McLean Day: What a Blast

‘Phone Down’ Campaign at McLean High

Teen Filmmakers Win Awards in Film Festivals

Sparky the Fire Dog, a.k.a. Eric Yang, a firefighter with McLean Volunteer Fire Department, Station #1, with Levi Kerr of McLean and Wes Holland of Falls Church during McLean Day last Saturday, May 20, 2017 at Lewinsville Park in McLean.
Sierra Rose Webb has graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a bachelor of science degree and a commission as an ensign. The Coast Guard Academy offers a four-year educational program designed to provide cadets the knowledge and experience essential to become leaders of character. Cadets are required to devote themselves to an honor concept and after graduation go directly into positions of leadership in service to others. Webb is the daughter of Christopher and Maryjean Webb of Lovettsville, Va., and a graduate of Langley High School. On an average day, the U.S. Coast Guard conducts 45 search and rescue cases; saves 10 lives; saves more than $1.2 million in property; conducts 57 water-borne patrols of critical maritime infrastructure; screens 360 merchant vessels for potential security threats prior to arrival in U.S. ports; conducts 14 fisheries conservation boardings; investigates 35 pollution incidents; and facilitates movement of $8.7 billion worth of goods and commodities through the Nation’s Maritime Transportation System.

Sierra Webb

Great Falls Native Graduates From U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Teen Character Awards Presented on McLean Day

The McLean Citizens Association honored five McLean High School students at McLean Day on Saturday, May 19. School Board member, Jane Strauss and Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34), presented the Teen Character Awards on the main stage.

The award goes to students, who have gone above and beyond in the community by caring for others in need in their neighborhood or community.

One of the award winners, Neha Vutakuri, founder of the Breast Cancer Prevention with Herbs and Spices foundation, dedicates her time to informing women of the health benefits of spices. She has developed an app called MySpices to assist in breast cancer prevention through knowledge of seasonings.

“I created my organization after I saw how many women were suffering. As a result I saw how many families were suffering and that was why I decided to start this organization,” said Vutakuri, a senior at McLean High School.

These students were recognized not only for their own works such as Garrett Detter for volunteering in the Special Olympics or Mairin Fallon, showing leadership as an equine volunteer, but also as examples to others. The award showed appreciation for those students who strived to reach out to their community such as Helen Ganley who volunteered to be a volleyball coach for middle school students and Ian Murphy who began organizing a food drive in 2008.

“We strive to provide our children with the very best education possible, but as important as reading, writing, and arithmetic it is as important to give back,” said Strauss.

— Maggie Giordano

Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34), Garrett Detter, Ian Murphy, Neha Vutakuri, Helen Ganley, Mairin Fallon, and Jane Strauss.

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RSVP to schedule your appointment. Appointment spaces are limited, so don’t wait! For more information, visit www.car-fit.org.
McLean Day Festival: What a Blast

The crowds came out for McLean’s biggest annual event — the McLean Day 2017 Festival — on Saturday, May 20, 2017, at Lewinsville Park on Chain Bridge Road in McLean. Produced by the McLean Community Center, the free festival included Midway carnival rides, live entertainment, booth exhibitors, bubble ball, a rock climbing wall, laser tag and food trucks galore. Residents could vote for the MCC Governing Board members during the event.

— Steve Hibbard

Ava Morabito, 9, and Addie Gevinson, 9, of McLean take a ride on the Merry Go Round during McLean Day at Lewinsville Park in McLean on Saturday, May 20, 2017.

Chi Chi Felix of McLean plays in the Fun House during McLean Day on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at Lewinsville Park in McLean.

Santiago Ecie, 5, and his father Jose of Falls Church ride the Bumper Cars during McLean Day.

People line up during McLean Day for a ride on the Ferris Wheel.

Children play Bubble Ball during McLean Day last Saturday, May 20, 2017, at Lewinsville Park in McLean.
**NEWS**

McLean High School Resource Officer Scott Davis and Nick Corsi, systems of support advisor for the school, pitch their support for the campaign as the first speakers of the event.

**‘Phone Down’ Campaign at McLean High**


By Fallon Forbush

The Connection

Ryan Zimmerman, starting first baseman for the Washington Nationals Major League Baseball team, visited the McLean Highlanders baseball diamond on Wednesday, May 10, to pitch some warnings to his teenaged fans about the dangers of distracted driving.

Standing next to field in the sunshine helped him remember his time playing baseball in the spring at Kellam High School in Virginia Beach and the days he would drive to and from school for baseball practice.

“It was so exciting to drive,” he said. “To be in the car and to have that independence, I guess you could say.”

Unlike when he was a youth, teenagers today have more distractions to grapple with, he said.

Students who play baseball and softball and their coaches crowded into a tent on the grass to hear him speak and launch the “Phones Down. Home Run.” effort. Teams from T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria and Stafford High School in Fredericksburg were also invited, along with Virginia Delegates Mark Keam, D-35; Mark Sickles, D-43; and Marcus Simon, D-53.

“The street that I live on in Great Falls, a lot of my neighbors have kids that are either in middle school, in high school starting to drive or in college, and I can’t tell you how much when we’re hanging out with our neighbors … how much they talk about how scared they are of their kids going through that,” he said.

He was honest with the crowd. “I think we’ve all done it [looked at a cellphone while driving],” he said. “Nobody here has never done it.”

Since his involvement with the campaign, he has realized how unsafe that can be.

THE AVERAGE major league home run travels 400 feet in just under five seconds, according to Transurban, which is sponsoring the campaign. That is the same distance a driver would travel blind if they were looking at a cellphone while driving 55 miles per hour.

This is a large window for grave errors to happen.

“During the game, fortunately though, if you mess up, you usually get another chance,” he said.

But the stakes are greater on the road.

“If you’re behind the wheel and you make a bad decision, whether it’s a text or Instagram … whatever the social media is, it’ll be there when you get there … you don’t need to see it right now.”

Having two young daughters was a primary reason he agreed to be the face of the initiative.

“I can’t imagine having to go through anything that some of these parents would have to go through, especially with something that could be easily avoided, so just being able to help out a little bit is kind of why I wanted to be a part,” he said.

McLean High School recently had a “What Helps Me Day,” where students were asked to discuss methods to relieve stress, according to Nick Corsi, the systems of support advisor for the school. He advises a new Sources of Strength program at the school, which is a national student-led program designed to change unhealthy norms and culture in schools. He was alarmed at a popular response he received when he surveyed students about what helps them cope with anxiety.

“An overwhelming amount of our students wrote down, ‘Going for a drive,’” Corsi said during the event. “So I ask you, should a full-blown teenager student — dealing with stress, dealing with anxiety — should they be behind the wheel? It’s just another form of distracted driving.”

McLean students in grade 12 reported more texting (51.1 percent) or drinking alcohol (13 percent) while driving during the past 30 days compared to Fairfax County Public School students in grade 12 overall (48.8 percent; 9.4 percent), according to the latest Fairfax County Youth Survey, an annual survey that anonymously collects data about students’ knowledge, attitudes and behaviors on health, health risks, substance use, eating disorders, obesity and sexual behavior.

“At 6-foot-four and I’m 200 pounds, they say, ‘Oh my gosh, you can’t drive!’” said School Resource Officer Scott Davis, a police officer for the Fairfax County Police Department who works at the high school.

Representatives from Partners for Safe Teen Driving, Inova Trauma Services and the Virginia Department of Transportation also spoke at the event.

**McLean High School Sophomore Carenna Slotkoff, a peer leader for the school’s Sources of Strength Program, tells the crowd about her attachment to her cellphone and how she disconnects when she gets behind the wheel, now that she just received her learner’s permit.**


Drivers can sign the safe-driving pledge by visiting PatriotsDownHomeRun.com or PhoneDownTouchDown.com.

**Photo at far left by Fallon Forbush/The Connection**

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) was named National Legislator of the Year by the Virginia Council of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

“I am honored to receive the National Legislator of the Year Award from the Virginia Council of MOAA. It has been a top priority of mine to fight for those who have served and defended our nation with honor. One of the first bills I cosponsored this Congress was the WINGMAN Act, legislation that will give congressional district office staff easier, direct access to their constituents’ records in the Veterans Benefits Administration system so our veterans can have their cases resolved in a more expedient manner to get the benefits they deserve.

To help preserve the financial stability and security of military spouses, I have cosponsored H.R. 846, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, important legislation that will help our veterans and their families who deserve our loyalty,” said Comstock in a statement.

“We were most impressed by Rep. Comstock’s role in advancing cyber security through her Chairwoman position and she got high marks for her ability and willingness to work across the aisle,” said Virginia Council President Col. Steve Turner (USAF, retired).

In announcing the award, Turner noted Comstock’s strong support for veterans employment opportunities in last year’s National Defense Authorization Act, her participation in numerous military and veterans caucus and her Chairwoman role on the Subcommittee for Research and Technology.

School Community Supports SHARE

On Monday, May 15, representatives from SHARE, Inc., a McLean-area food bank, picked up more than 20 boxes of food and household items donated by Churchill Road families for the food bank.

Potomac School Girls Athletics Director Inducted Into the Hall of Fame

Dr. Cas Blanchard, director of girls athletics at The Potomac School, has been honored as one of seven members of the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association’s (VISAA) inaugural Hall of Fame class. She was inducted into the Hall of Fame at a ceremony held in Richmond on May 8. Blanchard was recognized for her outstanding accomplishments as an educator and her extensive work with the VISAA. She helped to establish the organization’s structure as a member of the initial VISAA committee from 1997 through 1998, then served as the northern region representative on the VISAA Executive Committee from 2001 to 2014. Beginning in 2002, Blanchard concurrently served as VISAA secretary. Since 2006, she has chaired Virginia’s statewide sports committees for girls tennis and lacrosse, having founded the girls lacrosse committee.

Blanchard has been The Potomac School’s director of girls athletics since 2001. She also coaches in Potomac’s Intermediate School girls basketball and soccer programs. Asked what she most enjoys about her job, she said, “It’s a privilege to work with our student-athletes, coaches, and parents. There is a terrific spirit at Potomac that makes every day enjoyable.” She added, “I always like to see a team improving over the course of time. And every once in awhile, you have a special team that has a special season, and that’s really rewarding.”

Head of School John Kowalik said, “For the past 16 years, Cas Blanchard has set a high standard, encouraging our student-athletes to give their best in terms of effort, perseverance, sportsmanship, and teamwork. At Potomac and across the state, she is recognized as someone who genuinely cares about students and has helped to make athletics an integral aspect of independent-school education. We are delighted that she has received this honor from the VISAA.”
Keep Virginia Green

By Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum
State Delegate (D-35)

For more than a half century signs along the roadsides and ads in local newspapers featured Smokey the Bear with a message “Keep Virginia Green.” His reference was to forest fire prevention, of which he said 9 out of 10 could be prevented. Forest fires were a big concern because wood products were big business in Virginia.

A campaign continues today with a “Keep Virginia Green” theme as part of the “Keep Virginia Beautiful” effort. It has a broader meaning as it now includes stopping littering and other actions consumers can take as part of caring for the environment in the Commonwealth.

Maybe the most meaningful effort ever taken to protect Virginia’s environment was announced last week by Gov. Terry McAuliffe — that he had signed an Executive Directive ordering the Department of Environmental Quality to begin the process of establishing regulations in Virginia that will reduce carbon emissions from power plants. As the Governor explained, “As the federal government abdicates its role on this important issue, it is critical for states to fill the void…Virginia will lead the way to cut carbon and dependency on the clean energy future.” The current federal administration has moved to rescind actions of the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce carbon in the atmosphere and to act on climate change.

While proponents of states’ rights may applaud the shift from the federal to the state governments, wind currents from power plants and airborne pollutants do not recognize state boundaries. It is critically important that other states follow the actions of Gov. McAuliffe.

According to the press release announcing the Governor’s Executive Directive, the Commonwealth has seen an increase from just 17 megawatts of solar installed to more than 1,800 megawatts in service or under development. Revenues in the rapidly growing clean energy sector have risen from $300 million to $1.5 billion between 2014 and 2016. In the last year alone, solar installations have risen nearly 1,200 percent.

The number of people in the area were going through this problem. We were told that back in 2008, approximately 1,800 people were found to be homeless in the county. Although there has been an almost 50 percent reduction in homelessness since then, it had never occurred to me that a significant number of people in the area were going through this problem.

We wanted to know more about what others thought about homelessness in the county. We decided to do a survey of county residents about their thoughts on homelessness and report on what we found out. We sent the survey out on March 23 and promoted it through social media and email. After two weeks, we got the results and I think we learned something big.

Almost 1,600 people filled out the survey. One of the responses revealed that 65 percent of those who responded believe homelessness affects them personally. Some people said they often saw people who were homeless, while others said they have never seen a person who is homeless in the county. Yet, what broke my heart were the comments that read “They are
Schools

Cooper Fundraiser to Support Cancer Research

History teacher Daniel Smith is being taped to a wall. Cooper Middle School raised more than $1,300 for cancer research through a fundraiser through Pennies for Patients. Students bought tickets in order to pie a teacher in the face, or tape a teacher to the wall.

A joint public hearing in the Board Auditorium, Fairfax County Government Center, 1200 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA at 7 p.m. will be held to receive comments on the Secondary Six Year Improvement Plan for the year 2018 to 2023.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and The VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment opportunities in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Freeman Store & Museum
Weekly: Fridays through Sundays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Freeman Store and Museum in McLean hosts a variety of workshops designed to help you identify and celebrate your artistic identity. Please call 703-549-4000 for more information.

SUNDAY/JUNE 18
We always appreciate the support we receive from our community, and there’s no better way to show it than by attending events together. We can’t wait to see you there!

Eco Artwork
EcoArtwork is an organization dedicated to promoting and celebrating eco-friendly and sustainable art and art-making practices. By using sustainable materials and techniques, EcoArtwork seeks to inspire new ways of thinking about our relationship with the environment.

Summer Fun, Food & Entertainment

Photography: Photos/artwork encouraged. Photos can be submitted to the Connection or uploaded to www.connectionnewspapers.com.

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Teen Filmmakers Win Awards in Film Festivals

By Steve Hibbard
The Connection

Since two teenage filmmakers from McLean produced the film, “When Waters Rise” last year, it has been accepted to nine film festivals across six countries and won a couple of awards in the process.

Josh Leong, 17, a junior at McLean High School, and Benjamin Hunt, 17, a junior at Langley High School, began making the film during their sophomore year. The duo raised $2,750 on Kickstarter and spent nine months making the 17-minute film.

They did everything from raising the money, maintaining a budget, writing the script, casting the roles, filming it according to a production schedule, and editing the film to produce the final product. The film is a Biblical parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders story from the Gospel of St. Matthew.

In one year, they’ve entered it into nine film festivals, including: MoveMe Film Festival (Antwerp, Belgium); Next Generation of Filmmakers Film Festival (Los Angeles, California); CMS International Children’s Festival (Dhaka, Bangladesh); Christian Worldview Film Festival (San Antonio, Texas); Berlin Student Film Festival (Berlin, Germany); International Christian Film Festival (Orlando, Florida); Short to the Point Film Festival (Bucharest, Romania); Scout Film Festival (Stowe, Vermont); and, Voices from the Waters International Traveling Film Festival (Bangalore, India).

The film won the Best Student Filmmakers Award at the Christian Worldview Film Festival in San Antonio; and the Audience Choice for Best Student Film at the Christian Worldview Film Festival in San Antonio, Texas.

In one year, they’ve entered it into nine film festivals, including: MoveMe Film Festival (Antwerp, Belgium); Next Generation of Filmmakers Film Festival (Los Angeles, California); CMS International Children’s Festival (Dhaka, Bangladesh); Christian Worldview Film Festival (San Antonio, Texas); Berlin Student Film Festival (Berlin, Germany); International Christian Film Festival (Orlando, Florida); Short to the Point Film Festival (Bucharest, Romania); Scout Film Festival (Stowe, Vermont); and, Voices from the Waters International Traveling Film Festival (Bangalore, India).

The film won the Best Student Filmmakers Award at the Christian Worldview Film Festival in San Antonio; and the Audience Choice for Best Student Film at the Christian Worldview Film Festival in San Antonio, Texas.

“It is an amazing honor to participate in these festivals and meet other young filmmakers with similar interests who want to get into the film industry,” said Hunt. “It truly is a once in a lifetime experience to walk the red carpet and to go up on stage and accept an award on behalf of the cast and crew of ‘When Waters Rise.’ I loved the ability to develop friendships and network with professionals in the industry.”

He added: “Throughout the course of producing the film Josh and I have had to work extremely closely and it has truly shown me how important communication is, especially when working on a project like this.”

This fall, Hunt will begin to apply for colleges. He hopes to attend film school for four years and then jump into the action in either New York or Los Angeles. “There are so many opportunities for new filmmakers now, especially with the use of online streaming. There are so many directions to choose from. I am going to see where school and God takes me but my dream is to work on a big budget film or develop my own TV show one day,” said Hunt.

Leong, who has been busy for the past six months making new films, added, “I’ve been able to apply lessons I’d learned in making ‘When Waters Rise’ in my newer films, and it’s definitely empowered me with confidence and belief. Despite our own struggles and the storms I faced throughout the production of the film, I’ve been renewed with new maturity and perspective. It’s an experience that’s been invaluable to my passion and my pursuit of the craft I love.”
The 2017 Day Prom for special education students from Kilmer, South Lakes, Fairfax, Falls Church, McLean, Centreville, Marshall, and West Springfield was held on May 17 at the Waterford at Fair Oaks in Fairfax. The event has grown so much over the years that it has expanded into two day proms. The second for Robinson, Woodson, Oakton, Lake Braddock, Herrndon, Westfield, Chantilly, Lee, and Stuart was scheduled for May 24 also at the Waterford.

Day Prom Combines Dancing, Food and Fun

From left: McLean sophomore Juan Ramirez, senior Sammy Ferris, and senior Adonis Friend.

Best Buddies
McLean senior Kate Osborne and McLean freshman Jack Dennis.

Transform 66 Outside the Beltway
Fairfax County and Prince William County
Public Information Meetings

All meeting times are 6-8:30 p.m. A brief presentation at each meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Monday, June 12, 2017
Oakton High School Cafeteria
2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

Wednesday, June 14, 2017
Stone Middle School Cafeteria
5500 Sully Park Drive, Centreville, VA 20120

Thursday, June 15, 2017
Piney Branch Elementary School Cafeteria/Gym
8301 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, VA 20136

Find out about plans to transform 22.5 miles of I-66 from I-495/Capital Beltway to University Boulevard in Gainesville to provide congestion relief and enhanced safety, as well as new travel choices and reliability.

Stop by between 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view the preliminary concept plans submitted by I-66 Express Mobility Partners, VDOT’s selected partner for the project, and learn more about the proposed improvements. Attend the formal presentation at 7 p.m. VDOT and I-66 Express Mobility Partners staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at www.Transform66.org, at the meetings, or at VDOT’s Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7629) or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions. Preliminary concept plans and project schedule will be available at the meetings for review and public comment.

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McLean Connection  May 24-30, 2017  11
Counting Launches Innovation Challenge

Challenge brings together several hundred attendees who “might normally not cross paths.”

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

The Fairfax County Human Services Council thinks it’s time to shake things up, to build a new strategy for identifying, addressing and funding solutions for human service needs in the community, and they’ve taken the first step in that direction by hosting the Innovation Challenge on May 18.

Evidence from the recent Fiscal Year 2018 Budget process and the data collected in the “Human Services Needs Assessment” published last year, show a trend where more of the county’s residents require some type of assistance. In the words of Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, “Demand is outstanding resources.”

During the budget proceedings, some programs and initiatives were left unfunded, or given less than requested, and other initiatives and needs were rolled forward for future consideration.

Seven months ago, Human Services Council members Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock District) and Thomas Goodwin (Providence District) “hatched an idea,” Winter told the attendees at the Innovation event. She said that the two convinced each other that a broader network of people from a greater variety of disciplines and experiences was needed to bring a fresh perspective to the various problems. With the support of their council colleagues and from county personnel, Winter and Goodwin directed their idea into the Challenge that brought several hundred attendees together who, as Winter put it “might normally not cross paths.”

In her letter to the Innovation Challenge participants, Bulova called the community-driven program “unprecedented in that it brings together leaders of all elements of the emerging 21st century human services community: businesses, established and startup; financiers in social impact investment; social entrepreneurs; philanthropists and foundations; nonprofits, and outstanding thought leaders in academia. Fairfax County employees,” wrote Bulova, “are here primarily to listen.”

The Presenters

The Presenters and the attendees covered a range of various interests and experiences. In her opening remarks, Winter acknowledged that everyone present — speakers, panelists and audience members — came to the table with their own underlying agendas, causes or points of view. She asked that those agendas be “left in the parking lot. Models, strategy and process, not issues, are our directions this morning.”

Speaking to the attendees, Goodwin applauded the audience’s presence at the event, telling them that by being there, they were participating in an experiment in community engagement. Working together produces significant results, he affirmed.

“We know that,” said Goodwin, using the example of the county’s Diversion First program that seeks to direct persons with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues away from imprisonment to treatment when they come into contact with law enforcement for nonviolent offenses. “Five agencies work together across turf” to make Diversion First work, said Goodwin.

The Innovation Challenge, intended to be the launch for a series of events, set forth three main objectives:

- Exchange information about state-of-the-art innovations that can address health and human service challenges.
- Elicit new ideas from public and private partners to enhance services and maximize resources.
- Set the stage for specific recommendations about service enhancements and resources required to present to relevant stakeholders in the future.

The first section of the program offered presentations from persons working directly in Human Services in neighboring Montgomery County, Md. When questioned on seeking funds from the business community or other non-governmental sources, Sharon Friedman, project director of Montgomery Moving Forward, advised that the key is to develop partnerships early.

“We don’t show up afterwards and ask for money,” said Friedman. Instead, possible collaborators are asked to be at the table from the start, “when the needs and the challenges are explained and discussed.”

Fairfax County Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) discusses some of the issues with Human Services Council Member Thomas Goodwin (Providence District). Along with Council member Dr. Patrice Winter, Goodwin “hatched the idea” for the Challenge. Supervisors Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and John Foust (D-Dranesville) also attended the event.

Speaker Dr. Sallie Keller, professor of Statistics and director of the Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory of the Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech (“Yes, what a mouthful!” agreed Keller) offered insights on “designed data collection in the Human Services arena and work being done to better measure outcomes. “The goal is to democratize data … and to provide new language for communication … that can become a unifying thing around different disciplines.”

A diverse audience gathered for Fairfax County Human Services Council’s Innovation Challenge, an event seeking greater community engagement to address the county’s challenges.

For details on area parks, services, and communities, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov. Search for tax bills, property transfers, and employment opportunities. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
News

Jones Branch Extension will Reach Across I-495

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

When the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Fairfax County are done, McLean residents will have another way across I-495 at Jones Branch Drive and a link from inside the beltway to the I-495 express lanes.

But getting there, like all other road construction projects, will have its share of headaches.

“It's going to be inconvenient, that's reality,” said VDOT District Engineer Bill Cutler at their “Pardon Our Dust,” meeting on May 18 in Tysons Corner. “When we complete this project, you'll be able to access the express lanes from both sides,” he added.

In all, the $58 million project will lengthen the Jones Branch extension from the I-495 express lanes eastward over the inner loop to a point on Route 123 near the Silver Line metro station. This will provide traffic another option to getting across the beltway and relieve the congestion that currently clogs up Route 123 at Tysons Corner. The project will create a continuous median for future transit, on-road bike lanes, and a few more traffic lights.

The project is a joint effort of VDOT and Fairfax County and will be completed by November 2019, according to the VDOT plan. A schedule “I consider to be very aggressive,” said Cutler. The $58 million is a combination of state, county and federal money, he added. The project is a five-phased project where most of the actual construction is taking place during phase II which is scheduled for spring 2018.

The intersection at Scotts Crossing Road and Route 123 has been causing delays, and frequent travelers have complained to VDOT about a possible turn on red being implemented, so a traffic study was performed, said Abi Lerner, VDOT senior project manager.

“Our traffic analysis looked at the sight distance, it’s not safe,” Lerner said. Hatcher called this intersection a “hot button issue.”

VDOT’s District Engineer Bill Cutler explains the new access road at the Pardon Our Dust meeting in Tysons.

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703.281.4868
BracesVIP@gmail.com
www.BracesVIP.com
Sticking to United States Postal Service tradition, antique mail truck braves the weather for the main parade for Great Falls' July 4 celebration last year.

Last year, Great Falls singer-songwriter Mary Ann Redmond performed a mix of classic covers and her own music at the Concert on the Green. The lawn was full of people from all over the area.

Concert on the Green, July 4 Highlight Summer in Great Falls

Celebrate summer in Great Falls, visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org for more July 4 events, the Concerts on the Green schedule and Movies on the Green selections.

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ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS
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THROUGH SUMMER
Vienna Street-sweeping Program. The Town of Vienna announced that its street-sweeping program beginning March 20. The Town is divided into eight sections for purposes of the sweeping program. During the first pass through Town, the Public Works Department asks that residents not park on the street. Find the “sweeping” sections at viennava.gov/sweeping. Additionally, signs will be placed on streets marking a window of 7-10 days during which the truck will come through. Contact public works at 703-255-6380.

THURSDAY/MAY 25
Public Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, located at 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold a project information meeting regarding the upcoming installation of synthetic turf and athletic field lighting in rectangular field #7 at Great Falls Nike Park. This is the field closest to the corner of Leesburg Pike and Utrecht Store Road in the park. Call 703-324-8662, email parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sports.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3
Flea Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, McLean. Oakton Church is offering a free Chronic Disease Self-Management program. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dhs/olderadultservices/chronic-disease.htm or call 703-324-5489, TTY 711.

volunteers needed
Shepherd’s Center of McLean-Arlington Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean has an urgent need for volunteers to help area senior citizens. To find out more about the Shepherd’s Center and how to volunteer, please call 703-281-4411, email office@oaktonbrethren.org or visit www.oaktonbrethren.org.

LETTERS
from page 6
like pigeons, you feed one with money and more will flock in” and “You don’t want homeless people in your neighborhood because they create trash.” It seemed that many people were more hung up on the negative image they feel homeless individuals create for the county instead of their plight. Some of the comments were difficult for us to read, while others were heart-felt and inspiring.

My classmates and I learned a lot through our project on homelessness, but mostly I felt and inspired. It was heart-wrenching for us to read, while others were heart-felt and inspiring. Some of the comments were difficult for us to read, while others were heart-felt and inspiring.

Giovonny Bland
Communications/Public Relations
George Mason University
1920 Powhatan Street, McLean
Exquisite and updated to perfection with over $250,000 in renovations from Nov. 2015 to Jan. 2016! 4BR/2.5BA home is perfectly situated in McLean! Kit was just remodeled with all new cabinets, LED lighting, SS appliances, commercial gas oven and range hood, kit isl, & granite; Eat-in dining space with bay window is open to the kit & fam rm; Sep. DR; The owner’s suite is impressive w/ spa en-suite-dual, sep. vanities & granite; Haycock ES!

994 N. Sycamore Street, Falls Church $749,000
Beautiful all-brick 3BR/2 full BA home in Falls Church City! This wonderful home begins with a light & bright living room with wood-burning fireplace; The flowing floorplan moves into the open dining room area; The kitchen has lots of cabinet and counter space and an exit to the rear patio; There are 3 bedrooms on the main level including the master; The lower level features a large rec room, wet bar, office/guest space, one full BA and lots of storage space! Falls Church City Schools!

6030 Oakdale Road, McLean $1,499,000
Phenomenal 5BR/4 full BA home in the heart of Chesterbrook Woods! This magnificent contemporary property has a beautiful kit w/ eat-in dining area and a view of the in-ground pool & hot tub perfect for entertaining in the summertime! Sep. formal dining room w/ fireplace; Gorgeous sunroom with vaulted ceilings and fireplace; Main level owner’s suite w/ attached BA & walkout to backyard; UL has option of a second master BR; LL w/ large rec room & BR!

Call Me Today for a Free Analysis of Your Home’s Value!