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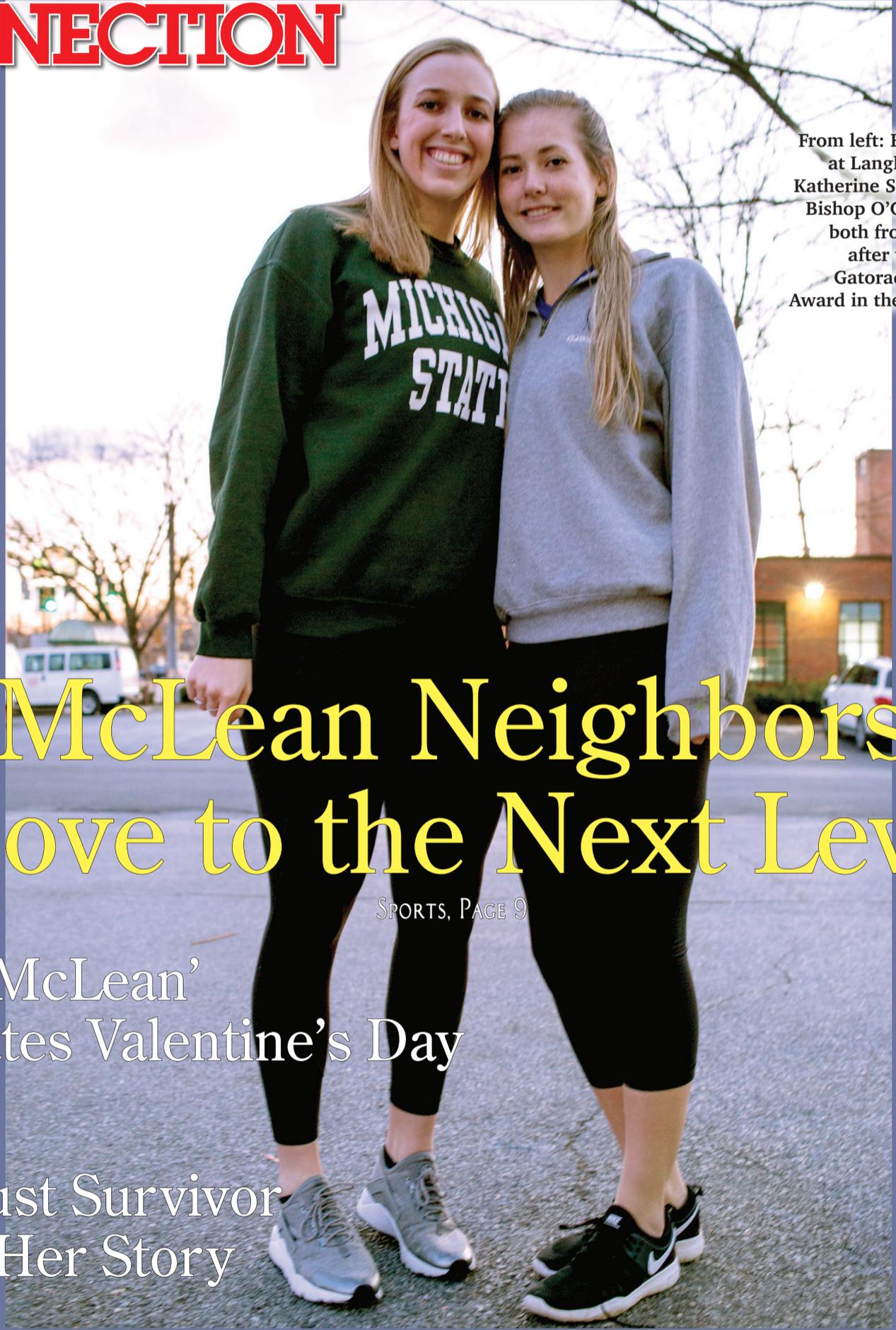
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McLean CONNECTION

Home Life Style
PAGE 7



From left: Elena Shklyar, senior at Langley High School, and Katherine Sandercock, senior at Bishop O'Connell High School, both from McLean, pictured after winning the Virginia Gatorade Player of the Year Award in their respective sports.

McLean Neighbors Move to the Next Level

SPORTS, PAGE 9

'I Love McLean'
Celebrates Valentine's Day
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Holocaust Survivor
Shares Her Story
NEWS, PAGE 3

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NEWS

From left: Carol Morningham, board member at Share Inc.; Renée Boyle, development director for Falls Church – McLean Children's Center; Kathryn Mackensen, president of The Woman's Club of McLean; and Amylyn Verrone, volunteer coordinator at Capital Caring hospice.

PHOTOS BY
LAURA SHERIDAN
WOMAN'S CLUB



McLean Woman's Club Marks 60th Anniversary

Club donates \$6,000 to local charities.

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018, The Woman's Club of McLean marked the 60th year of its founding, in 1958. To celebrate, the club presented a check for \$2,000 to representatives of each of three McLean charities at its monthly meeting: Amylyn Verrone, board member at Capital Caring hospice; Renee Boyle, development director for Falls Church – McLean Children's Center; and Carol Morningham, volunteer coordinator for Share Inc.

Community service and support have always been the principal missions of the club. They are the basis for the club's annual Holiday Homes Tour, its main fundraiser, whose 51st anniversary was celebrated in 2017. In recent years, a separate fundraiser in the form of a boutique, or marketplace, has also accompanied the tour.

The club was organized on Feb. 4, 1958, with 39 charter members. It received its charter from the Virginia Federation of Woman's Clubs on March 31, 1958, and on April 18 of that year it became part of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs.

Since 1966, the club has donated well over \$1,000,000 to local charities and nonprofits. This has been made possible not only by the club members but by other volunteers, participants and supporters. Current beneficiaries include Second Story (formerly Alternative House), Fisher House, the



McLean Woman's Club members Peggy Nedzi (left) and Daisy Logan (right) help club President Kathryn Mackensen cut a commemorative cake.

Wounded Warrior Program, Capital Caring, Share Inc., the McLean Project for the Arts and the McLean Volunteer Fire Department. Scholarships and other education awards are also made by the club.

For more information on The Woman's Club of McLean, including membership and activities, visit its website, www.mcleanwomensclub.org.

— LAURA SHERIDAN

Next for Langley Drama: 'Evita'

The article on Langley High School "one-acts" (Connection, Jan. 24-30, 2018) omitted to mention that "The Insanity of Mary Girard," Langley High School's entry into the VHSL one-act festival, was directed by Langley senior Elenitsa Sgouros. Anneka Noe was the stage manager for that play.

All of the one-acts rehearsed primarily in class, until after school rehearsals were added as performance time approached. At each rehearsal, a teacher/director was available to help guide students in their efforts. Students were encouraged to make creative decisions and to guide their one-acts from first reading to full production, but always under the guidance of an adult.

The Langley High School main stage production scheduled for the spring is "Evita."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Langley High School senior Elenitsa Sgouros directed "The Insanity of Mary Girard," Langley High School's entry into the VHSL one-act festival.

Holocaust Survivor Shares Her Story

Eva Schloss, the 88-year-old step-sister of Anne Frank, speaks at GMU.

BY JENNIFER KAYE
THE CONNECTION

More than 1,100 people gathered in The George Mason University Center For The Arts in Fairfax on Wednesday night, Feb. 7, for “A Historic Evening With Eva Schloss.” Schloss, the 88-year-old step-sister of Anne Frank and Holocaust survivor, discussed her wartime experiences, stories of loss, and her hope for future generations and the World. The presentation, put on by the Chabad Lubavitch Centers of Northern Virginia, also included a video presentation and a musical tribute of Ani Maamin by oboist and conductor Eugene Sidorov.

Before the presentation, VIP guests gathered for a reception with guitar music played by Stanley Albert, and also were able to sit down and speak with Schloss one-on-one while getting her book, “Eva’s Story,” signed. There was a steady flow of people gathering around her the entire time, telling their childhood stories, discussing relatives they lost in the Holocaust, and asking her many questions about her experiences.

Eli Rosenbaum, U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Special Investigations, led the talk and Schloss started off with a story about her first encounter with anti-Semitism.

She was 9 years old and went to play with her Catholic friend after school. When she arrived at her friend’s house, the mother slammed the door in her face and told her that she never wanted to see her there again.

A confused Schloss ran home to her mother hoping she could shed some light on the situation, and her mother replied with “This is how life is going to be now.”

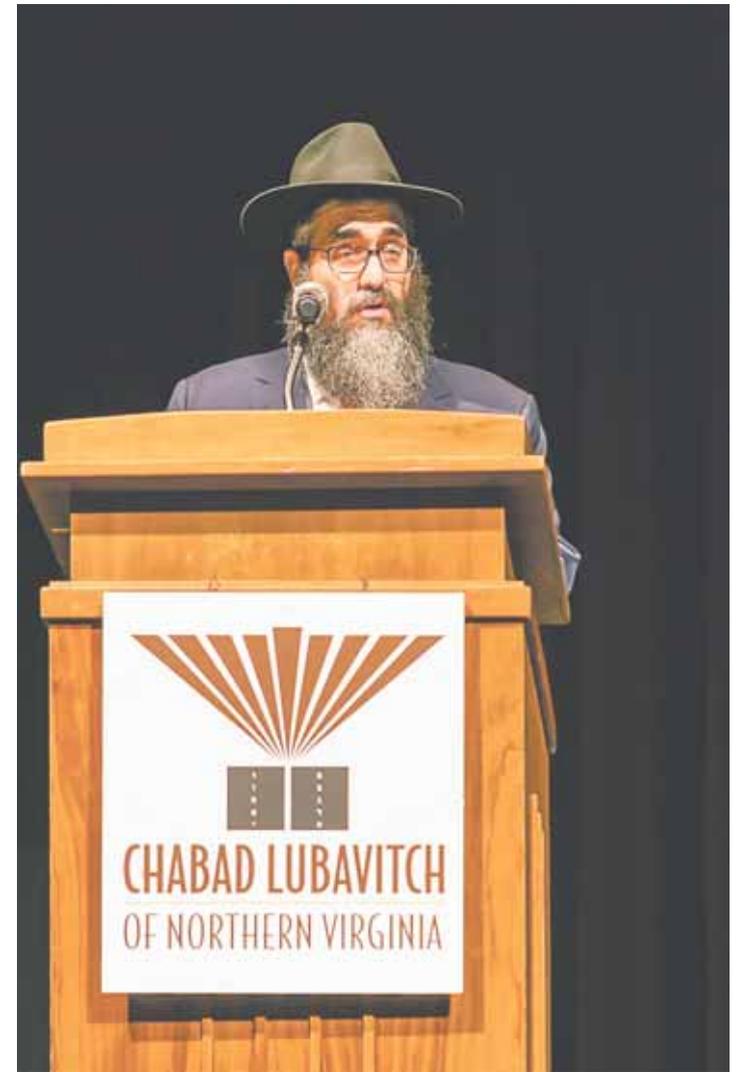
She then went on to describe in detail the years her family was in hiding, the separation of her and her mother from her father and brother, and the Dutch nurse who in 1944 pretended to help them hide, but was in the end a Nazi who turned them in to authorities.

With the audience silent and enthralled throughout the presentation, Schloss detailed her nine months spent in Auschwitz-Birkenau and the last moments she saw her father and brother. She ended her talk discussing the importance of education for everyone, and by telling the audience that all need to look after the planet. Schloss said, “It’s a wonderful gift from God for us to enjoy.”

The closing remarks by Rabbi Leibel

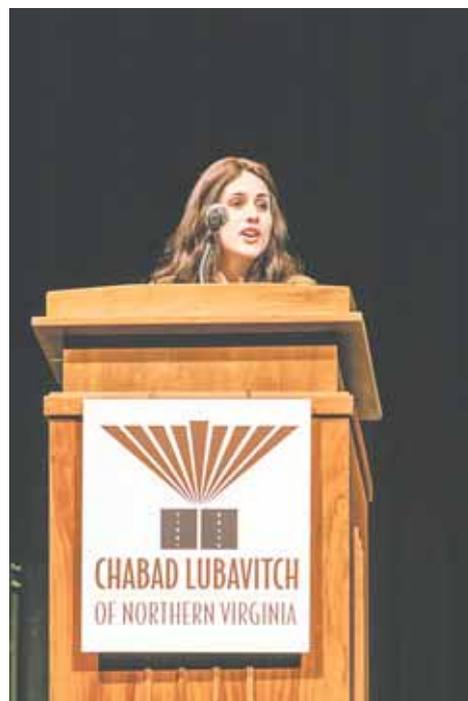


Eva Schloss, step-sister of Anne Frank and Holocaust survivor, speaks to the crowd at George Mason’s Center for the Arts on Wednesday, Feb. 7.



Rabbi Sholom Deitsch, director of Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia, delivers the opening remarks to the audience.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER KAYE/THE CONNECTION



Co-director of Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia, Raizel Deitsch, gives an introduction and talks about her family’s experiences.

Fajnland, director Chabad of Reston-Herndon, echoed these thoughts by saying, “We must become better not bitter.”



Eva Schloss answers one of Eli Rosenbaum’s questions about her life and experiences during the Holocaust.

Schloss stayed quiet about her Holocaust experiences for 40 years, and it was not until 1985 that she decided to devote herself to Holocaust education and world peace. Since then, she has written three books, delivered more than 1,000 speeches

and had a play written about her life.

Schloss is currently on a speaking tour around the United States sharing her and her step-sisters stories, hoping to educate and help end the violence and bigotry that she sees in the world today.

'I Love McLean' Celebrates Valentine's Day

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Saturday was the I Love McLean celebration hosted by the McLean Citizens Association (MCA). It was an informal way for members of the community to mingle and meet with the leaders of their local government, town services, and state delegates on the weekend before Valentine's Day.

"If they do nothing more than sharing contacts or making a new friend, then the day will be a success," said Dale Stein, 28-year resident of McLean, and president of the MCA.

Saturday's scene at the Old Firehouse in McLean was a mixture of everybody. In a room meant for teen mixers, with a black and white tiled floor, adults mingled with community leaders and local politicians in an informal meeting setting.

The McLean Citizens Association is a 104-year-old non-profit organization in McLean that serves to represent citizens in the local government and aims to increase the quality of life for all citizens in McLean.

The Langley School's middle school orchestra performed for guests gathered together on Saturday.

Dana Litke, choir instructor at the Langley School was thrilled to have the opportunity for her students to perform at the event.

"We're happy to be invited and to showcase our students and music department. One of the former parents is a member of the McLean Citizens Association," said Litke.

Kendall Deagle, a seventh grader at the Langley School from McLean played violin in the orchestra.

"I think it's really cool that we all get to play because we get to learn new songs like Ode to Joy, Katy Perry's Fireworks, and Beauty and the Beast," said Deagle.

Andrea Del Vechio, a 30-year resident of McLean and member of the MCA's executive committee, was excited to be working at the event.

"It's a wonderful celebration. I think that



From left: Kendall Deagle, a seventh grader at the Langley School from McLean and Tamara Haidar, an eighth grader from Great Falls, played violin in the orchestra for I Love McLean day at the Old Firehouse on Saturday, Feb. 10.

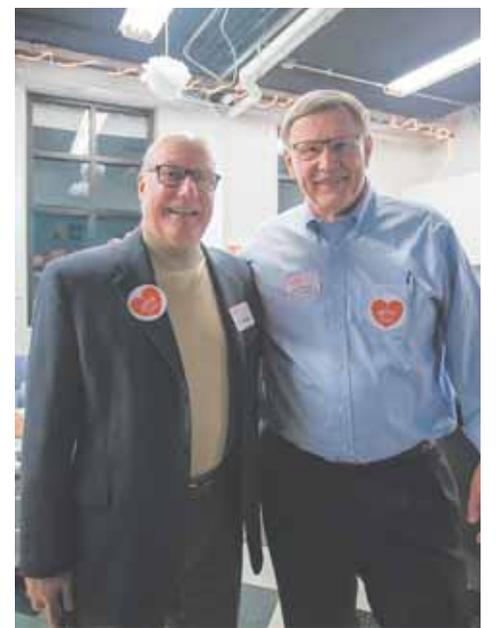


The Langley School middle school orchestra warms up before their performance for the I Love McLean day at the Old Firehouse on Saturday, Feb. 10.

it's becoming a bit hyper-partisan nowadays, and we all love our little town, so let's just relate as people who enjoy living here,"

said Del Vechio.

Wahid Sajjad, a board member for MCA from McLean was sitting and talking to John



From left: Patrick Smaldore, from McLean, the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) public safety liaison and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) pictured at I Love McLean day at the Old Firehouse on Saturday, Feb. 10.



Wahid Sajjad, a board member for MCA from McLean, talking to John Price, of Vienna, the Battalion Chief for the local fire department, at I Love McLean day at the Old Firehouse on Saturday, Feb. 10.

Price, of Vienna, the Battalion Chief for the local fire department.

"It's a great way for the community to come together. We need to do this more," said Patrick Smaldore, from McLean, the MCA's public safety liaison.

Shepherd's Center Director Retires

The Board of Directors of the Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, held a "going away" celebration lunch for their longtime Executive Director Edward "Ed" Schrock at J. Gilbert's in McLean.

The Shepherd's Center is a volunteer, social service organization that provides rides and other services to seniors in the McLean, Arlington and Falls Church communities. Schrock founded the non-profit, interfaith organization, which is sponsored by area congregations, community groups and businesses, in 2006.

He served as an officer in the U.S. Navy from 1964-1988. In 1996, after he retired from the Navy and while working

as an investment broker at Kidder Peabody, Schrock was elected to the Virginia Senate where he served from 1996 to 2001. He then ran and was elected to represent the Second Congressional district of Virginia in the U.S. House of Representatives.

He started volunteering for the Shepherd's Center in 2006 and did it on his own for six years. He obtained support from 105 churches (the organization's headquarters is in the Trinity United Methodist Church in McLean) and one synagogue as well as helping develop a program to connect volunteer drivers with riders. In addition to providing rides to seniors to go to medical and other appointments (about 3,000 rides per year), the Shepherd's Cen-

ter assists older adults in maintaining an independent and safe lifestyle in their own homes by providing friendly calls or visits and help with basic household chores.

Schrock points out, "As older adults add days to their life, Shepherd's Centers add life to their days." Before taking on a client, someone at the Shepherd's Center does an interview to determine what shape people are in. They need to know, for example, that they can get in and out of their apartments; they need to make sure they come to the door and whether they need the use of cane/walker/wheelchair. There are some people, a minority, that the Shepherd's Center can't help and that needs to be known.



Edward "Ed" Schrock

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Shepherd's Center has more people who need rides than there are drivers to provide those rides. So, it is always looking for more volunteer drivers. Anyone interested in becoming a driver can call 703-506-2199 or connect through their website, scmafc.org.



PHOTO BY MARY CUNNINGHAM

From left, back row: BASIS Independent McLean Coach Tyler Sullivan with BASIS Independent McLean MATHCOUNTS students: Alexander O'Quinn, grade 6; Brian Lai, grade 7; Raymond Zheng, grade 7; Brian Zhou, grade 7; Pravalika Putalapattu, grade 8; and Eleanor Kim, grade 8. Front row: Ethan Zhou, grade 7; Sam Wang, grade 7; Max Yan, grade 6; and Sam Kaufman, grade 8.

BASIS Independent McLean Earns First Place at MATHCOUNTS Team Competition

The BASIS Independent McLean (BIM) middle school math team earned first place in the 35th Annual Northern Virginia Regional MATHCOUNTS Competition for the team category, led by BIM MATHCOUNTS coach, Tyler Sullivan. BIM students, Eleanor Kim, Pravalika Putalapattu, Sam Wang and Ethan Zhou, refer to their four-person math team as Team SWEEP, a name created by the students' initials.

Fifteen schools competed in The Northern Virginia Chapter 2018 MATHCOUNTS Competition.

"We're very excited to have our students win the MATHCOUNTS chapter champion-

ships for the second consecutive year," said Ron Kim, head of school of BASIS Independent McLean of McLean. "Their preparation and hard work have paid off and will help prepare them for the state contest in March," said Kim.

The Northern Virginia Regional MATHCOUNTS competition was held at George Mason University in Fairfax. The regional competition combines the Fairfax, George Washington and Northern Virginia Chapters. The top team and top students from each chapter will compete at the Virginia State MATHCOUNTS competition in Richmond, on March 17.



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OPINION

Send in Pet Photos Now

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Friday, Feb. 23.

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

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a managing pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assis-

sistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

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

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

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— MARY KIMM

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Maddie, the treasured pet of Sharon Lewis, Vienna, celebrated her 11th birthday in great style on July, 2016.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Equity Is Impartial Justice

To the Editor:

The open letter by the TJ graduates ("An Opportunity to Improve TJ," Connection, February 7-8, 2018) was well-meaning but based on tragically false premises. They justify their call for racial quotas (by whatever euphemism) on grounds of being "more equitable." But equity is impartial justice, not artificial egalitarianism or racial favoritism. And what about simple honesty?

Pretending that all applicants are equally accomplished doesn't make it so. What could be more blatantly racist than lowering the bar for certain applicants because of their race? The only way to end racism is to stop classifying individuals on the basis of race and treating them differently according to such racial classification.

Michael Crawford
Great Falls

Solely Merit-based Admissions

To the Editor:

I am so pleased that the Virginia State Senate struck down Senate Bill 787, the proposal to make the admissions policies at TJ more "equitable."

The admissions policies should be based solely upon merit. The applicants' family economic resources and race should be totally irrelevant.

Academic performance is the

responsibility of the student, the student's family and the applicable school system. All three are necessary to maximize the learning experience.

Black and Hispanic students have the same opportunities as Asian and White students to learn.

David Elmore
Great Falls

What Needs to Be Fixed?

To the Editor:

In your editorial ("What's Wrong with This Picture?" - Connection, Jan. 24-25, 2018) you wrote that the demographic disparity in enrollment this year at Thomas Jefferson High School (TJ) indicates something is wrong and needs to be fixed. To fix this wrong condition you noted that State Senator Surovell has proposed a bill that would consider economics and geography in the selection process.

Here is my concern: I thought that admission to TJ is open to any and all students and the administration strives to assist anyone interested in achieving admission to the school. Admission is based strictly on merit, academic ability and academic achievement.

Therefore, it begs the question, what is wrong and needs to be fixed?

If the demographics at TJ are wrong and the reason for this needs to be fixed, and the solution is to consider economics and geography in admissions, then the admissions standards will be compromised and no longer based on academic ability and academic

achievement.

As a final thought, if demographic percentages are so important and are the reason for the needed fix, why was the percentage of Asian students enrolled at TJ omitted?

Dan McKim
Springfield

Disappointing Letter

To the Editor:

The letter that 69 graduates of TJ sent to state Sen. Steve Newman was disappointing ("An Opportunity to Improve TJ," Connection, Feb. 7-8, 2018). All they did was repeat what has been said before. A person could expect that 69 who had gone through the system might have put their heads together and come up with valid suggestions.

Betty Stacey
McLean

Football Scholarships

To the Editor:

The National Capital Region Chapter of the National Football Foundation is accepting nominations for its 2018 Scholar-Athlete banquet. The Chapter awards five \$1,000 scholarships annually to deserving high school senior scholar athletes who played high school football. Nominees are evaluated on academic and athletic excellence, as well as contributions to their school and community. Nomination packets have

been mailed to each high school head coach in the National Capital Region. Deadline for submission of nomination packets is April 6. The 12th Annual Awards Banquet will be held on April 22 at the Army-Navy Club in Arlington.

The National Football Foundation was founded in 1947 to promote and develop amateur American football on all levels. The National Football Foundation has more than 115 chapters nationwide. The National Capital Region Chapter has awarded over 65 scholarships and honored over 230 deserving student-athletes in the past 10 years.

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

For additional information, contact your head football coach.

Bob Jarrell
Scholarship Selection
Committee Chairman
NCR Chapter, NFF

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.
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Styling a Coffee Table Using décor to make a table pop.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

There's an art to designing a living room coffee table, says local interior designer Susan Tucker. In fact, when she's helping a client create a living room space, she pays particular attention to creating a stylish and functional table.

"It seems like such a small thing, but when designed the right way, a coffee table can become the focal point of a room and really make it pop," she said. "I believe that there's a right way and a wrong way to put together a coffee table, but it's not hard if you keep certain things in mind."

Vary the height and scale so that each item can shine on its own. "If everything is the same height, none of them will be noticed," said Tucker. "Think a pretty vase of flowers behind a small porcelain bowl."

Work to create balance between small and large items, says Alexandria, Virginia-based designer Steven Gambit. "For example, a smattering of small knick-knacks can look cluttered on a coffee table," he said. "Along the same lines, too many large items on a coffee table can be overpowering. Instead select a few items and group them together by size."

Change items as the seasons or holidays



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NEST EGG

Books add visual interest and can provide topics of conversation when displayed on a coffee table.

change. "As spring approaches, consider adding a small bouquet of fresh or silk spring flowers," said Tucker. "If you celebrate Easter, consider Easter décor, like a bunny or a basket with eggs. I picked up some elegant Easter items at a local home accessories store last spring. One or two simple items can breathe fresh life in a table design."

Choose items with colors that are found in other places in a room's design. "If you



Consider placing coffee table items on a tray, like this one from the Nest Egg, says Interior Designer Susan Tucker.

have a painting with bright colors, for example, choose one of the colors and find an item in the same color to add to your coffee table. If you have throw pillows in interesting colors, considering using one of those colors on your coffee table."

Consider only decorating one section of the coffee table, especially if the table is large. "It's a good idea to leave some space free, especially if you entertain a lot," said

Gambit. "Your guests will need a place to put a drink. Don't feel compelled to fill every inch of space."

A serving tray can serve two purposes on a coffee table, says Gambit. "An elegant serving tray can make a dramatic statement on a coffee table, and can give a table some structure, especially if it's holding smaller items," he said. "If you need to clear the coffee table quickly, like if you're entertaining, a tray makes it easy."

Think about what the items on the coffee table will look from different places in the room, suggests Tucker. "Stand over your coffee table and get a sense of what the objects look like gazing down at it," she said. "Sit across the room from it. Can the items be seen fully or are the most appealing parts of an item obstructed? I generally discourage clients from putting picture frames on a coffee table because you can't see the main attraction — the photo — from behind."

Be practical and sentimental. "Because people tend to gather around coffee tables, don't put a breakable family heirloom or an expensive piece on them," said Gambit. "Coffee table books are a good idea because they can be topics of conversation. You can use a coffee table to display things that represent a part of your personality, lifestyle or a hobby."

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Here's What's Happening at MCC

Presented by The Alden

The Unruly Theatre Project



Thursday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.
MPA@ChainBridge Gallery
1446 Chain Bridge Rd.
Free admission

Presented by The Alden

BRIDESMAIDS

Galentine's Day
Quote-Along Movie

Friday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m.
The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
Admission and popcorn are free.
Prop bags are \$5 each.
* Must be 17 years old or older to attend.

The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips Washington Wizards vs Charlotte Hornets

Friday, Feb. 23, 4:30-11 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$50/\$40 MCC district residents



Presented by The Alden

Intro to Djembe Drumming and Drum Circle (OFC)



Friday, March 2, 7-8:30 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

Presented by The Alden

Doktor Kaboom: "It's Just Rocket Science"

Sunday, March 4, 2 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents



McLean Traveler

2018 Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia, Pa.



Monday, March 5
\$137 per person
\$132 MCC district residents



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



Administrative Offices
6631 Old Dominion Dr.
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711



CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 15

The Unruly Theatre. 7 p.m. at MPA@ChainBridge Gallery, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Sponsored by The Alden, the area's hottest professional teen improv troupe offers a night of comedy. Free admission. Call 571-296-8385 or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Penny University. 7-8 p.m. at Caffe Amouri, 107 Church St. NE, Vienna. A Penny University about international and adventure travel basics hosted by REI at Caffe Amouri. Free. Call 703-938-1623 or visit www.caffeamouri.com.

FEB. 15-MARCH 11

"The Farnsworth Invention." Thursdays-Sundays, various times at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Writer Aaron Sorkin's signature style lends itself to the story of the invention that changed our lives. In 1929, two ambitious visionaries race against each other to invent a device called "television." Who will unlock the key to the greatest innovation of the 20th century: the ruthless media mogul, or the self-taught Idaho farm boy? \$33 general admission, \$30 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Purchase at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY/FEB. 16

"Bridesmaids." 8 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join The Alden staff as they quote along with the dialogue from "Bridesmaids" (R), recreating scenes with the help of props, onscreen subtitles and cues. There will be plenty of fun, including an ugly bridesmaid dress contest. Call 703-448-8336 or visit www.mcleancenter.org/teens.

SATURDAY/FEB. 17

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

Eya: Marian Meditation. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 3022 Woodlawn Ave., Falls Church. Award-winning early music vocal ensemble Eya will perform A Marian Meditation, a restorative, soul-filled musical program featuring a wide-range of medieval chant and polyphony from England, France, Italy and Spain. Free. Visit www.holytrinityfallschurch.org/music/

SUNDAY/FEB. 18

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-noon at Vienna American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Vienna. Get omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy and more. Adults \$9, children 12 and under \$3. Call 703-938-6580.

Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Moch Pryderi, together for 19 years, the band performs traditional Celtic music from Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Brittany and Galicia as well as Appalachia, performs fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the link at oldbrogue.com:

The show will be held at The Stage at Holy Trinity Church, 850 Balls Hill Road in McLean.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Oakcrest School Brings 'Little Women' to Life

Oakcrest School in Vienna Upper School production of Louisa May Alcott's novel, "Little Women," reminds us all of the true beauty of love and family. For those who enjoy watching and supporting local theatre, tickets to Oakcrest's dramatization are on sale now with three performance times.

In celebration of 40 years of theatre, Oakcrest is offering free tickets to the matinee performance on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. "We have much to be grateful for, especially this past year as we settled into our new permanent home in Vienna. We felt there was no better way to show our gratitude than to give back to the families in our community," said Dr. Mary T. Ortiz, Head of School. Ages 13 and under can experience the magic of live theatre for free.

Opening Performance is Friday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Closing performance is Saturday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets available online or at the door: \$15 general admission, flat rate of \$50 for families of six or more; Patrons of the Arts sponsorships available. Free for 13 and under at the Saturday matinee are only available online at oakcrestuslittlewomen.eventbrite.com. (*Ticket reservations online only.) The show will be held at The Stage at Holy Trinity Church, 850 Balls Hill Road in McLean.

\$18 general admission/\$12 children under 12. Season ticket: \$96/\$60 children. Call 703-759-3309.

TUESDAY/FEB. 20

Sally Ride History Event. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Mary Ann Jung will recreate Sally Ride The event is hosted by the Great Falls Senior Center. Email Polly Fitzgerald at pollyfitz1@verizon.net, call 703-759-4345, or visit gfseniors.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 21

Art Reception. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike. Featured artists include Linda Jones, exhibiting 40 watercolors, acrylics and mixed media paintings titled "Evolving Landscapes," and the pottery of Laura Nichols of Pig Pen Pottery, and her students. Refreshments included. There will be an artists' talk at 7:30 p.m. Contact Linda Jones at 703-442-9251.

Travel Presentation and Wine Tasting. 6:30 p.m. at Total Wine and More, McLean. Learn about the Galapagos Islands and travel in Ecuador and Peru. Complementary South American wine tasting. Meet former and repeat Galapagos travelers, as well as cruise line representatives. Free and open to the public, although due to space requirements an RSVP is requested. To RSVP, contact Peter Himmelberger at 703-496-4125 or at www.travelcruiseandtour.com/galapagos.

Film Screening: Just Eat It. 7-9 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven

Place, Oakton. Filmmakers and food lovers Grant and Jen explore the topic of food waste (from farm to retail to fridge) as they pledge to survive on discarded food for a year. Free. Contact Susan Weltz at sweltz@yahoo.com or visit virginia2.sierraclub.org/greatfalls/.

THURSDAY/FEB. 22

KGB Dead or Alive? 7-9 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena, 1020 Springvale Road, Great Falls. An evening with Jack Dziak. Learn about the history of the KGB and Putin's Russia. Dziak has had a career in intelligence, counterintelligence, counter-deception, national security affairs and technology transfer. Free. Email bfrioio@gmail.com for more.

Successful Writing Collaborations. 7:30-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E., Vienna. Learn from experienced mystery short story writer and anthology collaborator, Josh Pachter. Find out about this growing trend and how the collaboration process works. James Patterson, Clive Cussler and Catherine Coulter, among others, are now working with lesser known authors in collaborations that extend their reach and give "a leg up" to new talent. Adults. Free. Call 703-938-0405 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3756858.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 22-25

Captioned Performances of "The Farnsworth Invention." See detailed schedule online. 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

SPORTS



From left: Elena Shklyar, senior at Langley High School and Katherine Sandercock, senior at Bishop O'Connell High School, both from McLean, pictured after winning the Virginia Gatorade Player of the Year Award in their respective sports.



From left: Elena Shklyar, senior at Langley High School, and Katherine Sandercock, senior at Bishop O'Connell High School, both from McLean, pictured after winning the Virginia Gatorade Player of the Year Award in their respective sports.

McLean Neighbors Move to the Next Level

Two McLean next door neighbors win Gatorade Player of the Year and will play D1 sports.

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Two McLean high school seniors have lived next door to each other their entire lives. Both students were recently recruited to play Division One college sports, and both girls won Gatorade's Player of the Year in Virginia for their sport: Elena Shklyar is the second volleyball player to win this distinguished honor at Langley High School and Katherine Sandercock is the third Gatorade Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop O'Connell High School.

Sandercock recently won Gatorade's Player of the Year Award in Virginia for her softball pitching, and will be attending Florida State University on an athletic scholarship. Her longtime friend and next door neighbor, Shklyar, also won the Gatorade Player of the Year Award in Virginia for career as a volleyball setter and will be attending Michigan State on an athletic scholarship this year.

"It was never barbies, it was going outside and playing," said Shklyar.

Shklyar admits to being athletic, driven, and extremely competitive, as does Sandercock. This mindset is what drove them both to win an award like Gatorade's player of the year in addition to keeping upstanding grades in school.

"I'm ultra-competitive," said Shklyar.



Elena Shklyar, senior at Langley High School, with her Michigan State T-shirt. She will be playing volleyball on the D-1 level at Michigan State on an athletic scholarship this year.

"We've been getting our work done on the road our whole lives and this will help us in college. Gatorade takes into consideration your school and the community," she said.

PARENTS also play a role in helping their children achieve their athletic goals, and their role was central with Sandercock.

"My dad built a pitching facility in my backyard. That's huge because I don't have to drive forever to practice. My dad and mom have both sacrificed so much for me. If they didn't know how to do something to help me, they would learn it," said Sandercock.

Sandercock was recruited last summer to play on the Women's Junior Olympic Soft-



Katherine Sandercock with her Virginia Gatorade Player of the Year Award for her softball pitching career at Bishop O'Connell High School. She is the third player to win this award from Bishop O'Connell.

ball Team, and is hoping to compete in the 2024 Olympic games as a softball pitcher.

"Having someone next door doing well in their sport is great," said Shklyar.

And friendly competition from an early age is what drove both of these girls to achieve their childhood goals of competing on the most competitive college level in the country.

"Both of my brothers played sports, but I'm the only one who will play in college," said Shklyar.

Sandercock comes from a sports family. Her father played Division three baseball, and her grandfather was a minor league baseball player. Sandercock also had an older sister who was a competitive cheerleader.

"I'm excited and ready to work harder. Also being surrounded by players who are on that level of competition and getting to talk to the older players is great. I want to

step up into that leadership position in college," said Sandercock.

THE VIRGINIA STATE Gatorade Player of the Year Award was a great honor to Sandercock and Shklyar for their athletic achievements, but also for their work as students and as people, as the association focuses on the whole player.

Trish Sandercock was excited about her daughter's hard earned success and recent admission to Florida State University. "When you know you've got somebody special back in eighth grade you start looking early. And when you're in that world you just kind of know which schools are the best," she said.

Shklyar is also ready to move on from Langley High School after graduation.

"It's big 10 Volleyball at Michigan State. I love the atmosphere. They have huge school spirit!" she said.

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Announcements



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Announcements

SCHOOLS

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Eric Lin, a Falls Church resident, will travel to Orlando, Fla., in March to compete as a National Finalist in the MTNA Senior Piano Competition.

Lin earned this opportunity after winning the Southern Division of the Senior Piano Competition, which includes nine states winner. Lin has been studying piano for 12 years and has won many international and national competitions. Lin is named a YoungArts Honorable Mention Winner recently. Since his debut at age 11 with the Oistrakh Symphony in Chicago, Lin has performed as soloist with five Symphony Orchestras nationwide, including Capital City Symphony in Washington, D.C., MostArts Symphony in Alfred, N.Y., and Harper College Symphony in Chicago. In June 2016, Lin performed with National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center.

A senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, he is also a Regional Finalists for the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology and Regeneron STS 2018 Scholar.

The Senior Piano Competition will take place on Saturday, March 17, 2018 during the MTNA National Conference. The national winner of this competition receives a cash prize and will perform in a Winners Concert during the conference.

Miranda Elizabeth Dietze, of Tysons Corner, was named to the Iowa State University dean's list for fall 2017.

Diego Vargas, of McLean, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2017 semester at Curry College (Milton, Mass.).

Analea D. Von Seggern, of McLean, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Clemson University (S.C.) with a Bachelor of Science in accounting.

Brooke White, of McLean, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at the University of Rhode Island.

Angela Heltberg, of Falls Church, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at the University of Rhode Island.

Margaret Connelly, of McLean, was named to the dean's list at Johnson State College (Vt.), for the fall 2017 semester.

Asher Altman, of Falls Church, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Widener University (Chester, Pa.). Altman is an exploratory studies major.

Flannery Mehigan, of McLean, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at the University of Vermont.

Hannah Moss, of McLean, was

named to the fall 2017 dean's list at the University of Vermont.

The following students from McLean were named to the dean's list at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2017 semester: **Adam Greiner, Alexina Haefner, Madeline Kelleher, Arianna Afsari, Evelyn Basham, Michael Blumenfeld, Autumn Brenner, Faith Burke, Emily Bush, Anna Campion, Hana Chaudhri, Isabel Cooper, Clare DaBaldo, Sneha Dass, Margaret Duval, Prateek Govindaraj, Rebecca Hall, Sarah Evy Horan, Michael Howard, Kaia Johnson, Andrew Katson, Katherine Kennedy, Jason Kimko, Deborah Kornblut, Ariana Kuhnsman, Anna Laws, Elijah Levine, Christine Li, Kristyn Long, Sri Harshavardhan Malapati, Margaret Mattheis, Samuel Nussbaum, Laura Opsahl-Ong, Douglas Palumbo, Jonathan Palumbo, Audrey Park, Kara Peters, Tara Prakash, Elizabeth Radcliffe, David Rice, Kanika Sahai, Luke Scarano, Somya Shankar, Rhea Sharma, Maire Shine, Connor Simpson, Hayley Snowden, Anahita Suri, Sarah Swenson, Theodore Tanous, Jason Wang, Hayley Wenk, Aohua Yang, Rayna Yu, Eleonor Zavala, Ashley Zhang, and Joshua Zinger.**

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Tysons Corner. Writer Aaron Sorkin's signature style lends itself to the story of the invention that changed our lives. In 1929, two ambitious visionaries race against each other to invent a device called "television." Who will unlock the key to the greatest innovation of the 20th century: the ruthless media mogul, or the self-taught Idaho farm boy? \$33 general admission, \$30 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Purchase at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY/FEB. 23

Art Society Meeting. 9 a.m.-noon at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. Glen Kessler, a renowned pet portrait artist will be the featured demonstrator. His artwork is collected internationally and he has won many prizes including The Elizabeth Greenshields Grant for outstanding figure work. Guests are welcome. Call 703-653-9519.

Washington Wizards vs Charlotte Hornets. 4:30-11 p.m., leaving from The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join Old Firehouse staffers as they watch John Wall, Bradley Beal and the rest of the Washington Wizards face off against the Charlotte Hornets. \$50/\$40 MCC district residents, tickets and transportation are included. Participants should bring \$20 for dinner and additional money for souvenirs if desired. Register online or at the Center, using Activity No. 5304.318. Call 703-448-8336 or visit www.mcleancenter.org/teens.

SATURDAY/FEB. 24

Winter Wine Tasting. 7-10 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.



PHOTO BY RACHEL HARDING

Ollie, a 17-month-old it mix is one of many dogs at the Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation waiting to find a forever home.

Yoga for Dogs

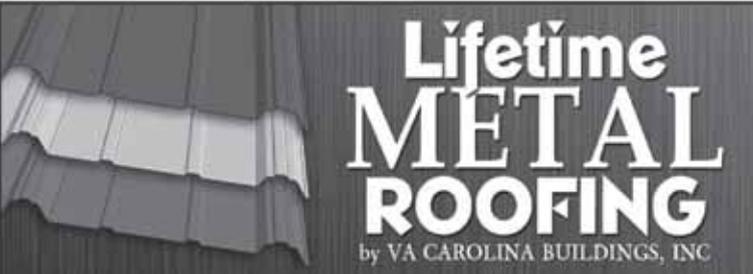
SourceCore Studio is hosting a "Donations for Dogs" yoga fundraiser for the Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. "Paws and reflect" in this all-levels class dedicated to functional movement and wellness. Free, the event is donation-based. Sunday, Feb. 25, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at SourceCore Studio, 144 Church St NW #102, Vienna. Call 703-755-0891 or visit www.sourcecorestudio.com/workshops for more.

Enjoy fine food, wines and friendship at a new venue and with Classic Wines of Great Falls and the chefs at Passionfish and Barcelona restaurants over in Reston. In addition, a selection of cheeses and wines by the glass will be available. Email Erin Lobato or Missy Perkins at info@celebrategreatfalls.org about volunteering. This event has sold out in the past. \$75. Tickets at www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 25

Maple Syrup Boil-Down. Noon-2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. The sap is rising and the maple trees are tapped. Now it's sugaring time at Colvin Run Mill. Watch and learn as sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an open fire. This is an outdoor program, dress for the weather. \$5 per person. No reservations required.

Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill/maple-syrup.
Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Robin Bullock and Sue Richards perform fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the link at oldbrogue.com: \$18 general admission/\$12 children under 12. Season ticket: \$96/\$60 children. Call 703-759-3309.
Artist Reception. 5-7 p.m. at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Artist reception with featured 10th Anniversary gallery artists. All are welcome. \$33 general admission, \$30 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Purchase at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.



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BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept.30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration.

GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATES

The McLean Community Center (MCC) is seeking candidates to run for seats on its 2018-2019 Governing Board. A candidate must reside in the Center's tax district (Small District 1A-Dranesville). To have their names placed on election ballots, candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 McLean tax district residents in their respective categories (either adult or youth). Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Key Election Dates:

- Friday, March 16: Completed Petition Packets are due at MCC by 5 p.m.
- Monday, March 19: Candidates' Orientation, 7 p.m., The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
- Monday, April 9: Absentee Voting begins at the MCC Administrative Office, 6631 Old Dominion Dr., and The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
- Sunday, May 6: Candidates Meet and Greet, 2-4 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of MCC, at the Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
- Wednesday, May 16: Absentee Voting ends at the MCC Administrative Office and the Old Firehouse Center at 5 p.m.
- Saturday, May 19: Elections at McLean Day from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information on the MCC Governing Board Elections, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the Center's website: <http://bit.ly/2ix7qc1>.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 14

Ash Wednesday. 6:30-8:30 a.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Commuters and area residents are invited to take part in "Drive-Thru Ashes" with Pastor Eric Song administering ashes and distributing copies of the church's 19th annual "Devotions for Lent" publication. Good Shepherd will hold a traditional Ash Wednesday service at the church at 7:30 p.m. Call 703-281-3987 or visit www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

1 Million Cups. 8:30 a.m. networking; 9-10 a.m. program at Make Offices at Tysons, 1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600, McLean. Each week a different business owner gives a brief six-minute presentation about where they are in their business. They then offer up a challenge question about a new idea, product, expansion or something they are facing in their business. The group then masterminds solutions. Free and open to the public. Visit www.1millioncups.com/.

Grant Application Deadline. The Community Investment Funds are the signature grant cycle managed by the Community Foundation in which funds are invested in organizations serving the Northern Virginia community. This year funding will be provided in four areas of focus: Child and Youth Development, Education, Poverty Relief, and Aging. Visit www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/community-investment-funds.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 15

Shape of the Region Conference. 8 a.m.-11:45 p.m. at Valo Park, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. The inaugural Shape of the Region Conference, co-hosted by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia and the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, exploring issues facing our region's future as illuminated by data from the Community Foundation's Opportunity Index. \$65. Call 703-879-7636 for more.

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"AutoMadic"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I realize that given the growth and evolution of the world most of us live in, and how business is transacted, there are two words, a phrase actually, whose very existence is threatened: "Bill me." "C.O.D.," "Cash on delivery" is likely itself on the precipice of extinction, a dodo bird if there ever was one. However, since "Money makes the world go 'round," – or at least it made the hit musical "Cabaret" go 'round in 1966, credit and one's good name can only stretch the dollar so far. Bills have to be paid or else the world doesn't "go 'round" so far. Moreover, if the money is missing, there's less to sing about.

Ergo an idea/system was devised whereby people/entities to whom you owed money would have semi unfettered access to your money – without having to talk to you/ask permission. Once the consumer/"owner" had signed an authorization granting such access, the game was on and the money withdrawn (debited) regularly, as agreed to.

Occasionally, financial inducements were offered to entice the consumer to subject his money/accounts to such plundering. But eventually, the process became all the rage. Meaning, consumers couldn't transact business any other way, and despite any hesitations or objections (anger) to the contrary, it was either debit or die. And though this system didn't cause a revolution or become a motto on a license plate, it did change how we bank, buy and balance.

Within the last few weeks I've added two more automatic monthly debits. Payments which I was given no other realistic choice/method to pay other than all at once (not happening,) or once a month, automatically from my bank. And not that I felt held up by the process, but I did feel as if the highway awaited if I didn't pay their way.

So now I have six monthly debits drafting on five different but recurring days, save for holidays and weekends of course. In addition, I have granted additional bank access to retailers, service providers, Internet-only companies, Amazon, pharmaceutical warehouses and on and on and on; all of whom have keys – so to speak – to my kingdom, such as it is.

Still, I think I know what's being debited at any given time, but in the context of and conjunction with, all the other transactions that I or my wife make, sometimes I don't know if I do know, actually, whether my money is coming in or going out or finding a new home somewhere – and one not in this country and likely irretrievable, or disappearing altogether with any other money I may have accumulated.

All of those worst case, possibly everyday scenarios, notwithstanding, what can I do? If I don't play and in turn, don't pay, then I am likely having to fend for myself. I may still have plenty of places to go to, but what am I going to do when I get there? My wallet (unlike George Costanza's) isn't big enough to hold all the cash I'd need to conclude just a few of my transactions. I don't like ceding control this way, but the joke may already be on me: I don't have any control. It was taken away a long time ago when the first authorization was signed allowing a second/third party to withdraw money – automatically, and regularly, from the "signee's" bank account. From that point on, it was, as we say in New England: "Katie bar the door," meaning: bad news, among a variety of other "unpleasantries."

Regardless of how I fear all of these companies/"withdrawers" having a way into my bank account in order to get my money out, the reality is, there isn't a damn thing I can do about it. I just have to pay attention, literally – and figuratively. Otherwise, I'll be a victim of their circumstance.

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



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