proposals for nonpartisan redistricting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protesting Vote Suppression

To the Editor:

I am fed up with gerrymandering and other tactics politicians use to stack the votes in their favor! Gerrymandering distorts the electoral process, undermines democracy, and renders legislative elections a

meaningless exercise. I am a tax-paying citizen of Virginia, but my one vote does not count as one vote. Here in Virginia, state legislators redraw district lines, which means that the party in power of the State House and Senate can draw the lines to serve their own interests, not those of our communities. Since Virginia has been Republican controlled, that means that my Democratic vote has less value in my district than a Republican vote does in another district.

According to Governing.com, Virginia is ranked as one of the most gerrymandered states in the country (fifth worst!), both on the congressional and state levels

based on the lack of compactness and contiguity of its districts. Throughout the State, counties and cities are broken in half or into multiple pieces to create heavily partisan districts. Most of the "elections" in Virginia therefore result in no change in party because of these gerrymandered districts!

With Republicans in control of the Virginia House and Senate, the gerrymandering, not only suppresses Democrat votes, but has had a detrimental impact on persons of color causing distinct echoes of Jim Crow laws. Are we going to allow discriminatory disenfranchisement to proceed unchecked in our State? I urge all Virginians and Virginian Representatives to support changes to the Virginia constitution and enactment of laws that would strengthen voting rights, make voting easier and fairer, and eliminate unfair redistricting that politicians use to keep themselves in power.

Nancy Blethen
Springfield

Area Residents Join March on Washington

One of the thousands of signs displayed at the Saturday's March on Washington, D.C. The Women's March on Washington turned out to be one of the largest demonstrations in the city's history, according to city officials, drawing more than 500,000 participants. The march was scheduled to follow on the heels of Friday's Inauguration of the 45th president, Donald Trump.

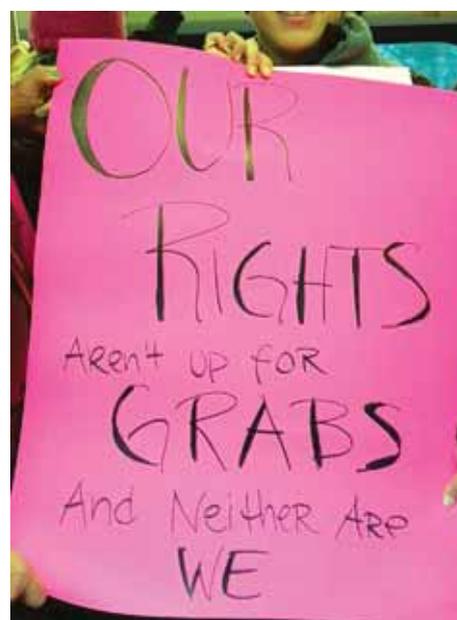


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN LOVAAS

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CONNECTION

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Keller Williams McLean/Great Falls Leadership: Managing Broker Patrick Page, CEO/Team Leader Amina Basic, Principal Broker Ron Cathell, Assistant Team Leader Boni Vinter and Principal Owner Derek Blain.

The Keller Williams Realty Brokerage in McLean/Great Falls Sets a New Record

The Keller Williams Realty brokerage in McLean/Great Falls has set a new record for sharing its profits with agents. They gave back over \$500,000. “We are so thrilled and proud to say that our office shared over half a million dollars of its owners’ profit with our agents in 2016 setting a new record, not only for our office, but for all of Keller Williams in Virginia and West Virginia,” said Amina Basic, Team Leader for Keller Williams in McLean. “This money came out of the pockets of our owners as appreciation to those of our agents who have helped to make us grow.” Keller Williams closes its books each month and determines its net profit. It then gives back nearly 50 percent of those profits to its agents who introduced

new or transferring agents to the office. The Keller Williams office in McLean launched in April 2008 during the start of the great recession. Today, it has more than 350 agents making it one of the largest single brokerage offices in the greater metro area, all in less than 10 years. “It’s all about our amazing agents,” said Basic. “Now, we have set our goal to profit share over a million dollars in a single year. And we can do it. We thank all of our clients for putting their trust in us. The absolute best part is that we give back to the community every single year. Last year we did our annual golf tournament and raised over \$46,000 for leukemia lymphoma society. Together everyone achieves more.”

WEEK IN MCLEAN

McLean Community Foundation Announces Feb. 1 Grant Request Deadline

The McLean Community Foundation is accepting grant requests for its current grants cycle until Feb. 1, 2017. Applications can be found on the MCF’s website at mcleancommunityfoundation.org.

The McLean Community Foundation recently funded a \$10,000 grant for the Phoenix House Mid-Atlantic’s expanded residential facility and new health and fitness center. Other recent grants were awarded to Historic Pleasant Grove, founded as a church by freed slaves and now a museum and community meeting facility, and to Falls Church-McLean Children’s Center, which helps meet the need for affordable, full-time childcare for working families.

Nominations Sought for Scholar-Athlete Honors

The National Capital Region Chapter of the National Football Foundation is accepting nominations for their 2017 Scholar-Athlete banquet. The Chapter awards five \$1000 scholarships annually to deserving high school senior scholar athletes who played high school football. Nominees are evaluated on academic and athletic excellence, as well as contributions to their school and community. Nomination packets have been mailed to each high school head coach in the National Capital Region. Deadline for submission of nomination packets is April 7, 2017. The 11th Annual Awards Banquet will be held on April 23, 2017 at the Army-Navy Club in Arlington.

The National Capital Region Chapter requests and urges participation from all high schools in the National Capital Region.

For additional information, contact your Head Football Coach.



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Bids for Renovation of McLean Community Center Came in Under Budget

By FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Bids to renovate the McLean Community Center, which was built in 1975, have been submitted and are lower than anticipated.

"The process is pretty straightforward," says Teresa Lepe, spokesperson for the Building Design and Construction Division of the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. "We're a government agency, so it's a low bid process to follow Virginia procurement laws. It's not an evaluation of the qualifications."

What her agency does is prepare construction bid documents which are advertised to pre-qualified contractors. The lowest bidder, if the company can meet all the requirements, is awarded the contract.

Contractors bidding on the work are:

- ◆ Sorensen Gross Company for \$5,100,000
- ◆ R.J. Crowley, Inc. for \$5,345,000
- ◆ Sumter Contracting Corporation for \$5,369,700
- ◆ Tuckman-Barbee Construction Company, Inc. for \$5,717,000
- ◆ Monarc Construction, Inc. for \$6,627,700

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will be voting on the selection of Sorensen Gross Company at its February meeting, says Lepe.

The center's budget for the renovation project and temporary relocation of programs is \$8 million. The funding has already been allocated and is ready to be spent.

"It was all from reserve funds," says George Sachs, executive director of the center. "There's no additional funding required, no bonds, no tax increases, none of that. It's there and we're going to use what we've got."

The new extended lobby will expand into an enclosed, outdoor courtyard in the center of the building.



The final design of the renovation plan was approved by the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on April 16, 2016.

The low bid of \$5.1 million is lower than what the center anticipated. "It allows us for a little cushion for contingency funding," Sachs says.

THE CURRENT BUILDING is approximately 51,000 square-feet. The project will renovate approximately 33,000 square-feet of the original building.

"There are a couple of things that

we don't have that we will be adding and enhancing the site," says Sachs.

The indoor work will improve the administration suite and bring the building up to compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. New meeting rooms, a multipurpose room and an expanded lobby will also be added to the building, providing it with 7,700 square-feet of additional



space.

The multipurpose room will be outfitted with flooring and mirrors to accommodate the center's dance programs, according to Sachs.

The Duval Art Studio, Alden Theater and recently-renovated kitchen will not be worked on during the project.

Exterior work includes an upgrade to the center's existing stormwater management system, additional parking spaces, a new front entrance design and the enclosure of the existing outdoor courtyard.

"It will be a nice landscaped facility right in the middle of the center," says Sachs.

DURING THE RENOVATION, most of the center's classes will be held at 6645 Old Dominion Drive in the McLean Square Shopping Center. The temporary location has four classrooms and will also house the center's registration office.

However, all the center's dance programs will need to be moved to a separate location.

"We have a church that we're working a rental agreement with," says Sachs. "We have high hopes for it."

Though Sachs cannot discuss the specifics until an agreement is finalized, he says the church is located within the center's tax district.

MCC's administrative offices will also be temporarily moved to the shopping center at 6631 Old Dominion Drive on the first floor of the Century 21 New Millennium building. This space will house the executive director, finance, facilities and public information offices.

McLean Citizens Urge County to Address Its Multi-Billion-Dollar Problem

Two resolutions call attention to county's pension system.

By FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Citizens in McLean are worried about the county's pension system and the county's inability to pay for the obligations it owes its retirees.

"The current pension fund for county employees is underfunded and it's getting worse," says Jeff Barnett, president of the McLean Citizens Association.

His group unanimously approved two resolutions that call attention to the system's financial state during a meeting of its board of directors on Wednesday, Jan. 4.

"We're trying to bring to [the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors'] attention the magnitude of the problem," Dale Stein, the chair of the group's Budget and Taxation Committee, said during the meeting.

In total, the county is borrowing \$4.7 billion to make up for the shortfall in payment obligations for retirees, which the county will need to pay back with interest, according to Stein.

"This is not cheap money ... it is the single biggest part of the financial structure for the county," Stein said. "Now is the time to address this financial crisis with substantial and urgent restrictions to the pension plan."

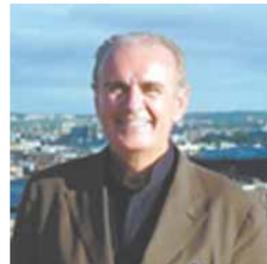
The Fairfax County government has received a AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch Investors Service bond rating agencies. However, these agencies—Moody's in particular—have expressed concern that the county's pension systems are not adequately funded.

THE COUNTY has maintained its AAA rating since 1978, which has been critical for the county to receive affordable debt service and access to funds in support of capital projects. But the unfunded



Jeff Weiler, the executive director of the county's Retirement Administration Agency, says he doesn't think there is a crisis. "I'm very confident that we can achieve full funding of all three of our pension plans in the foreseeable future ... in terms of our funded status, ours are in an OK realm," he said.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Jeff Barnett, president of the McLean Citizens Association, and his group think Fairfax County faces a potential budget crisis arising from its inability to adequately fund its pension obligations. "The current pension fund for county employees is underfunded and it's getting worse," he said.

pension liability is a constant threat to the county's rating. Since 2015, the county's unfunded pension liability has increased by \$1 billion, according to Stein. The MCA is worried this increase could cause Moody's

further concern about the county's creditworthiness.

The Fairfax County Employees' Retirement System comprises three separate pension plans for county employees: The Employees' System for civilian general county employees; the Police Officers System for sworn police officers; and the Uniformed System for fire and rescue uniformed personnel, the Sheriff's Office, the Department of Public Safety Communications, the Animal Control Services, helicopter pilots and park police.

The MCA resolutions focused solely on this system. The Fairfax County Public Schools also manages and funds a separate Educational Employees' Supplementary Retirement System for FCPS personnel who are employed full-time in educational, administrative and support positions.

"Pension obligations are crowding out our capital investments," Louise Epstein, the chair of the group's Education and Youth Committee, said during the meeting. "We need to do something."

What the MCA is urging the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to do is immediately end the county's Pre-Social Security Supplement for all new employees and for employees who do not have vested retirement benefits. This benefit pays retirees a supplemental amount if they choose to retire before they are eligible to receive their full Social Security payment.

The resolutions originally called for ending this benefit for both vested and unvested employees, but was quickly changed when it became a point of contention for board members.

"That benefit may have been reasonable at other times, but given the poor condition of the current funding for the pension plan, we believe that that needs, at the very least, a stringent review," says Barnett.

THE MCA is also urging the Board of Supervisors to establish a commission to review the county-managed pension obligations. MCA wants the commission to study options to reduce the growth in future pension obligations and to publish a report in

2017 that would guide corrective action to be taken by fiscal year 2019.

"The Board of Supervisors are the only ones that can change the funding policy or benefits or anything in our system, but I can tell you the county takes it very seriously that they need to fund the benefits that have been promised to our current and future retirees," says Jeff Weiler, the executive director of the county's Retirement Administration Agency.

The county has established a goal to reach a 90 percent funding status for all plans by fiscal year 2025 and changes have already been made.

The county's fiscal year 2016 budget included a \$8.57 million increase for fiduciary requirements associated with the county's retirement systems.

Considering the funding goal, the county also mandated that any additional unfunded liability created because of approved benefit enhancements, such as ad-hoc cost of living adjustments (COLAs), would have to be fully funded up front. This new policy ensures that no adjustments to benefit levels would reduce the funded status of any of the systems.

Weiler estimates that the county could achieve 100 percent funding for its pension system between 2030 and 2035. This projection is partially dependent on the financial market and whether his agency meets all prior targets.

"I don't think there's a crisis at all ... I'm very confident that we can achieve full funding of all three of our pension plans in the foreseeable future ... in terms of our funded status, ours are in an OK realm," says Weiler. "They need to improve and the county is committed to helping us do that."

As of June 30, 2016, the Employees' System is 70 percent funded; the Police Officers System is 81 percent funded; and the Uniformed System is 77 percent funded, according to Weiler.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH TUDAN

Members of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area marched to protect voting rights. (From left) Wendy Fox-Grage, co-president of LWVFA; Beth Tudan, executive director of LWVFA; Judy Laney; Cathy Wasilewski; Naysa Kury; Dot Artz.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN LOVAAS

Crowd filling metro train at 7:35 a.m. at Wiehle Station in Reston. Not an exaggeration to say thousands came from Reston alone. Heavy volume lasted from 6 a.m. to almost 12 noon.

#Democracy Looks Like This

Area residents join eventful Inauguration weekend in Washington.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

More than 500,000 people flooded the nation's capital Saturday, greeting President Donald Trump with a simple message on his first full day in office. "Welcome to your first day. We will not go away," marchers chanted.

While many who marched, chanted and rallied hailed from states as far away as Alaska and Hawaii, thousands of locals made the march too.

Shawna Tunnell, a McLean mom and attorney, boarded the Silver Line in Tysons at 8 a.m. - her 10-year-old daughter, Sheridan Kanski, and goddaughter, Eleanor Ross of Vienna, also 10, in tow.

"I marched because I've worked too hard raising my smart, caring children to let the people now taking power damage their future," Tunnell said.

"I wanted the girls to be here too, to understand that sometimes it's important to make the effort to stand up for their rights," Tunnell said.

Another area participant, Beth Tudan, a Vienna mom and executive director of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, said the LWVFA featured the event on its Facebook page, and drew about 150 people from across the area - as well as other states - to the march.

Tudan was already planning to march with several neighbors when she learned that the national office of the League of Women Voters had become an official partner of the Women's March.

Chris Carson, the national LWV president, said in a statement: "We march for voting rights. We march to reform money in politics. We march for health care. We march for the environment. These are our core issues and we want to ensure they are front and center."



PHOTO BY ELEANOR ROSS

Sheridan Kanski, 10, of McLean, gives her mom, Shawna Tunnell, a big hug for bringing her to Saturday's "Women's March on Washington."

"It's really about fairness," Tudan said. "Voting is a fairness issue, and it's key to our democracy."

Not surprisingly, she said, one of the chants that received widespread social media attention was this call and response: "What does democracy look like?"

"This is what democracy looks like!"

The Women's March on Washington turned out to be one of the largest demonstrations in the city's history, according to

city officials, drawing more than 500,000 participants.

The march was scheduled to follow on the heels of Friday's Inauguration of the 45th president, Donald Trump. Many from all over the country journeyed to Washington to witness the pomp and circumstance of the inauguration events.



PHOTO BY SCOTT FLESCH

Timothy Flesch of Vienna (front row, center), a sophomore at James Madison High School, marched in the Inaugural Parade as part of the Inaugural Eagle Scout Honor Guard.

James Madison sophomore Tim Flesch of Vienna got to do more than simply witness the inauguration festivities. He marched in the Inaugural Parade as part of the Inaugural Eagle Scout Honor Guard.

"This was a great opportunity for our family," said Scott Flesch. "Our relatives out of town even caught Tim's close-up on national news."

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 26

"Arts Night Out" 6:30 - 9 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. MPA Exhibitions Director, Nancy Sausser, will guide us through the artwork on exhibit with an insightful Art Talk at 7:45 p.m. All proceeds from this benefit will be donated to local charities. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. For more information and to order tickets visit www.ndwc.org.

FRIDAY, JAN. 27

McLean Art Society Meeting with Oil Painter Pattie Hipscher 10 - noon McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. Ms. Hipscher teaches at the Washington Art League and is a recent recipient of an award from The Arlington Artist's Alliance for a portrait of her son. 703-790-0123.

Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips Bazooka Ball Sports 3:30 - 10 p.m. Join the staff at The Old Firehouse as they go to Bazooka Ball Sports to play two versions of indoor, paint-less paintball, using Nerf and airsoft balls instead of actual paintballs. Pizza, arcade tokens and two hours of Bazooka Ball are included in the fee. A signed waiver is required by Bazooka Ball for participation. \$40/\$30 MCC district residents.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY/JAN. 27 & 28

The Art of Marriage Friday 6:45 - 9 p.m. Saturday 9 - 3 p.m. When you were standing at the altar reciting your marriage vows, did you have any idea that marriage would

be so complex? It probably didn't take you long to understand that your spouse is not as much like you as you thought. But figuring them out is more than just an equation. Marriage is more than a science; it's an art. And like any art form, requires an investment of time, focused study and the right tools. If you need to soften some of the edges in your relationship, or want to brighten the landscape of your marriage, The Art of Marriage is for you. \$60 Early Registration by January 12. viennapres.org/strengthen-your-marriage

SATURDAY, JAN. 28

Virginia's Indian Tribes 10 - 12 a.m. McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Ave. Most Virginians have no idea about the 11 present-day Virginia tribes, the issues they've encountered, or how they continue to thrive. For a fascinating look at their past and present the McLean Area AAUW invites you to hear Karenne Wood, a member of the Monacan Indian Nation and director, Virginia Indian Heritage Program, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Cost: free.

"Flamenco 101: An Overview of Flamenco History and Styles" 6:30 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. A lecture and Q&A session with Flamenco educator Estela Vélez de Paredez that will deepen your understanding of flamenco dance and make your experience watching Flamenco Vivo/Carlota Santana much richer. \$5/\$3 MCC tax district residents.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS
Present

Stephen Sondheim's Ground-Breaking Musical! Opens Friday, Feb 3!



Book by
George Furth

Music and Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim

Originally produced and directed on Broadway by Harold Prince
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Directed by Sharon Veselic
Produced by Jerry Gideon and Claire Tse

Alden Theatre • McLean Community Center

February 3-19

Friday and Saturday, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: 866.811.4111 OR www.McLeanPlayers.org

The McLean Community Players, Inc. is funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

See The Accessibility page at www.McLeanPlayers.org for dates of Audio-described and ASL-interpreted performances

Suitable for ages 17 and older

COMPANY is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

CONNECT WITH MCP: [FACEBOOK.COM/MCLEANPLAYERS](https://www.facebook.com/McLeanPlayers)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Run for a Seat on the McLean Community Center Governing Board



PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTIONS MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER GOVERNING BOARD SMALL DISTRICT 1A OF THE DRANESVILLE DISTRICT FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA



This OFFICIAL NOTICE of elections to select members of the 2017-2018 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center (the Governing Board) is given to residents of Small District 1A of the Dranesville District, Fairfax County, Virginia (referred to as "Small District 1A"). The McLean Community Center (MCC) operates as a Special District Agency of the Fairfax County Government through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Governing Board. On February 8, 1984, the Board of Supervisors approved the Memorandum of Understanding, which authorizes the elections. The MCC is funded by residents of Small District 1A in Greater McLean for their use through a real estate tax surcharge, the result of a 1970 Small District 1A bond referendum.

Elections are held on **McLean Day** at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia. This year, McLean Day is on **Saturday, May 20, 2017. Voting on McLean Day takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Candidate Qualifications:

Each resident who lives within Small District 1A is eligible to run for a seat on the Governing Board within the appropriate category. If you need help determining whether you reside in Small District 1A, please contact the MCC at 703-744-9348, or by emailing elections@mcleancenter.org.

ADULTS: Candidates must be residents of Small District 1A and must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on or before May 20, 2017.

TEENS: Candidates must be 15, 16, or 17 years old on or before May 20, 2017, live within Small district 1A, and live in the boundary area for either Langley or McLean high schools. You **do not** have to attend either high school. You may attend another school, including one that is outside of Small District 1A, or you may be home schooled. You can only run for the seat representing the high school boundary area where you live.

Available Governing Board Seats and Terms:

Three (3) adult Governing Board seats will be filled through the election. The candidates who receive the three (3) highest numbers of votes will serve three-year terms on the Governing Board.

One (1) Governing Board youth seat for teens living within the Langley High School boundary area will be filled for a one-year term.

One (1) Governing Board youth seat for teens living within the McLean High School boundary area will be filled for a one-year term.

Candidate Petitions Requirements:

ADULTS: Must get the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District 1A who are 18 years old or older on or before May 20, 2017.

TEENS: Must get the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District 1A who are 15, 16, or 17 years old on or before

May 20, 2017, and who live within the same high school boundary area as the candidate.

Petition Packets containing a petition, instructions, and all pertinent paperwork may be obtained at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia, 22101. Candidates must pick up and return their own petitions.

DEADLINE: Each resident seeking election to the Governing Board shall file a completed petition with the MCC at the address shown below **by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2016:**

**McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue
McLean VA 22101**

For more information about the elections, please call 703-744-9348, go to www.mcleancenter.org/about/candidates, or email the MCC at elections@mcleancenter.org.

Merrily Pierce, Chair
Elections & Nominations Committee
McLean Community Center Governing Board

NOTICE: Due to the renovation of the Ingleside Avenue facility, effective Monday, April 3, MCC will relocate to the McLean Square Shopping Center. The majority of MCC's classes will be held at 6645 Old Dominion Dr., McLean, VA 22101. MCC's administrative offices will be located at 6631 Old Dominion Dr. (on the first floor of the Century 21 New Millennium building).



PHOTO BY IRISH EYES PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOBY/
COURTESY OF MCLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Bobby (Matt Liptak) gets in the middle of a fight between Sarah (Carla Crawford) and Harry (Scott Graham) in a 'Company' rehearsal photo. McLean Community Players present 'Company' at the Alden Theatre in the McLean Community Center on weekend Feb. 3 to Feb. 19, 2017.

Funny and Bittersweet

McLean Community Players present musical "Company" at The Alden.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Under the direction of Sharon Veselic (Herndon), the McLean Community Players (MCP) are bringing a fresh perspective to Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award winning, musical "Company."

The richly celebrated "Company" is a groundbreaking musical-comedy. It looks into being single, relationships, and marriage as a 30-something man named Robert has major fears of commitment. The musical takes place as he is about to spend quality time with his best friends; five married couples.

In an interview with Veselic she spoke of directing a fresh "Company" for MCP audiences. "This is a new 'Company' that will take the '60s mannequin characterizations, and bring them into the present time.

"Every show evolves, changes, adapts and recreates itself within the original script," said Veselic. "The time period will remain, but the characters are now more thoughtful, sensitive and searching within."

"In this production, the goal is to give the audience a 'thinking' cast of New Yorkers—not the version of the hard, unlikable, bitter characters of the past," said Veselic.

The Sondheim musical numbers pack a wallop about love lost and life's uncertainties in both serious and comic manners. The iconic show features Broadway musical standards such as "Getting Married Today," "The Ladies Who Lunch," "Being Alive," and "Barcelona."

Northern Virginia award-winning music director John Edward

Where and When

McLean Community Players present "Company" at the Alden Theatre in the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Performances on weekend Feb. 3 to Feb. 19, 2017. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$23-\$25. Visit www.mcleanplayers.org or call OvationTix at 866-811-4111

Niles will direct a 9-member orchestra through Sondheim's fifteen musical numbers. Local dance instructor and choreographer Melanie Barber will direct the dance sequences.

In a recent roundtable interview, MCP performers including Matt Liptak who plays Robert, Cara Crawford, Sharon Grant, Melissa Pieja and Alana Sharp made clear that the personal issues "Company" spotlighted remain; even with the digital world and social media. Finding the "right" person to love, having best friends and a full life all matter.

Both Liptak and Veselic emphasized that the McLean Community Players' "Company" will be "uplifting for audiences old and new to the show. For those who have seen the show before, the characters will be less cynical and cold. For those who may be unfamiliar with 'Company' the characters will be alive, likeable and not merely one-dimensional caricatures.

No matter an audience member's generation or familiarity with Stephen Sondheim's celebrated "Company," the McLean Community Players promises to explore emotional attachments, fears of commitment, marriage and friendship through marvelous award-winning, well-sung musical numbers.

The evening all begins with a doorbell ring to invite audiences to become best friends with the McLean Community Players' "Company."

WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY, JAN. 27

McLean Art Society Meeting with Oil Painter Pattie Hipscher 10 - noon McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. Ms. Hipscher teaches at the Washington Art League and is a recent recipient of an award from The Arlington Artist's Alliance for a portrait of her son. 703-790-0123.

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"Flamenco 101: An Overview of Flamenco History and Styles" 6:30 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. A lecture and Q&A session with Flamenco educator Estela Vélez de Paredez that will deepen your understanding of flamenco dance and make your experience watching Flamenco Vivo/Carlota Santana much richer. \$5/\$3 MCC tax district residents.

Flamenco Vivo/Carlota Santana 8 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. You'll forget all about the winter weather outside when Flamenco Vivo/Carlota Santana heats up The Alden. Flamenco Vivo brings an exciting evening of flamenco to the stage featuring accomplished artists from the U.S. and Spain. \$35/\$20 MCC tax district residents.

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

The Sixth Annual McLean Chocolate Festival, 1 a.m. to 5 p.m. The McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The admission fee is \$2 per person. Children age six and under are admitted free. Buy treats to eat on site or stock up for Valentine's Day. Featured on the Festival Stage will be performances by Ukulele Phil and the Hula Kids at 1:30 p.m., and bluegrass music by Mike Mitchell and the Wildman's at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Ongoing demonstrations of colonial American chocolate-making will be presented by American Heritage, a Mars company. There will be plenty of free parking. www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org

Capitol Steps Fundraiser 7 p.m. Langley High School Auditorium 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Capitol Steps are a DC-based troupe of Congressional staffers who put the "MOCK" in democracy. They'll be performing their musical satire. Their latest program, "What to Expect When You're Electing," is updated with material from the recent election and is hilarious. Tickets are on sale NOW and can be purchased by emailing: missyperkins72@gmail.com Cost: \$30.00.

FRIDAYS-SUNDAYS/FEB. 3-19

McLean Community Players "Company." 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. A 1970 musical comedy based on a book by George Furth with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The original production was nominated for a record-setting fourteen Tony Awards and won seven. \$25/\$23 MCC tax district residents. Visit <http://www.mcleanplayers.org/>

'Poema de Andalucía' at The Alden on Saturday, Jan. 28

New York City's Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana, one of the nation's premier flamenco and Spanish dance companies, comes to The Alden at the McLean Community Center (MCC) for a single performance at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28. Tickets are \$35 for the general public, \$20 for MCC tax district residents. The theatre is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue. Tickets are on sale now. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.



The McLean Chocolate Festival will be held on Sunday Jan. 29 from 1 to 5 p.m. at The McLean Community Center located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Admission is \$2 per person. Children age six and under are admitted free. Buy treats to eat on site or stock up for Valentine's Day. Featured on the Festival Stage will be performances by Ukulele Phil and the Hula Kids at 1:30 p.m., and bluegrass music by Mike Mitchell and the Wildman's at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Ongoing demonstrations of colonial American chocolate-making will be presented by American Heritage, a Mars company. There will be plenty of free parking. www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 8

Storytime: Valentine's Day 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons Corner Center 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center McLean. It's almost Valentine's Day! Join us for a Valentine themed Storytime.

FRIDAY/FEB. 10

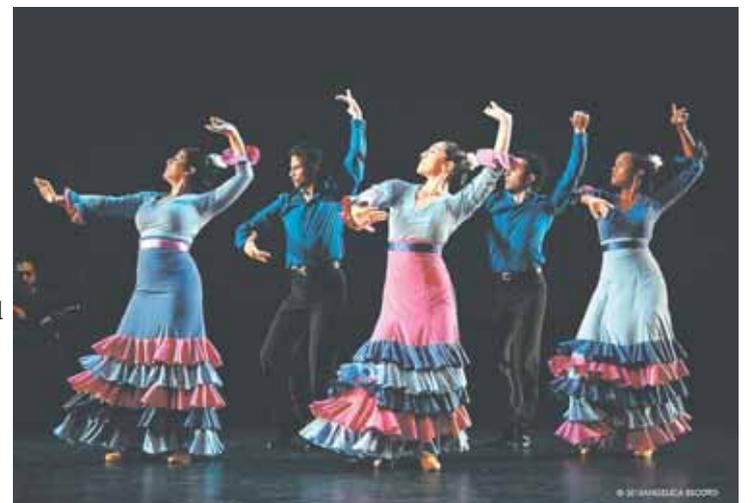
Valentine's Day Arts & Crafts Hour 11 - noon Once Upon A Dream, 527 Maple Ave E #200, Vienna. There will be arts & crafts to celebrate Valentine's Day. Additional \$5 per child.

SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Concert: The Daraja Ensemble 4 - 6 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church 9220 Georgetown Pike Great Falls, VA 22066. This fellowship woodwind quintet from the University of Maryland takes its name from the Swahili word for "bridge." Coming together from around the country and abroad, their wide-ranging performances include ongoing outreach to Tanzania. Cost: Season pass \$150 or \$30 at the door. Visit: <http://amadeusconcerts.com/>

SATURDAY/MARCH 4

Wine Tasting River Bend Country Club 7 - 10 p.m. There will be a delicious selection of Hors d'oeuvres, cheeses and fine wines and mingling with long-time and new Great Falls neighbors.



CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

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SUNDAY/JAN. 29

BASIS Independent McLean Information Session 8000 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. 11 a.m. Learn more about our school's philosophy and program offerings, and meet the Head of School. Cost: Free. asha@ashapr.com <http://mclean.basisindependent.com>

BASIS Independent McLean Pre-K & Kindergarten Open House 8000 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. 1 p.m. Join us for a special event with leadership, faculty, and staff from BASIS Independent McLean, a PreK-12 private school. "Meet and Greet" our teaching staff and tour our state-of-the-art campus. This is an event that offers an excellent opportunity to learn more about what makes our school a dynamic, engaging, and content-rich place for high-level learning. Cost: Free. asha@ashapr.com <http://mclean.basisindependent.com>

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Learn as if you
were to live
forever; live as if
you were going to
die tomorrow.

—John Wooden



Saint Ann Catholic Church

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2/1/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
2/1/2017.....Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month
2/8/2017.....HomeLifeStyle
2/8/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
Valentine's Day is February 14
2/15/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools
2/22/2017.....Connection Families: Pet Connection

MARCH

3/1/2017.....Wellbeing
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Whew



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

How do you spell relief? ROLAIDS? Hardly. I spell relief: "Mr. Lourie, your scan remains stable." News, as I'm extremely fond of continuing to say, "I can live with." And despite the fact that I'm ending the previous sentence with a preposition, I'm sure you can appreciate how relieved I am to be 'stable,' and how amazing it is to hear my oncologist characterize me as his "miracle" (not possessive really, more descriptive). So life goes on, for another three months anyway, until my next scheduled diagnostic scan which this time will include an MRI of the abdomen as well as the CT of the lungs to give my oncologist a bit more information to more thoroughly evaluate my condition/status. Having been there and done both previously, the prospect doesn't really concern me. Although it's easy to be a big shot now, three months out, especially after receiving a good report. Perhaps my columns in April will be a bit more realistic — given that my life will once again be on the tomography/resonance-imaging-line.

Planning for the future however begins with yours truly assessing the present and wondering why I was so nervous the days before the scan and of course the two days after, until we saw the oncologist and received the results. I mean it's not as if my life — and quality of life — isn't at stake when these scans are interpreted; nevertheless, stressing about it doesn't help, or should I say, doesn't enhance my prospects. Somehow, integrating/assimilating the stress and anxiety of it all and not giving cancer its due must remain a major part of the psychological solution. I can't give into it emotionally and for some reason, that's exactly what I did this past week. I need to learn from my mistake. Though I'm sure it's understandable under the death-defying circumstances, it's not helpful. It may even be harmful.

I should know better, and I have known better; that's what's peculiar here. Moreover, I'm usually up for the challenge. In fact, I take pride in my ability to take on the challenge. Heck, it's not exactly my first dance with the devil so what's the fuss? The 'fuss' is obvious but fussing over things/outcomes I can't control is not the process that works here. Going with the flow, taking the good with the bad (and vice versa), not putting any part of the cart before the horse meaning: not presuming any negative facts not yet in evidence and most importantly, as the band "Wet Willie" sang in the 1970s, you've got to "Keep on Smilin.'" Humor may not truly be the best medicine, but laughing and joking is hardly the problem.

Cancer is the problem, but sometimes the patient/me is the problem. As Moe Howard said to his brother Shemp in a Three Stooges short entitled "Pardon My Backfire:" "Every time you think you weaken the nation." And though I don't want to weaken my nation/resolve with respect to my underlying disease, occasionally, as perhaps happened this past post-scan week, I get caught up in my own circumstances and think too much, and lose some cohesion and poise. Neither of which a cancer patient can afford to lose. I know — as a cancer patient/survivor — that if I do receive bad/disappointing news, it will be bad enough when I receive it so thinking/worrying that the news will be/could be bad before I actually learn that it's bad is a complete waste of valuable emotional where-withal. Wherewithal that I'll possibly need later should the news in fact be bad. What my survival has taught me is that even after initially receiving some very discouraging life expectancy statistics for lung cancer patients from my oncologist back in 2009 when I was originally diagnosed, one might still have a future. I'm living proof of that. And it just might be the present that provides the means, justified or not.

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

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Public Notice:
Proposal to Voluntarily Remediate a Property

There is contamination from Petroleum impacted soil on site at Gilliam Place, 3507 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working with Gilliam Place LLC c/o Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) to develop a Remedial Action Plan to address cleanup of petroleum hydrocarbons at the site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup please contact Vincent Maiden, P.G., Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Northern Regional Office, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23218, Vincent.Maiden@deq.virginia.gov or Jason Beck, C.P.G., Senior Environmental Project Manager, ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC, 703-471-8400, jbeck@ecslimited.com

As part of the remedial action process a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was submitted to the Northern Regional Office of DEQ on January 10, 2017, which allows for corrective action at the property to begin immediately. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed RAP with the staff of DEQ, please feel free to contact the Corrective Action Project Manager, Vincent Maiden, whose contact information is listed above. You may also contact Jason Beck, the environmental consultant for Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, whose contact information is listed above. DEQ will consider written comments regarding the proposed Remedial Action Plan until February 24, 2017 and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is a significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to DEQ at the address listed above. DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; VRP Case # 00664.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
JD Sisters, Inc., trading as Aroma Indian Cuisine, 4052 Campbell Ave. Arlington, VA 22206. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On Premises; Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jyoti Chhatwal, 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 or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC NOTICE
Maru, Inc trading as Maru Korean Cuisine & Sushi, 128 Maple Ave West, Vienna, VA 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Chun Ki Lee, President/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.

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Head of school of BASIS Independent McLean (BIM), Sean Aiken discusses electoral process with BIM students.

BASIS Independent McLean Elects Its New Mascot by Student-Designed Election Process

BASIS Independent McLean started its inaugural year this fall in McLean, Tysons Corner's first k-12 school, and quickly went to work on the election process to vote in their first school mascot, the BASIS Independent McLean Bobcats. The student-designed electoral process, led by BASIS Independent McLean ninth grader, Rohit Narayanan, mimicked a voting system similar to the United States, and provided a learning tool for students to understand the electoral process during the recent presidential election. For more information on the school, go to <http://mclean.basisindependent.com>.

Although the BASIS Independent McLean students selected the Bobcat name, they are now dealing with post-election results, as they became aware that two other BASIS ed campuses already claim the Bobcat school mascot. A lesson in innovation and leadership, Narayanan and students leaders will be discussing their options to maintain the similar mascot or to review and vote from their secondary mascot selections. Students are now distributing a student-pro-

duced public service announcement to take an opinion poll to see if students want a special election. If so, students will have time to campaign and create materials that work for all grade levels.

"This has been a rigorous electoral process," said Rohit Narayanan, ninth grader at BASIS Independent McLean and lead on mascot voting process.

"We all know this was a big presidential election year, and so we thought it timely to weave in our student-led election process and use it as a way to teach the students about our country's electoral voting process, while the students take the lead at every stage," said Sean Aiken, head of school, BASIS Independent McLean. "No process is perfect, and our students are getting to learn that as well, as we re-evaluate our mascot options since our first choice was already picked by our sister campuses," said Aiken.

BASIS Independent McLean is located at 8000 Jones Branch Drive in McLean. Visit them at <http://mclean.basisindependent.com>.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

Home Seller Seminar: Become A Savvy Seller. Free, no obligation, offered by Lyons McGuire Homes & Estates of Keller Williams Realty. Speakers include a professional stager, organizer, & photographer. Learn insider secrets to getting the most money for your home. 1-4 p.m. at Keller Williams, Great Falls, 774-A Walker Rd. Great Falls. RSVP: LyonsMcGuire@LyonsMcGuire.com

FEBRUARY

Free public service seminars -
 -Decluttering: Feb. 2, McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Rd., McLean.
 -Aging in Place: Feb. 8, Falls Church H.S., 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church.
 -Downsizing: Feb. 14, Marshall H.S. 7731 Leesburg Pk., Falls Church.
 -Retirement Communities Feb. 22, Madison H.S., 2500 James Madison Dr., Vienna.
 For more information and seminar registration go to RetireeRealEstate.org, or call 703-772-3033.

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Below is a listing of our Winter/Spring offerings. A graphic with information is also available at: <https://britepaths.org/news/get-financially-fit-new-year>

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