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Portrait artist, John McCabe, using the alla prima painting method to capture model Mark Casso in his revolutionary war costume in front of a live audience during ArtFest on Saturday, May 5.

Great Falls CONNECTION

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New Train Arrives
To Clemyjontri Park

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Local Students Join Gun Safety Town Hall

Much unity, some dissention as community discusses the issue.

Andrea Worker
The Connection

U.S. Rep. Gerald E. Connolly's Town Hall meeting at the Providence Community Center on Tuesday evening, May 1, represented a departure from most public forums.

To begin with, the format wasn't the traditional politician updating his constituents, responding to their questions and feedback, then making the rounds and shaking hands. Instead, the congressman shared the speaker's table with four high school students who he credited with "bringing us together this evening for a community discussion on gun safety."

Since the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. on Feb. 14 that left 17 dead and more wounded, students across the nation have organized rallies, school walkouts and marches. They have been demanding gun regulations, other changes in law enforcement and communications, and more resources for mental health awareness and treatment. Groups have formed under banners such as "Enough is Enough," "March for Our Lives," and "Never Again."

"We are more than an interest club. We will push for action," said panelist Michael McCabe, a sophomore at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax,

In recent weeks, McCabe and many other young activists started contacting their elected officials, asking to be heard. Connolly's office received its fair share of those communications.

"This is really their Town Hall," Connolly said in his opening remarks, adding that he sees real momentum coming from the student movement. "I think it is with their voices, their passion, that we will finally get something done."

Three of the four panelists belong to the group Students Demand Action (SDA) at their respective schools, and the fourth is the president of Youth Initiative for National Action. They were there to pursue "common sense gun legislation."

Ella Wogaman represented the West Springfield High School chapter of Students Demand Action. She is also the social media correspondent for the regional SDA chapter.

"A few months ago, we had a handful of members. I think we just hit 400," Wogaman said. The West Springfield senior says that she and many others are focusing efforts on voter registration and getting people, especially first-time voters to the polls, as the way to "really find our voice and get our issues addressed."

Langston Carter, a home-schooled senior from Woodbridge who has attended public schools, spoke from the viewpoint of students of color.



Local student activists called for a meeting with their congressman, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who responded with a Town Hall event. Flanking Connolly are, left, Ryan Carney, Madison High School junior, and Michael McCabe, Robinson Secondary School sophomore. On right are Ella Wogaman, West Springfield High School senior and Langston Carter, senior from Woodbridge.

Carter cited studies that show people of color, particularly young African-American males, are significantly more likely to be the victims of gun violence. The mission of Carter's organization is to "encourage the next generation to take action against bigotry and other issues ... to work with political leaders to make a difference."

Ryan Carney highlighted some of the actions that the members of his SDA chapter are taking.

"We've been getting together, organizing phone banks, writing letters, getting the word out wherever we can," said the James Madison High School junior.

It's also no secret where Connolly stands on the issue of gun safety — right alongside them. An active member of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, he says he's proud of the "F" grade he earns each year from the National Rifle Association (NRA), whose headquarters are located in his congressional district. Aside from attending vigils on the NRA's doorstep, recently for Parkland, and annually on the anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, Connolly attributes his status with the organization to the numerous gun safety laws he has proposed or supported over the years. He also took aim at his "friends across



The Fairfax Council of PTAs, represented by president Beth Tudon, offered assistance and resources to promote voter registration in schools.



Donna Widawski, a former Secret Service agent from Fairfax, supports the efforts of the congressman and the students, but reminded them to "think bigger picture" about school and public safety.



Zachary Schonfeld asked the panelists how they handle negative backlash — something the South Lakes High School senior faced after speaking at an event. "One word," responded U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly. "Fortitude."

the aisle" for their unwillingness to go against the NRA and "even discuss sensible safety measures to protect all of our citizens."

"**WE'RE NOT** talking about taking everyone's guns away," Connolly said, "but I am sick of a 'moment of silence' in Congress after each of these horrific events and no action. More than 150,000 people have lost their lives to gun violence since Newtown and yet in all that time Congress has not taken a single vote to enact [basic gun control measures] ... We couldn't even get a vote to keep guns out of the hands of people who are on the "No Fly List." [A list created by several federal government agen-

cies of persons prohibited from boarding commercial aircraft for travel within, into, or out of U.S. airspace, primarily for suspected terrorist association.]

For Connolly and others, the basics are simple, "no-brainer" pieces of legislation to ban assault weapons, enact universal background checks and close the "gun show loophole."

The current drafts are H.R. 5087 to ban assault weapons, H.R. 4240 to establish universal background checks, and H.R. 1612 to close the gun show loophole.

Of equal importance to advocates is fighting for funds for several initiatives. When one constituent complained that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Photos by
Andrea Worker/
The Connection

(CDC) had been barred from studying the effects of gun violence, Connolly responded that the latest government funding bill did clarify that the CDC was, in fact, empowered to do such research, but that the funds to do so were not approved.

WHEN AUDIENCE members got their turn at the microphone, most offered encouragement and congratulations to the student activists.

Although it seemed that the panel and the audience were closely aligned in their views, there were those in the audience with a differing opinion.

See Town Hall, Page 15

STAYING SAFE TOGETHER

May 18 is Bike to Work Day. Here are some safety tips to remember.





Sharrows indicate a shared lane for bicycles and cars. Slow down and watch for bicyclists. Motorists may cross the double yellow line to pass when it is safe to do so.



Bike lanes give bicycles their own space, making it safer to pass. Do not drive or park in a bike lane.



When turning right in a car, merge into the dashed bike lane and turn at the curb. Do not merge across solid bike lane.

Join us for the National Bike Challenge - May 1-31
 Bike to Work Day - May 18
fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk

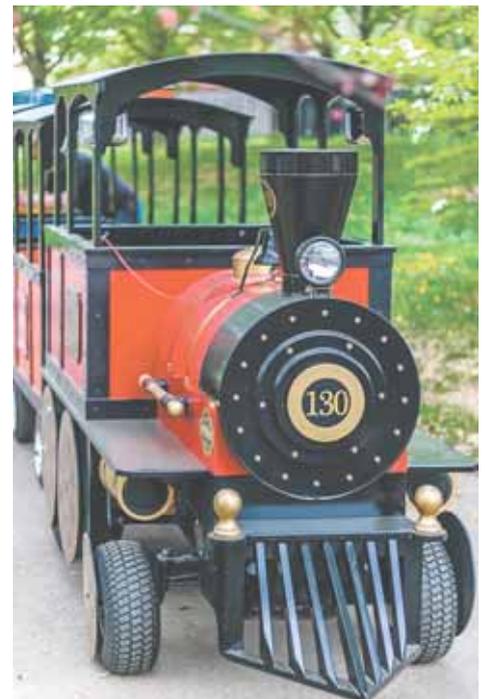



Photos by Jennifer Kaye/The Connection

All loaded up and ready to go: the children and adults were ready to ride the train and see the park.

New Train Arrives to Clemyjontri Park

On Saturday, May 5, children and parents eagerly lined up for the opening of the new trackless train at Clemyjontri Park in McLean. The updated train has four brightly colored passenger cars, and can hold adults and children of all ages. The train makes two loops around the park each ride, and tickets can be purchased for \$3. The train operates from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on weekends from now through Memorial Day, and then Labor Day weekend through October. The train will run 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on weekdays starting Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. There are 30 minute breaks throughout the day and timing varies, however, you can call ahead to find out the train schedule for the day. For more information about Clemyjontri Park visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/clemyjontri>



The new train at the park ready for its first ride of the 2018 season.

— Jennifer Kaye

Sherean Miller, with her two children, Seaton and Kennedy, came all the way from Arlington to ride the train Saturday morning. They come to the park often and love riding the train and the carousel.



10th Congressional Campaign Forum in McLean

May 23, Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

**Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in McLean
 1545 Chain Bridge Road**

Candidates from Both Parties in the Nationally Watched 10th District Race

Key issues: Virginia Economic Equality Caucus (EEC) nonpartisan forum for 10th District Candidates on economic progress and equality, job creation, infrastructure, health care, and economic opportunity for women and minorities, Wednesday evening, May 23.

Key Speakers are 10th Congressional District candidates of both parties.

- Alison Friedman, Democrat, (confirmed)
- Dan Helmer, Democrat, (confirmed)
- Shak Hill, Republican, (confirmed)
- Paul Pelletier, Democrat, (confirmed)
- Lindsey Davis Stover, Democrat, (confirmed)
- State Sen. Jennifer Wexton, Democrat, (invited)
- US Rep. Barbara Comstock, Republican incumbent in the 10th District (invited)

This is free. Please RSVP by email to Lee Powell at leepowell@delta.comcastbiz.net or by phone at (202) 360-6347

Agenda: Reception, 4:45 to 5:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. - Non-political section for nonprofits and local leaders to discuss their beneficial work; including the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Social Concerns Committee, Phillips Programs for Children and Families; Share, Inc., nonprofit in McLean/Tyson's area; Mayor David Smith of Winchester, VA; Community Foundation for Northern Virginia.

5:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. - Forum for 10th Congressional candidates from both parties

The Virginia EEC committee is a nonpartisan coalition of nonprofits, faith-based entities and grassroots leaders in Virginia. As a strictly optional suggestion, a charitable donation can be made to the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Social Concerns Committee for their work for needy people in the area.



Photos by Andrea Worker/The Connection

From left, Barbara Chen, Lissa Carter and Candace Bovee. The three board members of the Great Falls Friends and Neighbors Scholarship Fund were front and center at the fundraiser at Mookie's BBQ of Great Falls, encouraging patrons to donate or buy raffle tickets.



Jackie Culhane, the Hospitality VP of the Great Falls Friends and Neighbors, put those friendly service skills to use, selling sangria at Mookie's to raise funds for the student recipients for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Friends and Neighbors Raise Funds for Women's Education

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

“People often think that everyone in our wonderful area can afford a higher education, but too often that just isn't true. Receiving scholarships made a real difference for me when I was a struggling nursing school student. I am honored to be part of this mission to raise funds for deserving young woman, to help them achieve their goals.”

Barbara Chen, president of the board of the Great Falls Friends and Neighbors Scholarship Fund, was more than willing to talk about the non-profit's efforts and the women who have been served as a result. Chen, wearing a symbolic graduation cap, was manning the donation and raffle ticket table at the second annual Friends and Neighbors Scholarship Fund fundraiser Thursday evening at Mookie's BBQ in Great Falls.

“It's not just tuition,” Chen added. “A lot of people don't think about the add-ons, like books, meals, even parking fees. It all adds up, and every little bit we can provide is important.”

Though under the umbrella of the Great Falls Friends and Neighbors women's club,



Beth Colligan, a member of the board of the Great Falls Friends and Neighbors, really had a handle on her volunteer bartender duties. Colligan and others took the opportunity to educate the patrons on the cause while pouring those drinks.

in 1983 the scholarship fund became a separate 501 (c) (3) entity with its own board, approved by the board of the women's club and very much supported by its membership.

The scholarship fund exists to aid local women over the age of 25 who attend George Mason University or the Northern Virginia Community College.

Through donations and fundraisers like the event at Mookie's, four recipients from George Mason shared a total of \$5,500 for the 2017-2018 school year, with \$2000 provided to two from Northern Virginia Community College. “We hope to raise a bit more this time for the 2018-2019 academic year. Here's hoping,” said fundraiser director and fund board member Lissa Carter.

The scholarship fund also established two \$25,000 endowments in 2016, one for each school, to ensure perpetuity of the monies that were previously donated for the cause. In memory of former club member Betty Carter, a scholarship is also awarded each year to a George Mason dance student.

Members of both boards, and a spouse or two, went to work at the benefit event, doing their best as “bartenders” and “sangria sellers.” Since Mookie's was donating 10 percent of the takings from 4-9 p.m. — including bar tabs and take-outs — Beth Colligan, a board member of GFFN, and Ken Chen, husband of Barb Chen, encouraged patrons at the bar. Judging by the numbers of people holding either a white or red sangria in their hands, GFFN Hospitality VP Jackie Culhane worked some magic at the sangria stall, as well.

Lissa Carter reported that the Scholarship Fund added about \$1400 to their coffers before the night was over, but reminded everyone that “there's no deadline for donating!”

Information about the Great Falls Friends and Neighbors Scholarship Fund can be found at their website www.gffnsf.org. The site includes inspiring stories about scholarship recipients, and how to donate.

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Jennifer Ivary, Kaleidoscope III, 2015

Opinion

Vote, Vote, Vote

Anyone who was closely watching last November's election in got a demonstration about what difference one vote can make. Control of the Virginia General Assembly came down to a single race that was deemed to be tied, and was decided by a random drawing. Republicans won.

Vote. It's so important to vote. Your vote could actually be the deciding vote.

Your best shot at ensuring you can vote is to vote early.

How To Vote

Every year is election year in Virginia; mechanics and details of voting require attention to detail. For the primary, you will ask for a Democratic or Republican ballot.

Editorial

If you want to be sure you get to vote, voting early if you qualify is a good choice. Early voting, called absentee voting in person in Virginia, is already underway for the primary.

There are many valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible: elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html

There are two ways to vote absentee, in-person and by mail. To do either, you should first check your voter registration status to make sure it is up-to-date. Then you will need to apply for an absentee ballot. If you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the location.

Voting absentee by mail? You can now apply for an absentee ballot online with the state's new Citizen Portal. You will need your Social Security Number and information on your Virginia Driver's License to complete the application. Information is also provided on how to apply if you do not have a driver's license.

In Person Absentee Locations, Fairfax

- ❖ Fairfax County Government Center
 - ❖ Franconia Governmental Center
 - ❖ Lorton Library
 - ❖ Mason Governmental Center
 - ❖ McLean Governmental Center
 - ❖ Mount Vernon Governmental Center
 - ❖ North County Governmental Center
 - ❖ Providence Community Center
 - ❖ Sully Governmental Center
 - ❖ West Springfield Governmental Center
- www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee
703-222-0776 TTY 711
voting@fairfaxcounty.gov
12000 Government Center Parkway Suite

Letters to the Editor

Making Summer Camp Affordable

To the Editor:

I read with interest Marilyn Campbell's recent article on the difficulty of affording summer camp. As the director of Traveling Players Ensemble, a summer theatre camp, I've been acutely aware of the issues families face in paying for camp for years. I've seen the enormous difference that summer enrichment programs can make in a kid's life. That's why I

323, Fairfax, VA 22035

Virginia Voter ID

Virginia has voter identification requirements; plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether that is absentee or on Primary Election Day.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; valid U.S. Passport; other government-issued photo identification cards issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; Tribal enrollment or other tribal ID issued by one of 11 tribes recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia; valid college or university student photo identification card from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad. Once the application is processed, the card will be mailed directly to the voter. A voter who does not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls will be offered a provisional ballot.

Provisional Ballot Process for Voters Who Arrive Without Identification

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo identification, don't panic or give up.

You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. Voters may submit a copy of their ID via fax, email, in-person submission, or through USPS or commercial delivery service. Please note that the copy of the ID must be delivered by noon on Friday.

made it my goal to offer the most generous summer scholarships in the area.

We just received a \$10,000 grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, specifically to underwrite scholarships, and we are actively seeking middle and high schoolers of financial need to participate in our summer camps. Some of our previous scholarship campers have even been able to turn the high-level training they get from us into longer-

What's on the Ballot for Primary Election June 12?

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY US House of Representatives

District 8

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
(unopposed in primary)

District 10, Vote for One Winner will Face U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) in November

Lindsey Davis Stover
Jennifer T. Wexton
Paul E. Pelletier
Alison K. Friedman
Dan I. Helmer
Julia E. Biggins

District 11

Gerald Edward Connolly
(incumbent, unopposed in primary)

U.S. Senate

Timothy M. Kaine
(incumbent, unopposed in primary)

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY US House of Representatives

District 10 Vote for One

Shak E. Hill
Barbara J. Comstock (incumbent)

District 11, Jeff A. Dove, Jr. (unopposed)

United States Senate Winner will Face Sen. Tim Kaine (D) in November

Corey A. Stewart (R)
Nick J. Freitas (R)
E. W. Jackson (R)

PRIMARY: TUESDAY, JUNE 12

❖ Deadline to register to vote, or update registration, for the Tuesday, June 12, General Election is Monday, May 21.

❖ Deadline to request an absentee ballot mailed to you is 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 5.

❖ Deadline to request an absentee ballot by appearing in-person is 5 p.m. Saturday, June 9. Absentee in person voting is already underway.

Also by noon on Friday following the election, the voter may appear in-person in the office of the general registrar, in the locality in which the provisional ballot was cast, and apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. At the completion of the application process, the voter may request a Temporary Identification Document. This document may be provided to the electoral board to meet the identification requirement.

term benefit, receiving tens of thousands of dollars in artistic scholarships to attend college.

We hope that we can add our commitment to providing scholarships to the great work that Camp Invention and other summer institutions are doing to provide real, lasting benefits to lower-income children in our community.

Jeanne Harrison

Great Falls
www.travelingplayers.org

Great Falls
CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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CIRCULATION
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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:

- 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>.

THURSDAY/MAY 10

"Changing the Frame on Green Energy." 8-10:30 a.m. at Valo Park, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Register for the Innovation Breakfast Series event "Changing the Frame on Green Energy." Cities and regions around the country are taking local action to promote and grow the scope of green energy. Green energy levels in Virginia fall far below levels in neighboring states. What immediate, tangible steps can this region take towards a greener future? Registration is \$35 and includes a continental breakfast. Call 703-879-7637 or email tara.nadel@cfnova.org.

Open House and Public Hearing. 5:30 p.m. at NVT Authority, 3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority has released for public comment 60 candidate projects and related information for its inaugural FY 2018-2023 Six Year Program. The Open House will start at 5:30 p.m. and the Public Hearing will commence following a 7 p.m. presentation on the Six Year Program. Pre-registration is open for those who would like to speak at the Public Hearing. You can pre-register to speak in one of three ways: e-mail: TheAuthority@TheNoVaAuthority.org; phone: 703-642-4652 or in person on May 10, 2018 from 5:30-7 p.m. Visit www.TheNoVaAuthority.org.

Community Information Meeting. 7-8:30 p.m. at Spring Hill Elementary School, 8201 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will hold a community information meeting on options for improving the intersection of Spring Hill and Lewinsville Roads. Members of the public are invited to attend the

See Bulletin, Page 15

VOTE

on McLean Day

McLean Community Center Governing Board Election

The Governing Board and staff of the McLean Community Center (MCC) strongly encourage all qualified residents to vote for members of its 2018-2019 Governing Board. Your vote sends a very important message of your support of the Center's programs and services.

When & Where
Vote between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the McLean Day 2018 festival on Saturday, May 19, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

Requirements to Vote

1. You must be a resident of the MCC tax district (Dranesville Small District 1A); however, you need not be registered to vote in the general election.
2. You must be at least 18 years old by McLean Day to vote for an adult candidate. Adults may vote for up to three candidates.
3. You must be 15 through 17 years old by McLean Day to vote for youth candidates. Youth voters have two votes, and may vote for one candidate in the McLean High School boundary area, and one candidate in the Langley High School boundary area.
4. You must bring identification and proof of residency, such as a driver's license or you may sign a sworn statement.



The McLean Community Center
Temporary Administrative Office Address
6631 Old Dominion Dr., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

Can't Vote at McLean Day for the 2018-2019 MCC Governing Board?

Vote by Absentee Ballot Now – May 16 at either:

<p>McLean Community Center (MCC) Administration Office: 6631 Old Dominion Drive McLean, VA 22101 703-790-0123/TTY: 711</p> <p>Class Programs/Registration Office: 6645 Old Dominion Drive McLean, VA 22101 703-744-9365</p> <p>Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed on Sunday</p>	<p>OR</p> <p>Absentee voting affidavits and ballots must be returned to one of these locations by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16.</p>
--	--

Requesting Absentee Ballots:
You can pick up absentee ballot packages and vote at both MCC offices or OFC. You can also request absentee ballot packages by email at elections@mcleancenter.org or by telephone at 703-790-0123/TTY: 711.

Returning Completed Applications and Ballots:
You can return your absentee voting affidavits and ballots to the front desk at either MCC location or OFC. You may also mail them using the pre-addressed envelope enclosed in the absentee ballot package. Mailed affidavits and ballots must be received by the due date.

Absent voting ends promptly at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16.
Hand delivered absentee voting affidavits and ballots must be received at either MCC location or OFC by that time.

If you have questions:
Contact 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or email elections@mcleancenter.org



The McLean Community Center
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www.mcleancenter.org




Thomas Pandolfi
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Nationally and internationally renowned pianist includes works from Mozart, Chopin, Ponce and others including themes from "West Side Story" by Leonard Bernstein.

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Meet and greet reception with refreshments to follow.

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Photos by Jennifer Kaye/The Connection
Some of the performers stretching before practicing the Russian swings.

Acrobats practicing the Russian swings. Practice is filmed and then shown on a tv next to them with a delay so they can see exactly how they did and what mistakes they may or may not have made.

Between the Dreamland and Reality

Behind the scene of Cirque du Soleil.

Cirque du Soleil's Luzia takes its audience to an imaginary Mexico that lies somewhere between a fantasy dreamland and reality. The show's name is a cross between the Spanish word for light, "luz," and the Spanish word for rain, "lluvia." With the combination of the two words, Luzia hopes to both quench the spirits and sooth the souls of its audience.

The total set up time is around eight days for the whole Cirque du Soleil village. There are 115 people from 25 different countries who are part of the crew and cast and the performers alone come from 19 different nationalities: Australia, Belarus, Canada, Colombia, France, Guinea, Italy, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Spain, Poland, Puerto Rico, Russia and Venezuela.

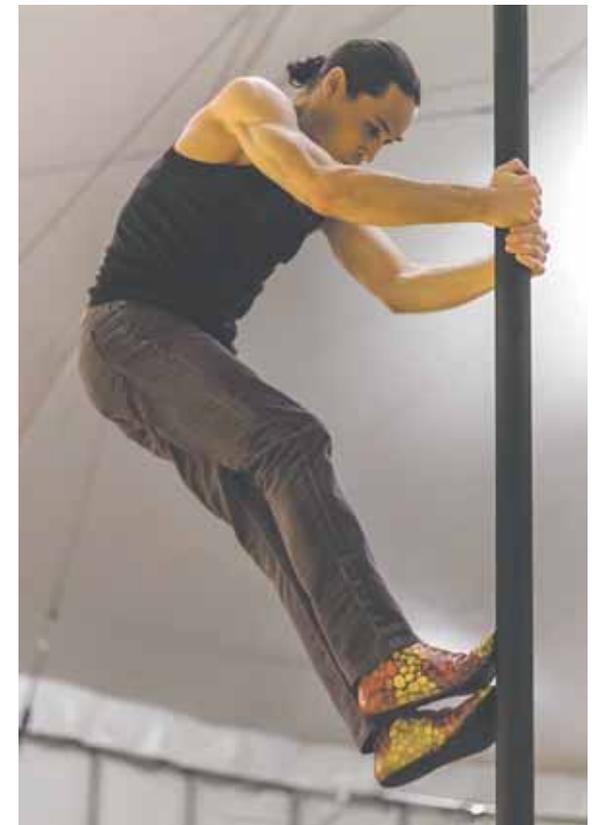
It is hard to comprehend how much goes into the production of Luzia. The show travels in 65 trailer trucks and carries almost 2,000 tons of equipment. A crew flies down ahead of time to survey the site and place the steel rods into the ground to hold up the big top.

Luzia is in town until June 17 and then is headed north to Boston. For more information and tickets visit <https://www.cirquedusoleil.com/luzia>

— Jennifer Kaye



Luzia has 750 costume pieces, and the same number of backup pieces travel with the show as well. Costumes are custom fitted to each performer, and hand crafted at Cirque du Soleil's Montreal Headquarters. The average life of the costumes is around 6 months.



One of the acrobats practicing his act on the vertical poles.

A performer working on her act with the Cyr wheel.



One of the costume designers working on a new piece for the show. The juggler in the show had decided to move up to seven bottles and needed something to dry his hands off in-between, so she is creating a towel that matches his outfit that he can use during the show.



Laura Biondo with the finished makeup look for the show.



One of the acrobats practicing her jump from swing to swing. During practice the performers wear safety harnesses to ensure nothing happens.

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Donna Robinson working on a waterfall painting during the festival.

Photos by Jennifer Kaye/The Connection



Some of the many colorful pieces of art displayed during Spring ArtFest.

Community of Arts

Spring ArtFest held in Great Falls.

On May 5 and 6 the annual Spring ArtFest took place at the Grange/Schoolhouse and the Studios in the Village Center in Great Falls. Each year ArtFest allows local artists to display and sell their work. There were many different events showcasing a variety of different arts such as live painting and wood blocking demonstrations and book readings. Guests were also able to chow down on delicious empanadas from World Eats Food Truck, and tasty sweets from Great Falls Creamery.

Participating artists at the Grange/Schoolhouse were Penny Ross Burk, James

Diedrich, Betty Ganley, Dee Leggett, Linda Jones, Padma Jen Koch, Richard Masaniello, Begona Montis, Vad Moskowitz, Robin Smith and Dean Souleles. Artists participating in the show at 756, 766 and 776 Walker Road were Jill Banks, Roberta P. Beasley, Cindi Berry, Elaine Elinsky, Layla Gray, Cindy Grisdela, Walt Lawrence, John McCabe, Donna Robinson and Joyce Lee. All the artwork displayed in the studios is for sale. For more information about each artist and a link to their artwork and website visit <https://www.greatfallsstudios.com/2018-spring-artfest>

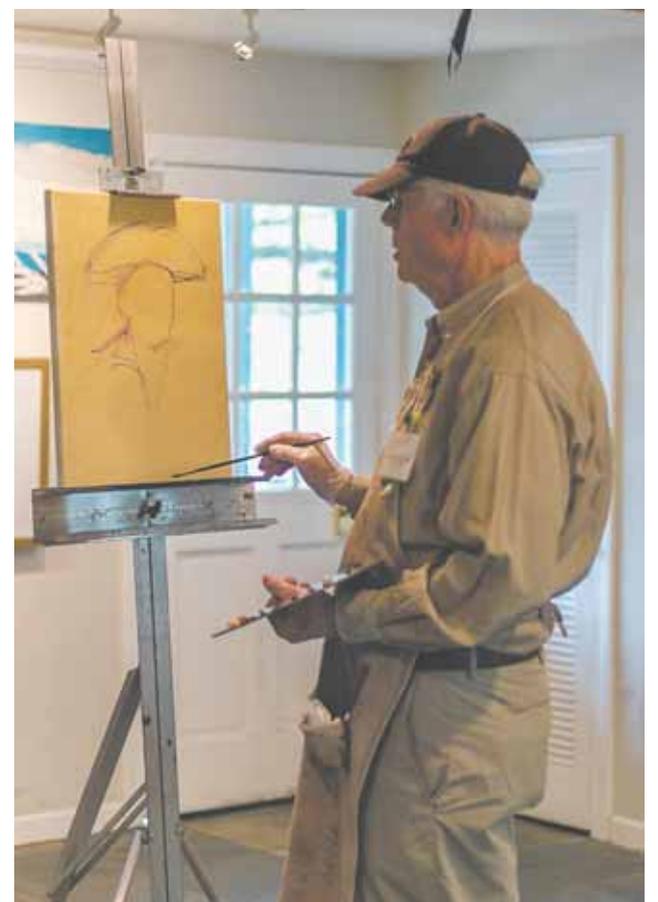
— Jennifer Kaye



Painter Cindi Berry working on an oil painting of a London landscape during the show.



Portrait artist, John McCabe, using the alla prima painting method to capture model Mark Casso in his revolutionary war costume in front of a live audience during ArtFest on Saturday.



Artist John McCabe starting his live oil painting demonstration at the Spring ArtFest in Great Falls.

Ready for Summer

Time to dust-off and spruce up patios for a season of al fresco entertaining.

By Marilyn Campbell

When designing the patio of her McLean home, interior design professor Jean Freeman of Marymount University, relied on the natural surroundings to create a backdrop for her outdoor oasis.

"I have an area in the backyard that has small stones and lounge furniture," she said. "Our backyard is next to Pimmit Run Trail and has lots of trees, some of which I planted. Also, I planted several holly trees so that the area would attract more birds and sometimes the bird chirping gets quite loud and wonderful."

Gentle breezes and mild temperatures are some of the pleasures of spring that beckon many outdoors for parties and family dinners, but turning a winter-worn patio into a space for entertaining can feel daunting. Breathing new life into a landscape dulled by snow and frost or creating an entirely new outdoor space might be easier than it appears.

When considering a patio furniture purchase, avoid the battle against Mother Nature by selecting pieces that can stand up to the elements. "The number one rule in furnishing your patio is to purchase quality furniture," said Anne Walker of Anne Walker Design LLC. "There are a lot of outdoor furnishings that look alike, but they are not all the same. Dedon, based in Germany and Janus et Cie, based in California, make excellent outdoor furnishings that will stand the test of time ... [and] will not fade, warp or degrade even if left outdoors in the elements for years.

Less expensive look-alikes will fall apart after just a few years or months of exposure to the elements, continued Walker. "I can't stress it enough: invest in high-quality outdoor furnishings or you will just be throwing your money away. Buy the best you can afford, and work little by little if need be to complete your outdoor space. You won't be sorry."

When choosing fabrics for that furniture, Todd Martz, co-owner of Home on Cameron in Old Town Alexandria, says, "Accessories like pillows and draperies as well as chairs, sofas and rugs are all available in low maintenance fabrics."

Selecting smaller, easy-to-move pieces of furniture over large sectionals will produce a design plan with versatility. "You'll be happy to have the flexibility to move things around when you entertain or when the sun shifts and you want to get into or away from the direct sun," said Walker.



Photo courtesy of Anne Walker

One design technique that Anne Walker has incorporated into the design of her own patio is choosing smaller, moveable pieces of furniture — like these Dedon Barcelona lounge chairs — over large sectionals to allow for a versatile design plan.

Incorporating potted plants into the landscape design offers versatility. "Mix several sized plants ... very large as well as different types of plants in smaller planters," added Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Proxmire, Inc. "Vary the textures as well as the color of green leaves such as ferns, palms and flowering plants."

Use planters to create architectural features like walls and borders. "The plants will add beautiful visual interest, and the planters are moveable, allowing flexibility in use and design," said Walker.

For those who want to build a stone patio, go for variety, but establish a solid base to avoid costly repairs later. "Combinations of flagstone and brick are elegant and more interesting than use of only one type of materials," said Walker. "Make sure you have a professional set your patio in concrete. It's much less expensive to set the stone in stone dust, but within a year or less the stones will begin to shift and weeds will grow through the gaps."

Lighting matters, says Proxmire, and she suggest that when designing or even sprucing up patio, "Use different sources of light [such as] inside-outdoor lamps, different sizes of lanterns, candlesticks with glass hurricanes," she said. "The candles with batteries are great for using outside because the wind isn't an issue."

Now that summer is on the horizon, Walker has a plan for getting her patio guest-ready. "I will power wash with my personal home power washer, plant a few flowers and boom! Ready to entertain," she said. "We love to entertain on our patio. It's our favorite space."



Photos by Stacy Zarin Goldberg

Kelley Proxmire suggests using plants and planters in a variety of sizes — such as these blue and white ceramic pots to create a light and airy patio space.



Todd Martz of Home on Cameron designed this patio and says that exterior spaces can be treated like an indoor room by using bright, fresh fabrics designed specifically for outdoors.

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Calendar

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

ONGOING

BRX Artist Showcase. Through May 11 at BRX American Bistro, 1025-1 Seneca Road, Great Falls. The Sorta-Quarterly Artist Showcase: throughout the year, BRX will be exhibiting a selection of works in their dining room by an artist from Broadway Gallery's portfolio. Currently on display is Hiromi Ashlin. Email Donald Dusing at donald@broadwaygalleries.net

Children's Art Exhibit. Through May 14 at Great Falls Village Starbucks, 9863 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls Studio Arts and Great Falls Village Starbucks present Colvin Run Elementary School children's artwork. The presentation was selected by Lauren Grimm and Rachel Wiseman, art instructors.

Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org for more.

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. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

Fishing Rod Rentals. Riverbend Park, 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/

WEDNESDAY/MAY 9

Speaker Carole Herrick. 7 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Presented by the Great Falls Historical Society, her talk titled "Washington in Flames, the 1812 Sacking of Washington, and the Escape of the President and Mrs. Madison Through Our Area," is based on her published book on this subject. Carole Herrick is currently the Chair of the Fairfax County History Commission and President of the McLean Historical Society.

THURSDAY/MAY 10

MPA to Host Art+Music Series. 7:30 p.m. at Bullock Hitt Gallery in MPA@ChainBridge, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Free. The Dave Kline Band takes the stage. RSVP at mpaart.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 11-12

"Titanic the Musical." 7 p.m. at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. Tickets are \$15. titanic.oaktondrama.org or visit the website at www.oaktondrama.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 11

NVFS's Independence Gala. 6-9 p.m. at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. NVFS's Road to Independence Gala Visit www.nvfs.org/events/road-to-independence-gala/.

Life Story of the Immortal First Lady

Langley High production of 'Evita.'

By Tessa Moore
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

One doesn't have to cry for Langley's rendition of the famous rock opera "Evita." Written by Tim Rice, "Evita" tells the story of Eva Peron, originally Eva Duarte, the wife of Juan Peron and First Lady of Argentina, as narrated by Revolutionary and Guerrilla leader Che Guevara. This particular production, much like the idolized woman herself, captivated the audience with its dazzle and "star quality."

The musical opens up with a black and white clip, which is interrupted with a photograph of Eva, announcing her death. This is an example of one of the fantastic technical aspects of the show. Other tech aspects that should be praised include the masterful lighting, which

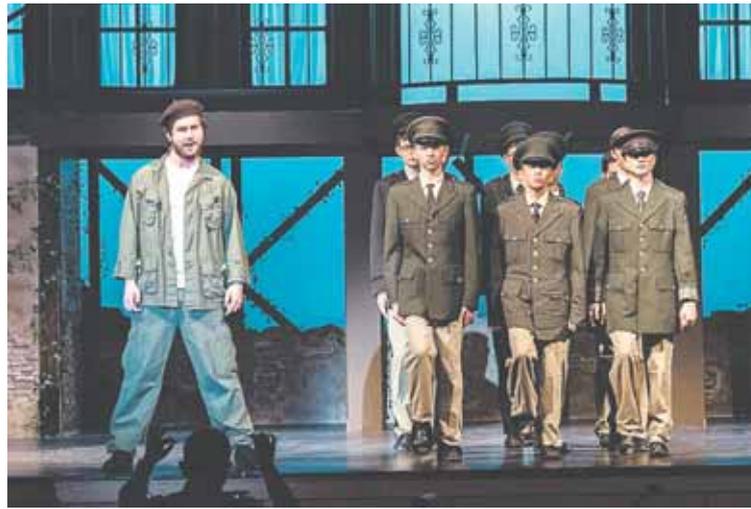


Photo by Diana Lim

From left: Mark Bosset, Peter Fox, Leland Hao, Samuel Buroker in Langley High production of 'Evita.'

matched the tone of each musical number and added to the beautiful set and overall experience.

The rest of the show is a flashback which reveals the true life story of the immortal first lady.

She starts her life as lower class and climbs her way up the social ladder, clashing with the preexisting upper class and military. She charms a prominent military figure, Colonel Juan Peron, who she marries. She helps him increase his presence and he later becomes president, making her the first lady

of Argentina. This musical shows the woman behind the name Eva Peron.

Jessica Peros looked stunning and performed at a professional level in the title role of Eva Peron. She exhibited impressive vocals, as well as incredible dancing skills all throughout the show, which is a feat within itself as the show is almost entirely sung.

Mark Bosset, as Che Guevara, and Sean Leech, as Peron were also notable figures in this production with impressive vocals and

dancing skills. Bosset brought intensity to the role and commanded attention while he was on stage. Leech fit his stoic character's personality perfectly, but when sharing the stage with Eva, his love for her was very believable.

As previously mentioned, the show is almost entirely sung, so the ensemble has to be strong. Every member of the cast brought high energy to every scene, making some of the most notable songs of the night those involving the entire cast. The choreography was masterfully done, and the company wide dance members were a stellar sight to see. The soldier's dance numbers were incredibly synchronized and striking. The two featured dancers, Mary Peterson and Elenitsa Sgouros, were elegant and visibly beautiful on stage, as well. All in all, since virtually everyone had a dancing part in this show, the cast performed extremely well and showcased a wide variety of skills.

Ultimately, Langley's Production of "Evita" was an event not to be missed!

SATURDAY/MAY 12

MPA to Host Art+Music Series. 7:30 p.m. at Bullock Hitt Gallery in MPA@ChainBridge, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Free. Featuring the musical collective Sound Impact. RSVP at mpaart.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 13

Washington Symphonic Brass. 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. This all-star ensemble celebrates Mother's Day with the bright and brassy sounds of Broadway. Tickets are \$35 at the door or online at www.amadeusconcerts.com. A pre-concert lecture by Music Director A. Scott Wood will begin at 3:15 p.m. A reception will follow the concert. Visit www.saintlukemclean.org.

MONDAY/MAY 14

Golf Tournament. 1:30 p.m. Shotgun Start at Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Clubhouse Road, Reston. The 2018 Celebrate Great Falls Foundation Golf Tournament. Proceeds benefit Great Falls, Forestville and Colvin Run Elementary schools. Afternoon registration 12:15-1:15 p.m. Foursome - \$600; Single Golfer - \$175. Online Silent Auction opens on May 1. Visit www.greatfallsgolf.org.

Great Falls Trailblazer Meeting. 7-9 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9839 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Trailblazers are having a general meeting. New trails connecting neighborhoods in Great Falls will be discussed. HOAs are welcome. Visit www.GreatFallsTrailblazers.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 18

Bike to Work Day. Join more than 18,000 area commuters for a free celebration of bicycling as a fun, healthy and environmentally-friendly way to get to work. Starting at

various early morning hours, and some in the afternoon. Morning Bike to Work Day convoys, led by experienced bicycle commuters, will travel throughout the region. All levels of cyclists are welcome to join the convoys. To register, visit www.biketoworkmetrodc.org and be entered for a free bike raffle.

Thomas Pandolfi Concert. 7:30-9 p.m. at Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Pianist Thomas Pandolfi in concert performing works by Mozart, Chopin, Ponce and Bernstein. Sponsored by the United Methodist Women. \$40. Tickets in advance at www.greatfallsumc.org.

Encore Chorale Concert. 7:30-9 p.m. at United Christian Parish Reston, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Combined Encore Chorales from Reston, Fairfax, and Lansdowne Woods sing music from Broadway, the Great American Songbook, and traditional Spirituals. Free and open to the public. Visit www.EncoreCreativity.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 18-20

Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. More than 200 artists will show off their works. Presented by GRACE - Greater Reston Arts Center. Admission \$5/adults. Free garage parking. Visit northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 18-19

Traditional Afternoon Teas. 3-5 p.m. at Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St. NE., Vienna. Enjoy a traditional English tea. Tickets are \$30 per person and include scones, tea sandwiches, assorted sweets and a bottomless cup of tea. A program will feature The Language of Flowers. Space is very limited; make

reservations by calling 703-938-5187.

SATURDAY/MAY 19

Standard Flower Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Garden Club sponsors a standard flower show "Celebrate Gardening Diversity." Learn about plants that you can grow in the area, view creative floral designs and photography exhibits. Visit www.gfgardenclub.org.

McLean Day 2018. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Stage entertainment. Variety of children's entertainers on a small stage. Rides, fair food and more. Rain or shine. Call 703-790-0123/TTY: 711, or www.mcleancenter.org/special-events.

Over the Edge Rappelling Fundraiser. at Hilton McLean Global Headquarters, 7930 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Some 80-plus thrill seekers will rappel down the McLean Hilton headquarters building. Sponsored by Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia. Each participant pledges to raise \$1,000 to ensure a slot to rappel. Visit www.habitatnova.org/ote/

A Salute to the Military. 7:30 p.m. at Vinson Hall Community Building, 1733 Kirby Road, McLean. With Tysons McLean Orchestra. Sponsored by Linda and Wayne Sharp with special guest Col. Arnald Gabriel. Featuring Copland's Lincoln Portrait and Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture. Tickets, \$40; seniors \$30; youth \$15. tysonsmcleanorchestra.org/tickets or call 703-893-8646

SUNDAY/MAY 20

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 \$10, children 12 and under \$4. Call 703-938-6580.

SATURDAY/MAY 26

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 10 a.m.-noon. At Nottoway Park, 9601 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Learn about growing nightshade plants (tomatoes, etc.). Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Contact the VCE Fairfax County Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556.

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.

SUNDAY/MAY 27

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.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Used Book Collection. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at SunTrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave., E. Vienna. Used books, CDs, DVDs, software, children's books, records. The Book Sale will be held on Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Spring Hill Recreation Center. The sale proceeds benefit scholarships for women. Questions: aauwbookfair@gmail.com or 703-527-4206.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Sports

Pratt's Double Propels McLean to Dramatic Win over Langley

Highlanders score four runs in bottom of the ninth inning.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

McLean outfielder Marshall Pratt punched the fence shortly after a Langley home run sailed over it. Pratt, playing left field for the Highlanders, vented his frustration after Jack Hoeymans' two-run homer gave the Langley baseball team a 7-4 lead in the top of the ninth inning. Pratt, however, would get a chance to take his anger out on the Saxons in the bottom half of the frame and the McLean senior delivered a devastating blow. Pratt ripped a game-tying, three-run double down the third-base line in the bottom of the ninth and later scored the winning run in a dramatic 8-7 victory over Langley on May 4 at McLean High School.

THE WIN, coupled with a South Lakes loss, put McLean in sole possession of first place in the Liberty District with one regular season game remaining. The Highlanders were scheduled to face Washington-Lee on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

After Langley scored two runs in the seventh to send the game to extra innings, the Saxons took a three-run lead in the ninth thanks to an RBI single by catcher Cooper Davis and Hoeymans' two-run bomb. Langley's excitement was short-lived, however, as McLean responded with four runs in the bottom half, with the game-winner scoring thanks to a Langley throwing error.

McLean's Grant Williams and Jackson Kantor reached via base on balls to lead off the bottom of the ninth before a single by Anthony Farmakides loaded the bases with nobody out, setting the stage for Pratt.

"We saw the [Langley relief] pitcher come in and he was looking pretty hittable," Pratt said. "He walked the first couple guys and I got up there mad. I knew I could do something."

Pratt delivered a double into the left-field corner



Video screenshots by Jon Roetman

McLean left fielder Marshall Pratt hit a game-tying, three-run double in the bottom of the ninth inning during the Highlanders' 8-7 win over Langley on Friday.

and advanced to third during a throw to the plate. After a pair of intentional walks loaded the bases, a Langley throwing error allowed Pratt to score the winning run.

"Of course, there were doubts," Pratt said of a potential McLean comeback following Hoeymans' ninth-inning home run, "but I knew it was still something that we could control. We were going to get the bats in our hands and that was something [McLean head] coach [John] Dowling always talks about — control the controllable. If I would have hung my head there, given up, gone to the plate with a negative attitude that's just losing the game for us."

The McLean comeback overshadowed clutch performances by a pair of Langley sluggers.

With the Saxons trailing 4-2 and down to their final out in the seventh inning, Davis delivered an RBI single, cutting the McLean lead to a run. Hoeymans then stepped to the plate and tied the score with an RBI single of his own.

With the score tied at 4 in the top of the ninth, Davis again delivered a two-out, run-scoring single, giving Langley a 5-4 advantage. Hoeymans followed with the two-run homer.

Davis finished 3-for-4 with two RBIs. Hoeymans went 3-for-5 with four RBIs.

"Jack's working and working and working — he's in the cage all the time," Langley head coach Kevin Healy said. "Cooper has been swinging it with some authority over the last two years, but he's been hot lately, especially going to the opposite field ..."

McLean senior James Beahn earned the win in relief, allowing five runs in 4 1/3 innings.

LANGLEY, which ended the evening in a second-place tie with South Lakes, was scheduled to close district play against Herndon on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

The Liberty District tournament is scheduled to begin Friday, May 11.

"This group of seniors is the best group of leaders and teammates," Dowling said. "They totally get it. We don't need to spoon-feed them what to do. They know how to manage their emotions and control the dugout and do those things. We don't need to say, 'Hey guys, let's go win a game.' They know what to do."



Members of the Langley baseball team great Jack Hoeymans at home plate after the junior hit a two-run home run in the ninth inning of Friday's game at McLean High School.



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Here's What's Happening at MCC



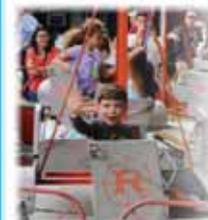
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MCC Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.
MCC Administrative Offices
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Friday, May 25, 3:30-10 p.m.
\$40/\$30 MCC district residents

Closing Notice

Monday, May 28
MCC and the Old Firehouse Teen Center will
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My Mom & Me

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are twins (14) and
both attend Cooper
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their favorite hang
out.**



Letters to the Editor

Effective Representative Needed in 10th District

To the Editor:

The diminished role that Congress is playing in providing oversight and accountability over the Executive branch has become a threat to our nation. Oversight committees in the House of Representatives have been especially ineffectual, as hearings about Trump administration policies and personnel have turned into partisan charades imposed by a subservient Republican majority upon its minority Democratic members.

This same partisan paralysis and lack of respect for the needs and desires of her own constituents shows up in our own Representative's votes on key legislation. U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) has voted with the Trump administration more than 90 percent of the time. Meaningful debates on policy simply cannot occur due to her steady

fast loyalty to her party and her stubborn refusal to hold non-partisan public town halls to respectfully engage with her constituents.

There is one thing we can do to change this destructive pattern right here in our home district and that is to elect a new member to the House of Representatives who will provide results-oriented proactive representation.

I recently attended a debate between the six Democratic candidates running for the 10th district primary on June 12. All six demonstrated depth of knowledge, commitment and a focus on getting things done in Washington. All six would be a breath of fresh air compared to the stale partisan currently occupying that position. Unfortunately, we can only pick one of them to go on to the general election in November.

I urge my fellow Democrats to vote in the June 12 primary for State Senator Jennifer Wexton to replace Barbara Comstock. Senator Wexton has been very effective in building coalitions in order to get bills passed in the GOP dominated Virginia General Assembly. She has been able to pass over forty bills in the last several years, all of which required bipartisan support, since Wexton is in the minority party. She knows how to reach across the aisle and get things done. It is time to apply her approach to getting things done in Washington. The alternative is more of the same submissiveness to the Trump regime that our current Representative seems perfectly content to continue.

Wes Callender
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Town Hall

From Page 3

One local resident, describing herself as a supporter of the Second Amendment, challenged Connolly on his views regarding the “hardening” of schools.

“I’m not completely sure what you mean by that,” answered Connolly, but he firmly rejected the proposal to arm teachers as a defense against gun violence in the classroom. “Can you imagine that scenario?” Connolly believes that it would be “madness” to put teachers in that position, even with training. “Was that a gunshot? Should I shoot? Who should I shoot? Teachers have a difficult enough role, a major responsibility just to do the job they have.”

Langston Carter and Michael McCabe backed Connolly’s position, noting that the “hardening of schools” approach to protection can often have a negative impact on students of color.

THINGS TURNED A LITTLE HEATED when the woman got back in line for a second turn at the microphone to “explain just what assault weapons are.” Rumbly comments from the audience during her comments caused the speaker to angrily assert that “there’s all this talk of a conversation, but you don’t want to hear an opposite view.”

Zachary Schonfeld, a senior at Reston’s South Lakes High School, recounted the often hateful and vulgar negative backlash he faced, particularly on social media, after speaking at an event. “How do you handle that?” he asked the panel. Connolly’s response — “One word. Fortitude. Keep going. Our opponents are counting on you to quit, to give up. Know that you are making a difference.”

Other audience members offered suggestions for improving school safety. Some, like former Secret Service agent Donna Widawski, urged the congressman and the students to keep an eye on the bigger picture. “Sensible gun legislation is critical, but there is more to the story, more to be examined and addressed to prevent all types of violence in schools and in the community at large.”

Fairfax County Council of PTAs president Beth Tudon applauded the students’ efforts to promote voter registration, offering assistance from her organization and partners like the League of Women Voters.

According to the FCCPTA, fewer than 20 percent of the county’s students were registered to vote during the 2016-2017 school year. This year, the numbers registered have almost tripled, but “It’s time to make a push,” she said. The deadline to register for the June 2018 primaries is May 21.

Bulletin Board

From Page 7

meeting. Representatives from FCDOT will provide background information, answer questions and take public comments. The meeting format will include an open house, a brief presentation at 7:15 p.m., followed by a continuation of the open house. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/study/spring-hill-lewinsville-road.

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Still Haven't Seen the Light



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Wow!. I just saved “Up to \$504 ** “ (not including the two asterisks), and all I did was buy a six pack of LED light bulbs. So it says on the package anyway.

Maybe I should buy another six-pack and save even more money? There are only two problems (just two?) with this plan. First, I don’t see a rebate-type form to complete and return and; in lieu there of, neither is there a guarantee, considering my health situation, that I’ll even live long enough (“Lasts 13+ Years”) to realize the benefit/savings of not spending additional money on light bulbs. (Are they even called light bulbs any more? I don’t see it printed on the package anywhere.)

And while I’ll definitely enjoy not spending money on light bulbs – or whatever they’re called, I won’t enjoy wondering if I’ve now spent money on light bulbs that I don’t actually need and/or likely will never even use. I mean, I have previously – because as a country/consumer we’ve had no other choice, given that the incandescent light bulb ship has sailed – bought replacement light bulbs. I don’t remember however, if the bulbs were LED, Halogen, Incandescent, CFL, Fluorescent or who knows what? Literally. Certainly not me.

My only light-bulb-related talent is screwing them into the fixture as I’ve written about previously. (Do you remember I called myself “Taurus Bulba”?) In fact, I may very well have already installed light bulbs that are going to last for years so it’s possible there isn’t even a need to allocate dollars and sense to bulb inventory – or even to write this column.

I suppose that if I’m serious and/or inclined to shine a light on this problem, I need to get organized, either on my computer or in pen in a notebook (Sort of like how my wife’s Italian grandfather, Cesare, did regarding Christmas cards. He had years of notebooks with names listed with boxes alongside, checked or not, for cards sent and/or received) to identify which lights/fixtures have which kind of light bulbs so I’ll know whether it’s likely I’ll actually need to spend money on replacement light bulbs.

If the light bulbs really are going to “Last 13+ years,” (as is also printed on the package) then I might not need to buy them any more, for awhile, anyway. As a result, light bulbs will no longer be a regular purchase like toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, etc. Instead, they will become an irregular purchase like batteries, sponges and the like.

Now, if I really can stop this unnecessary light-bulb-redundancy, I should have a few extra dollars that I can allocate elsewhere on real necessities – like candy, cookies and ice cream.

Having sorted out the light bulb task ahead of me; in addition to saving money, I will have saved time as well. And who wouldn’t want to save time and money? Everybody. However, saving it in this excruciatingly boring/mundane manner has limited appeal, I would guess.

But, we’re not just saving pennies here; potentially, according to the light bulb’s packaging, we are apparently saving hundreds of dollars, and hundreds are worth saving.

Unfortunately, the dollars saved are not exactly in-pocket. They’re more dollars which won’t be spent out-of-pocket. Not as direct as a rebate, but more like an indirect benefit such as money saved from the installation of energy-efficient windows or placing insulation in your attic.

Either way, it’s money not in somebody else’s pocket. I just wish the manufacturers could figure out a way to pay me today, especially since I paid them yesterday.

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

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