



McLean CONNECTION

McLean High School students work on stories for "The Highlander," magazine in a print journalism class. "The Highlander" editor, Melanie Pincus, has been honored as Virginia Journalist of the Year by the Virginia Association of Journalism Teachers and Advisers.

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PHOTO BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION



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McLean Student Wins Statewide Award for Journalism

Melanie Pincus honored by Virginia Association of Journalism Teachers and Advisers.

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Melanie Pincus and her teacher and adviser, Lindsay Benedict sit in “The Highlander” newsmagazine room at McLean High school. Every semester Pincus, a senior and second-year editor of the magazine spends a few late evenings a month with Benedict finalizing the articles, photos, and advertisements for the magazine.

“We are collaborating on the magazine, and Melanie is in a leadership role to her peers. As an editor she can look ahead to see the future and the bigger picture,” said Benedict, 33, journalism teacher at McLean High.

1,700 copies of the magazine come out seven times a year. The Highlander is completely self-funded by advertising with a student business manager, who this year is a freshman.

Recently, Pincus’s work and investigative



Melanie Pincus, editor of “The Highlander” and senior at McLean high school (left) and Lindsay Benedict, journalism teacher.

PHOTOS BY
COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

reporting won her an award for Virginia Journalist of the Year. The contest is hosted by the Virginia Association of Journalism Teachers and Advisers (VAJTA).

It was a competition for multimedia journalism, but Benedict said that Melanie’s writing ability is what set her apart. “First Place in newswriting stands out to me as showing good journalism” said Benedict.

According to her teacher, Pincus has other abilities that set her attitude towards journalism apart from other students. “She was always the student who was willing to go out and get the story,” said Benedict. “If there was a protest in McLean, Melanie said I’m going to go cover it.”

Pincus went out and got pictures and in-

terviews of the protest and she won an award for her reporting. She also did an article on teachers’ salaries that was well received.

O t h e r Fairfax County Public School students also won awards. Teagan Foti of Annandale High School won second place honors in the statewide competition and Nina Ranases of



West Potomac High School won third place.

In addition, Pincus was an intern for the Connection Newspapers last summer, and recalls writing stories on local events and town hall meetings.

“I got to do fact checking and reporting when I worked at the Connection Newspapers,” she said.

The latest issue of “The Highlander” has a photo titled “Beyond Gender,” and is the cover story of February’s issue.

“Gender identity is really relevant right now,” she said.

She enjoys getting to know the stories of her fellow students, and has taken full advantage of the journalism education that McLean High school has provided her with.

February’s issue of “The Highlander” focuses on gender identity, an increasingly relevant social issue in high schools across the country.

Pincus said that working on “The Highlander” magazine has shaped her high school experience. “The high school administration has always been supportive of us and the student body is inter-

ested,” she added.

Reflecting on her award, Pincus said, “I was really excited. I felt strange, but I guess I have been doing something right!”

McLean Citizens Urge More Changes to FCPS Pensions

McLean, Great Falls Citizens Associations discuss county teachers’ pension system.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Avocal McLean citizens group wants to see more changes to the pension system for Fairfax County Public School employees.

The McLean Citizens Association approved a resolution that was critical of the FCPS Educational Employees’ Supplementary Retirement System of Fairfax County (ERFC) pension system during its Board of Director meeting on Tuesday, March 1.

The MCA’s resolution urges the FCPS Board to immediately establish an independent pension task force to make the ERFC “financially sustainable without consuming a greater share of Fairfax County resources.”

“We’re going to try to rescue a pension for the benefit of those who were made promises to receive benefits and for the benefit of citizens who would like the county’s money to be spent on more than

just pensions,” said Steve DelBianco, MCA board member, during the meeting.

As of June 30, 2016, the ERFC was underfunded by \$830 million, according to the MCA.

“There’s a serious problem for God’s sakes,” said Dale Stein, MCA’s Budget and Taxation Committee chair, during the meeting. “It’s going to crowd out other expenditures.”

This would not be the first time the pension system was reviewed.

In May 2016, the Aon Hewitt consulting firm completed a “Retirement Plans Study” that

assessed the retirement benefits for newly hired FCPS employees.

The study concluded that newly hired FCPS employees are expected to retire with lower retirement benefit values when compared to the county’s other employee pension plans.

But members of the MCA were critical of this study and questioned its objectivity since the FCPS commissioned the study.

“What the Aon Hewitt report did not analyze was—because they weren’t asked to—they didn’t analyze the extent to which the pension plan was underfunded,” Louise Epstein, MCA’s Education and Youth Committee Chair, said during the meeting. “They didn’t analyze the impact on county finances, including the crowding out of other expenses. They didn’t analyze discrepancies between what they call the discount rate and actual returns and the comparative costs of different plans between [the county] and other employers, and they chose assumptions that tended to support the conclusions they reached.”

The FCPS is not oblivious to the need for reform.

The FCPS is currently considering implementing \$4.7 million in reductions to its pension system by June in time for the fiscal year 2018 budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS include lowering the interest crediting rate on all ERFC member accounts from 5 percent to 4 percent. The FCPS is considering more changes for new or nonvested ERFC members, including instituting a minimum retirement age of 55; increasing the period for calculating the final average salary from three years to

five years; and changing the cost-of-living adjustment to equal 100 percent of the Consumer Price Index with a cap of 4 percent.

While the MCA supports these options, the association only sees them as interim cost-savings measures and wants to see more reductions. In MCA’s resolution, it expects FCPS to implement the proposed task force’s recommendations in time for its fiscal year 2019 budget.

The handful of teachers in the audience were not happy, audibly huffing as board members argued in favor of the resolution and clapping for the two members who stated their reasons for voting against the resolutions. The teachers were not allowed to testify at the meeting.

“They don’t care whether or not we can live in their community,” said Mimi Dash, spokesperson for the Fairfax Employee Pension Coalition. “They care that their taxes are going up.”

She was one of a handful of pension beneficiaries who attended the meeting in opposition to the resolution.

“Why do I continue to put forth my

SEE FCPS PENSIONS. PAGE 5

Chief Releases Name of Officer in Shooting Death

Officer used deadly force in two prior cases, both determined to be lawfully justified.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Chief of Police Edwin Roessler has named 16-year veteran Master Police Officer Lance Guckenberger as the officer who used deadly force, killing Mohammad Azim Doudzai at his home in Herndon, the scene of a double shooting and barricade incident on Jan. 16.

Roessler released the name of the officer March 2, after a protracted risk assessment and court action by the officer seeking a restraining order to stop the release of his name. This is the first FCPD officer-involved shooting since the Board of Supervisors adopted recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, including releasing the name of the officer within 10 days of an officer-involved deployment of deadly force unless the chief determines that more time is needed to investigate or mitigate a credible threat to the officer and/or family.

Police say two men were shot inside Doudzai's house, in the 13300 block of Cov-

ered Wagon Lane in Herndon. Officers from the Reston District station responded around 2.40 p.m. on Jan. 16, after the shooting victims had already gone to the hospital. A third man was trapped inside the home with Doudzai, who police said was armed with both a gun and at least one knife. Adding to the danger of the scene were flames and smoke coming from the residence, police said.

In an attempt to de-escalate the situation, members of the Crisis Negotiations team and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team were called in to negotiate with Doudzai. Guckenberger is assigned to the Special Operations Division responsible for both those teams.

Doudzai eventually came to the front door, where Roessler said both less-lethal and deadly force were used to bring him down.

In a press conference from the scene of the incident, Roessler said the less-lethal force deployed included a taser and 40mm foam bullet. The deadly force was Guckenberger's service firearm.

The exact sequence of those uses isn't known, but should be determined at the



COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

In a press conference from the scene of the Jan. 16 officer-involved shooting-barricade incident, Chief of Police Edwin Roessler said the less-lethal force deployed included a taser and 40mm foam bullet. The deadly force was MPO Lance Guckenberger's service firearm.

conclusion of the ongoing FCPD investigation, medical examiner's findings and decision from the Commonwealth's Attorney.

A March 2 release from FCPD announcing the officer's name failed to mention the less-lethal force used. FCPD spokesperson MPO Don Gotthardt said in an email that detail was probably not considered due to focus being on the release of the name and

taking care of the officer.

Guckenberger has been involved with two prior cases involving use of deadly force, Roessler said the March 2 release, one in 2005 and one in 2010; in both cases the suspect survived.

The first involved a business holdup on Jan. 14, 2005 in Falls Church and an exchange of gunfire with the suspect in Bailey's Crossroads. Guckenberger received both the Fairfax County Police Silver Medal of Valor and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police's Award for Valor for his actions in 2005 incident for rescuing the store manager, according to press accounts from the time.

The second involved a man with a history of mental illness who was reportedly using narcotics. He fired at officers multiple times, police said, with what turned out to be a BB gun powered by a CO2 cartridge.

"Both of those matters were determined to be lawfully justified uses of force," Roessler said, "in which the officer used great restraint while being exposed to suspects who were using weapons against the involved officer while the officer was attempting to preserve the sanctity of human life for others."

Both criminal and administrative investigations by FCPD into the Jan. 16 incident are ongoing, police said.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

BEGINNING MARCH 9

Lent Meals that Heal. 6-7:30 p.m. each Thursday through April 6 at Great Falls Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Lenten series to focus on hunger, societal issues; features global cuisine and targeted discussion. Visit www.gflutheran.org/lent-and-easter-at-christ-the-king or call 703-759-6068 for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Social Action Linking Together (SALT). 9-11:15 a.m. at the Virginia International University (VIU), in Conference Room (VD-102), 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Legislators will discuss safety net issues in the 2015 General Assembly session. visit www.S-A-L-T.org or contact John Horejsi at jhorejsi@cox.net or Dr. Bilgin at kbilgin@viu.edu for more.

TUESDAY/MARCH 14

Vienna Oakton Chapter of NARFE. at 1 pm at American Legion Post 180, 330 North Center St., Vienna. National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Program will be "My Career in the Federal Government." For information, call 703-938-9757.

THURSDAY/MARCH 16

Caregivers' Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Contact Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.
Fairfax County 2018 Budgets. 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center Community Hall, 1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean. A conversation on Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools 2018 Budgets, with speakers including John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor and Joe Mondoro, CFO, Fairfax County. Visit mcleancitizens.org/ for more.

Juvenile Justice Diversion Efforts Honored

The Center for Juvenile Justice and Reform (CJJR) at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy awarded a Fairfax County team the 2016 Capstone of the Year Award for their efforts and success in redesigning and enhancing the youth diversion and restorative justice program.

Together, they reduced the use of formal processing and incarceration, improved public safety, avoided wasteful spending and limited the collateral consequences of youth who find themselves in the criminal justice system.

The Fairfax County team—comprising several county agencies—participated in the CJJR's 2014 Juvenile Diversion Certificate Program Capstone Project. Together, they created a two-part process aimed at improving diversion policies and practices. One part, the Adolescent Accountability Program (AAP), provided a community alternative to formal criminal charges against youth offenders. The second endeavor was to redesign the juvenile intake process through revised and enhanced use of screening and assessment tools, which enabled court services staff to identify specific needs of individual offenders in order to assign appropriate and individual levels of supervision and treatment options.

The Fairfax County team consisted of law enforcement officers, probation staff, prosecutors, school official, judges, policy makers and other youth-focused leaders. Representatives of the following county agencies participated in the 2014 Juvenile Diversion Certificate Program Capstone Project:

- ❖ Fairfax County Police Department
 - ❖ Court Services Unit
 - ❖ Fairfax County Public Schools
 - ❖ Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services
 - ❖ Northern Virginia Mediation Services
- The Capstone of the Year Award is a prestigious, nationally-recognized award that



PHOTO BY FCPD PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUREAU

Pictured, from left, back row: Shawn Martin (FCPD), Jamie McCarron (JDRDC), Elizabeth Jones (JDRDC), Vickie Shoap (FCPD); Front row: Erin Schaible (FCPD), Tracey Chiles (JDRDC), Lori Winter (JDRDC), Matt Thompson (JDRDC), Courtney Porter (JDRDC), Katrina Smith (JDRDC); Not pictured: Bill Fulton (FCPD), Andy Wehrlen (FCPD), Ailsa Burnett (JDRDC), MaryAnn Panarelli (FCPS)

distinguishes a certificate program participant, or team, who demonstrates the most significant progress in promoting the overall well-being of youth in their community through multi-system approaches.

FCPS Pensions Debated

FROM PAGE 3

time and effort when the community is saying, 'Well, you're not deserving of this,'" said Andre Mayer, an intellectual disabilities teacher at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church.

"They're destabilizing the teacher force by giving people less reason to come to Fairfax and giving people who have the potential of retiring the impetus to retire quickly so they won't get screwed in this deal," said Cheryl Binkley, who recently retired from teaching at George C. Marshall High School in Falls Church. "They are destabilizing the teaching force big time, big time."

Most of FCPS's fiscal year 2018 budget, 89 percent, is allocated to employee compensation, and the county is not looking to reduce or hold flat employee salaries.

FCPS started a compensation study last year and found that teacher pay is "significantly below the market average" in the region, according to Kristen Michael, assistant superintendent of financial services for the FCPS.

That's why the fiscal year 2018 budget includes \$33.2 million to increase teacher salaries. It also allocates \$44 million for an increase in pay of 2.5 percent for all eligible FCPS employees.

"We started this current school year with

approximately 180 vacancies," Michael said during a town hall gathering about the budget in Great Falls.

The event was hosted by the Great Falls Citizens Association, another citizen organization that has been critical of the pension system, on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

THE NUMBER of unfilled teaching positions is unprecedented for the county, according to Michael.

"This is an extremely complex issue which really does require expert input of which no one on our [Education and Youth] committee has," said Kelly Green Kahn, MCA board member, during the meeting.

She voted against the resolution because the urge for pension reform was not paired with the association's recommendations to reform teacher salaries.

"We have a concern about bleeding in the pensions, but in fact we are bleeding in our most important capital which is our teachers," she said.

Tom Brock was the other MCA board member who voted against the resolution. He told the board that teacher salary deficiencies would be only be worsened if the county took their recommendations.

The MCA's Education and Youth Committee will be hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, March 21, at the McLean Governmental Center to discuss teacher compensation.



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Independent, Civilian Oversight in Place

New auditor and panel will make an excellent police force better, more transparent and accountable.

In February, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors followed through in establishing two forms of independent oversight of law enforcement for the first time in county history.

Richard Schott will begin as independent auditor on April 17, reporting directly to the Board of Supervisors.

Nine members have been named to the county's inaugural Civilian Review Panel, chaired by Adrian Steel. More than 140 Fairfax County residents applied to be considered to serve on the panel, and those named appear to have a remarkable set of qualifications.

Independent, civilian oversight of law enforcement is a national best practice.

Schott is a 27-year veteran of the FBI where he specialized in training on officer use of force, civil rights and color of law issues. He worked on the Henry Glover and Danziger Bridge civil rights cases, prosecutions of New Orleans Police Department officers for civil rights violations after Hurricane Katrina.

The Office of the Auditor will handle cases of police use of force that result in serious injury and death and the Civilian Review Panel will handle complaints about Fairfax County Police abuse of authority or misconduct.

These methods of oversight were adopted

by the board following recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, established by Chairman Sharon Bulova in the wake of the police shooting death of John Geer and public reaction to 17 months when FCPD released no information about the case until forced to by court order.

Leadership of FCPD, especially Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr., have embraced the almost all of the 202 recommendations of the commission, which acknowledged the overall excellence of Fairfax County Police.

Nevertheless, the county's first independent auditor will come on board with work to do.

In his mandate to monitor and review internal investigations of Police Department officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths and use-of-force cases in which an individual is killed or seriously injured, Schott will begin with the investigation of the officer-involved shooting death of Herndon resident Mohammad Azim Doudzai in progress.

Among the questions for Schott will be why it took 45 days, rather than the recommended 10 days, to release the name of the officer involved in the shooting. The chief needed the additional time to fully investigate and mitigate any possible threats to the officer and his family, and respond to legal action by the officer seeking to stop the release of his name, a delay permitted by the new policy. The officer

was involved in two other uses of deadly force, one in 2005 and one in 2010, with the suspect wounded but not killed in those two incidents. (The officer received valor awards for the 2005 incident for rescuing the store manager during an armed robbery with shots fired.)

Other questions that we hope the auditor can answer for the public:

According to the chief's statement at the scene on the day of the incident, two officers used less lethal force (taser and foam bullet) while one officer fired his service weapon. Was a supervisor coordinating the plan? What was the sequence of events and uses of force? Was there an attempt to subdue the suspect without deadly force?

Why is so little additional information forthcoming about the incident? Subsequent releases have contained fewer details than were release on the day of the incident. What video exists and when will it be released?

The policy states: "It is important to note the 10 day period is primarily related to the release of officer names and is only designed as a limit to not be exceeded without cause, not a recommended standard, and the board and the public expect the Police Department to release other appropriate preliminary factual information and updates to the public as soon as possible."

Another area of inquiry is analysis of data released last year that indicates 40 percent of the subjects of use of force by FCPD are African American, while only 8 percent of the county population is African American.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Privy to 'Miracle Cures'

To the Editor:

Thank you for your article about the Feb. 24 Town Hall that Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA) skipped. I would like to clarify something.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) question that I asked concerned the science behind one of Ms. Comstock's claims. In one of her telephone town halls I heard her say that one of the ways we'll pay for the Republican ACA replacement will be that we'll cure diseases like cancer and diabetes so that expensive treatment becomes unnecessary.

I was astonished. How exciting!

I am trained as a registered nurse and this is what I reasoned: Because Republicans are trying to repeal the ACA this year and Ms. Comstock cited these cures as important contributors to their new plan, Republicans must have at least early indications of the dollars we'll save.

Ms. Comstock must know about multiple major scientific advances

that are already successfully through clinical trials and (unless they're quick-acting cures) already being put into widespread practice across the country. These cures can't rely on common-sense advice involving diet, exercise and not smoking because Americans are notoriously resistant to behavioral change. So, in her official capacity as our Representative sitting on the US House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Ms. Comstock must be privy to what can only be called "miracle cures."

So the question I wanted to ask Ms. Comstock at the telephone town hall (she "ran out of time") and then tried to ask at the in-person town hall (that she skipped) was "What special insights does she have regarding the science behind her ACA funding claims?"

My husband is trained as a biologist and works in translational science (getting new best practices into the hands of healthcare professionals). I asked him to tell me what Ms. Comstock was referring to.

He didn't know either.

The American Cancer Society website says "In 2017, there will

be an estimated 1,688,780 new cancer cases diagnosed and 600,920 cancer deaths in the US."

Alane K. Dashner, RN, MSN
Great Falls

Community in Peril

To the Editor:

The malicious attack that occurred last November at Tysons Corner Mall in which a man used anti-Muslim slurs and then bit another man in the face is an appalling example of violent bigotry. Rightfully so, the perpetrator was recently charged with a hate crime.

As McLean residents, we are upset and deeply concerned that this incident occurred in one of our neighborhood social hubs — a place where we shop, eat, and socialize with our families. Our sense of safety and community is in peril with this and other incidents of hate crimes in our region, such as the recent bomb threats against Jewish schools in Fairfax and

Montgomery counties.

Intolerance and violence in the places where we live, work, and learn diminishes our basic American values of dignity and respect for everyone. Virginia's leaders must commit to counter this alarming trend, which has been on the rise since the November elections. Our leaders must speak out unequivocally and repeatedly against hate crimes that target members of our community, and immediately dedicate more resources toward investigating and prosecuting all suspected hate crimes.

For our part, we refuse to let any type of violence motivated by race, religion, or ethnicity become part of our everyday lives and vow to support our neighbors who are being targeted and marginalized.

Kathryn McCormick
Lori Boerner
Alicia Plerhoples
Carla Post
Christine Sonu Park
Nadja Golding
Members of Virginia
Democracy Forward



SPORTS



Winning Championship

McLean Basketball's eighth grade Division III team just took the The Fairfax County Youth Basketball League (FCYBL) championship trophy home in a close game that was won with a 3-pointer in the last seconds of the game. The three game playoff series put them against Burke last weekend where they won 44-25, then a close game against Vienna 62-54 Saturday won them a spot in Sunday's game against Chantilly with a final score of 37-36. Players included: Patrick Anders, Garrett Brown, Gavin Bundy, Michael Casler, Luke Jackman, Brennan Kalinowski, Jad Kanaan, Sean Loftus, Andy Min and Nicholas Morabit.



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COMMUNITY



Langley Band Invited to National Festival

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Langley High School Wind Symphony Band has been honored by being invited to perform at the 2017 Music for All National Festival, a noted festival for school instrumental music ensemble. The 26th annual festival will take place in Indianapolis, Ind., on March 9-11, 2017. The Langley High School Wind Symphony is under the direction of Doug Martin and was selected to perform by a panel of music educators after submitting a recorded audition. The Langley High School Wind Symphony is one of 59 high school and middle school concert band and percussion ensembles from across the nation selected to perform at the 2017 Festival. They will perform in concert, be evaluated by renowned music educators, and participate in master classes and special events.

A Delightful Journey

BY JULIA LUIGS
MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL

Look deep into the mirror, and you may find a whole new world on the other side. But if you wish to come back home, let fantasy be your guide. With the touch of a reflection, Oakcrest High School plunges into the mysterious world of “Through the Looking Glass” and comes out singing.

“Through the Looking Glass” tells the story of Alice’s return to Wonderland, only to find herself caught in the middle of a war between the Red and White Kingdoms, with the Red Queen at the helm. Alice must make her way across the chessboard land and save the game that keeps these kingdoms alive before time runs out. The story was directly adapted from Lewis Carroll’s original novel, with book and lyrics by Chris Blackwood, and music by Piers Chater Robinson.

As the young heroine Alice, Kiley Hatch portrayed a more flighty version of the beloved protagonist, which accentuated her childlike innocence. Alice’s journey was fraught with peril thanks to the unstoppable force that was the Red Queen, played by Clare Kolasch. Kolasch physically dominated every scene she was in, using her body to emphasize every action, practically trembling with rage at the mere mention of Alice in her court room.

As Alice’s guide through Wonderland, the White Knight (Patricia Cuenca) added humor to the narrative, which helped flesh out the ridiculousness of Wonderland. Cuenca’s off-beat dance moves during songs like “Oh Frabjous Day” and interactions with her wooden horse Checkers were a delight to watch. Also providing some fun to the fantasy, Brigid Kilner flourished as the White King. Kilner and Cuenca’s ability to adapt to a more masculine character and lower singing octave made them both standout performances.

As a whole, the ensemble of the show provided whimsy and wonder to the plot. During the act-end-



PHOTO BY JOHN PAUL PLUTA PHOTOGRAPHY

From left: Grace Ferguson, Angela Diaz-Bonilla, Falan Kifle, Julia Weber, Nina Allen, Kyla Payne, Kathryn Herrick and Clare Kolasch in Oakcrest High School production of “Through the Looking Glass.”

ing song “The Claws that Catch” the ensemble of the Red Court worked together to provide cohesive movements that expressed the fear of what the Red Queen had planned as well as the power of the monster about to be unleashed. The performance was also heightened by the Red Queen’s vocals, which were as powerful and domineering as she was. Although there were some issues with diction throughout the show, the emotion of all onstage helped convey the stakes at hand, and otherworldly harmonies from actors not onstage helped emphasize the fantasy of Wonderland.

The tech for this show was clean and consistent. Sound had the daunting task of mic’ing a great number of cast members, but overall kept the balance so that no one singer overpowered others. The set design was minimal, with prism-like structures featuring different backdrops on each side, and the effect was positive in that the sets led themselves to slightly shorter transitions between scenes.

“Without balance all is lost,” said the White Knight to Alice during a difficult part of their journey. Such is the case for the entire show, however the actors and crew of Oakcrest’s “Through the Looking Glass” achieved the perfect balance of oddity and reality, making their journey a delightful one.



FILE PHOTO

The Nowruz Festival celebrating the Persian New Year will be held on Sunday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Tysons Corner Center.

Celebrating the Persian New Year

The Nowruz Festival will be held Sunday, March 12 at Tysons Corner Center.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Following 3,000 years of customs and traditions, the colorful Nowruz Festival — the Persian New Year celebration — will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This year’s festival, with more than 75 booth vendors, is free and will be held in front of Bloomingdale’s at Tysons Corner Center.

Nowruz, which normally falls in early Spring, is when Persian-Americans will join locally to celebrate the new year. There will be 75 vendors offering traditional and exotic foods as well as jewelry, artwork, crafts, and other traditional Persian products. A main stage will be set up that provides entertainment with 60 musicians, dancers, artists, costumed characters, and traditional players.

The Nowruz Festival is a family-friendly, fun celebration that celebrates life, love and good will. Of all the Persian national festivals, the New Year celebrations are at once the most important and the most colorful. This festival embodies a wealth of ancient rites and customs, and is about the only one in Persia which is not confined to the traditions of only one religious group. It symbolizes that continuity of the ancient Persian culture which has survived so many adversities and vicissitudes.

The venue provides a fun place for people to celebrate with family and friends, to taste delicious Persian food and en-

joy traditional and modern Persian entertainment. Among the traditions, is a ceremonial table called the cloth of seven dishes (each one beginning with the Persian letter Sin). The symbolic dishes consist of Sabzeh or sprouts, usually wheat or lentil, representing rebirth. Another is Samanu or a sweet, creamy pudding. Another is Seer, which is garlic in Persian, which represents medicine.

In addition to attracting people from Virginia, Maryland and the District, this year, organizers hope to attract international guests from other countries that celebrate Nowruz, including Turkey, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, among others.

The goal is to share the Nowruz Festival with both Persians and non-Persians. The event sends out positive messages, like celebrating earth, spring time, love and peace to the community. Planners want to bring different musicians and dancers from other countries that celebrate Nowruz, as well as new musicians that offer more variety to the festival. They also want to bring different historical and costumed characters from Persia (like Haji Firuz, a traditional herald of Nowruz dressed in a red costume and tambourine) that will interact with the crowd.

The Nowruz Festival will be held Sunday, March 12, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Tysons Corner Center in front of Bloomingdale’s, at 8100 Tysons Corner Center, McLean, VA 22102. For details, contact organizer Shohreh Asemi, at 202-369-1515 or visit <http://nowruzfestival.org>.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

MPA's Executive Director Lori Carbonneau (far right) accepted the Dominion ArtStar Award on behalf of MPA.

McLean Project for the Arts Receives Dominion ArtStars Grant

The McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) recently received a Shining Star ArtStars Award of \$10,000 from the Dominion Foundation. The award recognized MPA's ArtReach program, which offers underserved students a field trip to experience contemporary art exhibitions and hands-on art projects exploring STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) topics.

"ArtStars is about recognizing arts and cultural organizations that are making communities and schools more vibrant through theater, art, music, and other artistic forms," said Hunter A. Applewhite, president of the Dominion Foundation, the charitable arm of Dominion Resources. "Dominion is proud to support these five winners as they continue their efforts to enrich students' education through the arts."

Led by veteran artist-educator Sharon Fishel, ArtReach is a standards-based, two-part lesson that combines a field trip to MPA's exhibition gallery with a related classroom session featuring hands-on art projects that explore STEAM and other concepts through an arts perspective. In 2016 alone, the program conducted more than 90 ArtReach tours.

"MPA is honored and excited to receive this recognition of our ArtReach program," said Lori Carbonneau, Executive Director of MPA. "The ArtStars grant encourages and supports MPA in our work creating and delivering our SOL-based arts and cultural literacy partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools, and expanding visual arts education throughout our community."

For more information, visit www.mpaart.org.

WEEK IN MCLEAN

Detectives Search for Human Remains

Fairfax County Police Department detectives have been searching for human remains in two areas in the county. The first being on the grounds of Holmes Run Park, near the 6000 block of Crater Place. The second site is at Tysons Pimmit Park, in the Falls Church area of the county, according to the FCPD Public Affairs Bureau.

Search efforts resulted in the discovery of two sets of human remains in Holmes Run Park late on Thursday, March 2. Members of the Fairfax County Police Department's Search and Rescue Team, along with detectives from the Crime Scene Section and Special Agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, made the discovery, approximately 300 yards into the park from the intersection of Crater Place and Yellowstone Drive.

Homicide, Gang Unit and Crime Scene detectives are joined by members of the police department's Search and Rescue Unit, along with two "live find" and cadaver dog teams from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, Urban Search and Rescue Team and one cadaver dog team from the Montgomery County, Md. Police Department.

These searches could continue for an extended period of time.

Anyone with additional information related to this case is asked to contact the Major Crimes Division at 703-246-7800, or Crime Solvers electronically by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES(274637) or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



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Chantilly High School
Saturday, March 18
10 am to 12 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathy Smith, Chantilly HS STEM Academy, and Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce

Oakton High School
Saturday, March 18
1 pm to 3 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Linda Smyth and Oakton HS Marketing Department

West Springfield High School
Saturday, April 1
12 pm to 2 pm

Co-sponsored by West Springfield HS Student Government and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

South County Secondary School
Saturday, April 29
11 am to 1 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County Secondary School

To register as an employer or student, or for more information, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm

Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

January, 2017 Top Sales in Great Falls and McLean

IN JANUARY 2017, 11 GREAT FALLS HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,350,000-\$465,000.
67 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$3,500,000-\$175,000 IN THE MCLEAN AND FALLS CHURCH AREA.



10 709 Crown Meadow Drive, Great Falls — \$1,050,000



8 11521 Tralee Drive, Great Falls — \$1,350,000



4 902 Georgetown Ridge Court, McLean — \$2,300,000

1 7800 Meritage Lane, McLean — \$3,500,000



9 501 Chesapeake Drive, Great Falls — \$1,050,000



2 1310 Calder Road, McLean — \$2,375,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 7800 MERITAGE LN	7	6	2	22102	MCLEAN	\$3,500,000	Detached	0.86	22102	THE RESERVE	01/31/17
2 1310 CALDER RD	4	5	1	22101	MCLEAN	\$2,375,000	Detached	0.48	22101	SALONA VILLAGE	01/26/17
3 6617 BRAWNER ST	7	8	2	22101	MCLEAN	\$2,355,000	Detached	0.74	22101	SALONA VILLAGE	01/31/17
4 902 GEORGETOWN RIDGE CT	6	6	2	22102	MCLEAN	\$2,300,000	Detached	1.03	22102	GEORGETOWN RIDGE	01/05/17
5 1487 EVANS FARM DR	4	4	1	22101	MCLEAN	\$2,000,000	Detached	0.18	22101	EVANS FARM	01/25/17
6 1021 DEAD RUN DR	5	5	1	22101	MCLEAN	\$1,800,000	Detached	0.46	22101	BROYHILL LANGLEY ESTATES	01/23/17
7 1303 BALLANTRAE CT	5	4	1	22101	MCLEAN	\$1,750,000	Detached	1.00	22101	BALLANTRAE FARMS	01/13/17
8 11521 TRALEE DR	5	4	1	22066	GREAT FALLS	\$1,350,000	Detached	1.73	22066	TRALEE ESTATES	01/13/17
9 501 CHESAPEAKE DR	5	2	1	22066	GREAT FALLS	\$1,050,000	Detached	5.01	22066	BOUNDBROOK	01/27/17
10 709 CROWN MEADOW DR	5	5	1	22066	GREAT FALLS	\$1,050,000	Detached	1.75	22066	RICHLAND MEADOWS	01/04/17

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Kitchen Design Trends in 2017

Local designer share popular design ideas.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Those looking for kitchen design ideas have a new source of inspiration: the National Kitchen & Bath Association's (NKBA) list of trends for 2017. Local designers reveal which trends are most popular in the Washington, D.C. region.

NKBA predicts that contemporary-styled kitchens will overtake traditional to become the second most popular design after transitional. Locally, Michael Winn, president of Winn Design + Build expects to see "a strong move towards transitional and contemporary styles, with no fussy designs."

Homeowners are looking for "kitchen spaces that look comfortable, calming and clutter-free," said Shannon Kadwell of Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc.

Clean lines, built-in shelving and simple door styles dominate kitchen designs. Megan Padilla, senior designer for Aidan Design reports an interest in custom storage ideas. "We're inspired by our work with clients who often have collections of table décor — everything from antique trays to vintage oyster plates," she said. "By creating custom storage these cherished items can be readily accessible."

When it comes to painted cabinetry, gray is the new white and the popularity of both colors shows no signs of slowing down, according to the NKBA survey. However, blue painted and high gloss kitchen cabinets are emerging, especially in the Washington area, says Winn. "Blues and grays are very popular [and] "White continues to be popular."

For overall color schemes, two-toned kitchens are gaining popularity while blue and black are emerging as sought after colors. "We're seeing a rise in product offerings available in matte black — from appliances to plumbing fixtures to cabinet hardware," said Padilla. "We love it paired with white in a classic black and white kitchen, but also as an accent piece.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WINN DESIGN + BUILD

White and gray painted cabinets like those in this kitchen by Winn Design + Build will dominate kitchen color schemes in 2017.

Matte black also pairs beautifully with brass, which has been trending for the past couple of years."

Quartz is the most sought-after kitchen countertop material, followed by granite. "Most of our clients aren't really interested in a kitchen that [is] too trendy since they plan to have it in place for 15-20 years," said Padilla. "We've seen an uptick in interest in incorporating color by way of alternate neutrals. Navy blue is probably the top choice, but taupes and lighter blues are also on the list."

An interest among homeowners in incorporating technology in kitchen design is increasing as well. About one third of the NKBA professionals surveyed reported recent projects that included wiring and pathways for future tech integration. "I would also expect the technology side to be a focus in D.C.," said Samantha Klickna, project developer with Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. "The ease and comfort of controlling your home while at the office or on travel is very appealing and convenient for the city dweller."

Induction cooktops and convection ovens are trending higher, and microwave drawers are surpassing freestanding or built-in microwaves in popularity. "People have been purchasing appliances like steam ovens and induction ovens now more than ever before," said Kadwell. "People have less time, but still want to cook. They want to be able to cook quickly, so they're looking for appliances that can accomplish that."



Design trends for 2017 include kitchens with rustic and reclaimed woods, such as this one by Aidan Design.



Homeowners are seeking kitchen spaces that are calming and clutter-free says, Shannon Kadwell of Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc.

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MCC is on the MOVE!

Due to the scheduled renovation of the Ingleside facility, on April 3, 2017, the McLean Community Center will temporarily relocate to the McLean Square Shopping Center.

Administrative Offices
6631 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, Va. 22101

Class Programs/Registration Office
6645 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, Va. 22101

Special Events and performances offered by The Alden will be held at select community venues.

Please check our website,
www.mcleancenter.org,
or call the Center at
703-790-0123, TTY: 711, for updates.

ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Adventures in Learning

On Thursday, April 13, the Shephard's Center is having an open house to highlight the Adventures in Learning series, 10 a.m.-noon at Oakton-Vienna, 541 Marshall Road SW, Vienna. Using laughter and entertainment in learning. Visit www.scov.org or contact the office at 703-281-0538, office@scov.org.

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

ONGOING

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.

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

Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. Visit www.goldengirls.org.

Fishing Rod Rentals 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Colvin Run Mill open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. January and February hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m., last tour 3 p.m. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

THURSDAY/MARCH 9

LEGO Club (S.T.E.A.M.). 4:30 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Have fun, use the imagination and keep the engineering and problem-solving skills flowing with lots of LEGO bricks. Age 5-12. Free. Call 703-757-8560 for more.

River Cruise Night. 7-9 p.m. at Paddy Barry's Irish Pub, 8150 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Learn about hosted group wine sailings as well as individual reservations for 2017 and 2018 on Europe's waterways. Free. Contact Niall@CaddieToursOnline.com or by phone at 703-938-1300.

FRIDAY/MARCH 10

Dinner & A Movie Trip. 3:30-10:30 p.m. at the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The Village at Leesburg is providing Old Firehouse participants an evening of dining and entertainment. Dinner at a local restaurant will be followed by "Kong: Skull Island" in the unique, D-Box Motion Seats at Cobb Theaters. \$35/\$25 for McLean residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org or call 703-448-8336 for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Spring Bazaar. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., South, Vienna. The Auxiliary to the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department will hold their Spring Bazaar and Craft Show. Free. Call 703-309-3468 or email Dancers1023@aol.com for more.

Essential Oils for Spring. 1 p.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Learn about the benefits of essential oils and the many reasons to use them. Adults. Call 703-356-0770 for more.

Effective Communication

Workshop. 1-3 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Tom Pfeifer, the author of "Write it, Speak it: Writing a Speech They'll APPLAUD!" presents tools for a more effective communicator and leader. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or call 703-938-0405 for more.

Japanese Teas. 1-3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Taste a varied selection of teas

and take home a Cherry Blossom Blend tea sampler. \$35. Call 703-759-2771 for more.

Gospel Concert. 3 p.m. at Historic Pleasant Grove, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Free. This 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. Visit www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org for more.

MARCH 11-12

McLean Youth Production. 3 p.m. at the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. "The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales" adaptations. \$15/\$10 McLean district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org or call 703-448-8336 for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 12

McLean Newcomers Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at Nostos, 8100 Boone Blvd., Vienna. Cecilia Glembocki, Executive Director of the Virginia Egg Council will speak about her 35 years of organizing the White House Egg Roll. To R.S.V.P. for the luncheon, e-mail Gloria Cohan, gloriacohan@gmail.com by March 10. Visit www.McLeanNewcomers.org for more.

Winter Traditional Celtic

Concerts. Shows at 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Celtic musicians performing in a listening room by the fireside. \$18/\$12 children. Visit oldbrogue.com or call 703-759-3309 for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 13

Lunch N' Life. Noon at St Mark Catholic Church 9970 Vale Road Vienna. Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna's first Lunch N' Life event of the year, with "Scandals in the City" Alice Roosevelt Longworth as portrayed by entertainer, Elaine Flynn. \$10, prepayment required by Wednesday, March 8. No refunds. Visit www.scov.org or call 703-281-0538 for more.

TUESDAY/MARCH 14

39th Annual Valor Awards. 11 a.m.-

ENTERTAINMENT



The Sunday, March 12 concert is at 4:30 p.m. at St. Luke Catholic Church in McLean.

Madison Madrigals to Perform in McLean

BY MICHAEL DOAN
CITY CHOIR

Not many high school choruses get to both write and commission a piece of music. But with a grant from the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, the Madison High School Madrigals got composer Robert McCullough to help them write "Psalm of Life," based on the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem of the same name. The Vienna high school's work was debuted by the chorus at Vienna Presbyterian Church in 2014.

This Madrigals are high-energy students. Director Claire Rowan estimates that the 30-member group makes 15 to 25 appearances throughout the area in December alone. You'll see the singers, too, at fundraising events such as a drive for toys for the local hospital, holiday events and building dedications.

The Madrigals and the women's chorus will sing a variety of gospel, spiritual, classical and contemporary traditional music at City Choir of Washington's March 12 concert (4:30 p.m.) at St. Luke Catholic

Church in McLean. The Madrigals will do double duty, singing with us in *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Rowan figures that the students' friends, parents and school alumni will want to attend.

Madison also happens to be the place where Robert Shafer got his start in 1968. Returning to the school in advance of the concert, Shafer passed on some history of the chorus to Rowan as they prepared the repertoire.

"I have heard his name for many years," she said. "He is a legend in the choral world around here." She particularly liked an anecdote of the past that Shafer passed on to her. When composer Aaron Copland came to work with the students, Shafer took him to the Marco Polo restaurant. Copland only asked if they had franks and beans. She says, "He just wanted a hot dog!"

A few days later, Copland himself conducted the Madison choir in his famous and ferociously difficult and a cappella "In the Beginning" in a special concert in 1975 honoring the bicentennial of the United States, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

Tickets at www.citychoir.org, \$25-\$35.

CALENDAR

1:30 p.m. at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. To honor public safety heroes from the Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department, Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff, Town of Vienna Police Department, and Town of Herndon Police Department who have put their personal safety at risk to keep our community and businesses safe. Entry is \$125 for a single ticket, or \$1,250 for a table of 10. Visit novachamber.org.

Lecture on Italy. 5 p.m. at Dante's Ristorante, 1148 Walker Road, Great Falls. A discussion on experiences in Italy. Dinner plus \$5 per person or \$10 per couple to cover Dr. Cicali's transportation. Call 703-759-4605.

Civil War Historian. 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The program will feature noted Civil War historian Jim Lewis who will discuss "The Evolution of the Fairfax/Loudoun County Boundary Line and J.E.B. Stuart's Most Difficult Achievement During the American Civil War." The program is free and open to the public. Contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223 for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 16

Vietnam Veterans Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane. Volko Ruhnke will discuss the development of his successful board game, "Fire in the Lake, Insurgency in Vietnam." Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit www.vva227.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 17

Children's St. Paddy's Party. 7-9 p.m. at the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Music, dancing, games, free catered food, videos and various attractions, 5th and 6th graders only. \$35/\$25 McLean District residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org or call 703-448-8336 for more.

MARCH 17-18

Disney's Musical. Friday 7 p.m., Saturday 3 and 7 p.m. at Kilmer Middle School, 8100 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. \$10. Email Leisa Sheridan at leisafs@msn.com for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 18

Old-Fashioned Egg Hunt & Roll 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Freeman House, 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. Children 12 and under and their parents are welcome to participate in an egg roll and visit with Easter Bunny, hosted by Historic Vienna, Inc. Visit www.viennava.gov.

MARCH 18-19

Sponsors Work Day. 9 a.m.-noon at The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. McLean Trees Foundation needs volunteers to help edge, mulch, and prune 30 trees along Chain Bridge Road at Lewinsville Park, lunch provided. Email jengle@1771.org or visit www.1771.org for more.

McLean Youth Production. 3 p.m. at the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge

Road, McLean. "The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales" adaptations. \$15/\$10 McLean district residents. Visit mcleancenter.org or call 703-448-8336 for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 19

Breakfast Buffet. 10 a.m.-noon at American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Adults \$9, children 12 and under \$3. Call 703-938-6580.

The National Brass Quintet. 3 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike McLean. Works by Handel, Bach, Bozza, McKee, Bernstein, Barnes and a special multimedia tribute to veterans. Visit www.stjohnsmclean.org/ for more.

Andy Suzuki & The Method. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E., Vienna. Andy Suzuki teams up with Kozza Olatunji-Babumba. Visit www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 24

Atomic Trampoline & Movie. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Bounce on 40 interconnecting trampolines and foam pits and then see a PG or PG-13 movie. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

SpiritMind and Drum Circle. 7-9 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Join this mind-body-heart-spirit experience and gathering where participants are guided in co-creating a sacred space through chanting, singing, meditating, and drumming. \$20. Visit Unityoffairfax.org or call 703-281-1767 for more.

Call for Candidates

McLean Community Center
2017 Governing Board Election

Qualification:

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

Petition to Become A Candidate:

- Candidate must pick up own petition packet at the Center, and return own petition.
- Adult candidate must have ten (10) signatures of adult tax district residents on petition.
- Teen candidate must be 15-17 years old as of McLean Day (May 20) and have ten (10) signatures of teens also 15-17 years old who live in the tax district and in the candidate's high school boundary area.

Positions:

- Three (3) Adult Seats - Three-year terms.
- Two (2) Youth Seats - One-year terms. One (1) each for the Langley and McLean High School boundary areas.

Key Petition Dates:

- **January 23:** Petition Packets are available at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA.
- **March 17:** Completed Petitions are due at the Center by 5 p.m.

For more information visit the Center at:
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101
call: 703-790-0123, TTY: 411
email: elections@mcleancenter.org
or visit: www.mcleancenter.org/about/candidates



McLean
Community
Center
The Center of It All

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the
McLean Community Center's
FY 2019 Programs



Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board and Staff of the McLean Community Center are **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at a Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2019, which runs July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. MCC programs are scheduled to return to the newly renovated Ingleside facility in the Fall of 2018.

The Board and Staff are interested in hearing residents' suggestions for class offerings, community events, theater programs, exhibits, tours, youth events and teen activities when they return home to the Center.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The hearing will be followed by the regular monthly meeting of the Governing Board.



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

No More "Dating"



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Not until next year, anyway. Besides, there will be enough water gushing under that bridge, almost as much seen a few weeks back flowing onto the Oroville Spillway in Northern California. At least I hope so. Because if there's no more 'gushing,' there's likely no more, well; we don't have to talk about that. Not talking and planning for one's future is bad for a cancer patient's business; self-fulfilling prophecy and all that presumptive karma. And with all the dos and don'ts and hopes and prayers in the cancer world, my general philosophy has been not to mess with Mother Nature, too much, if you know what I mean? I don't necessarily believe in leaving well enough alone, but neither do I believe in poking the bear.

I mean, I acknowledge that I'm dying, but aren't we all really? Reminiscent to a few years back when a former ESPN Sports anchor (Dan Patrick, I believe it was, now of NBC Sports) made famous a similar characterization concerning a ballplayer's injury, when he said: "He's listed as day to day, but then again, aren't we all?" Oh yeah. A little perspective goes a long way, even a decade or so in arrears. I guess that's what's so enriching about reading. Unfortunately, reading is not fundamental for me, writing and listening is. And as with my unexpected non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis at age 54 and a half (lifelong non-smoker, no immediate family history of cancer or premature death; I know, any death is premature), I make the best of my situation and endeavor to strive to stay alive. I don't dwell on the negative. Sure, I accept and understand my reality (maybe in some dispute, but not in my head though), but having been raised with a positive attitude by both my late parents, I am able to endure until science/medicine finds a cure. It's not ideal, but it's a living — thank God!

And even more so the day after chemotherapy, as I sit and write on Saturday, March 4. Reminded as I am of the situation I find myself living in and trying to learn from to cope and always hope. Somehow trying to find a way to continue to take cancer in stride while not hiding from the harsh realities that affect many cancer patients. Just as occasionally looking in the mirror is not a pretty sight, nor is droning on and being cancer-centric. Though I am mostly cancer-centric in my weekly column, I hope its contents provide enough context that it sheds some light on how one lives with a terminal disease rather than how that same one puts off death.

I don't mean to imply that being diagnosed with cancer is akin to having a bad roommate where you can sort of close their bedroom door or try to ignore their comings and goings except as it concerns rent and utilities, but similar elements have to be enforced. 'Enforced' may be too strong a word. Maybe ingrained would be a better word? You have to own the responsibility of living with a terminal disease, but somehow try and not believe it. It sort of invokes the quote about minor surgery: "Minor surgery is someone else having it." When it's me having it, it's major. Compartmentalizing one's cancer diagnosis/prognosis is crucial to its acceptance. Obviously, it dominates your thinking and awareness, but it can't be allowed to control it. You just hope when you peel away the emotional layers you impose to maintain an even/humorous keel (in my approach, anyway), it won't resemble the damage seen on the Oroville Spillway.

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

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE

VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION PROGRAM (VRP) ACTIVITY

DEQ VRP Site 00671

10th Street Flats
3100 to 3128 10th Street North, and
932 North Highland Street
Arlington County, Virginia 22201

VRP Participant:
10th Street Flats LLC,
4401 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 600,
Arlington, VA 22203

The 10th Street Flats Property, located at 3100 10th Street North (formerly 3100 to 3128 10th Street North, and 932 North Highland Street) in Arlington County, is participating in the Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) administered by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The property was the former site of commercial activities that included a battery store, fuel storage, vehicle sales, and vehicle maintenance. Environmental investigations found on-site petroleum and volatile organic compound contamination of soil and groundwater. Remedial actions to mitigate potential risks to human health and the environment from the contaminants have been proposed by 10th Street Flats, LLC and accepted by VDEQ-VRP. The remedial action consisted of soil excavation and disposal. A Certification of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation will be requested from DEQ-VRP. Questions or comments regarding this notice will be accepted for 30 days from the date of publication and should be addressed to the contact below:

John Diehl
Environmental Consultants and Contractors, Inc.
43045 John Mosby Highway
Chantilly, VA 20152
703-327-2900
John.Diehl@eccfirst.com

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify existing wireless telecommunications antennas on a building located at 815 S 18th Street, Arlington, Arlington County, VA 22202. The modification will consist of replacing three existing antennas with three new antennas and adding three new RRHs at a center-line elevation/center height of +/- 62 feet above gradeground level on the +/- 73-foot building. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6117000556-SF c/o EBI Consulting, EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail S, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at 617-715-1817/781-273-2500.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

TSKAAB, LLC trading as The Black Squirrel, 2670 I Avenir Place, Vienna, VA 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer & Wine, On & Off Premises & Mixed Beverages license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Thomas S. Knott, 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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ABC LICENSE

Sugar Factory PFC, LLC trading as Sugar Factory (and Sugar Factory American Brasserie), 1100 South Hayes Street, #H37, Arlington, VA 22202. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On; Mixed Beverage (seating capacity 151 seats or more) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

John L. Sullivan, Manager
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.

Light tomorrow with today!
-Elizabeth Barret Browning

21 Announcements

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